

Shorts



Man arrested in ATV thefts

BY TERESA L. BENNS
CRESTONE — A homeless Crestone man has been arrested by Saguache County Sheriff deputies on burglary and theft charges stemming from several break-ins throughout the county, Sheriff Dan Warwick reported Tuesday.

John Troth, 46, from the Crestone area was arrested May 27 and charged with two counts of second-degree burglary and two counts of theft, one exceeding \$20,000 or more.

According to Warwick, Troth was found with several of the items stolen from the area in his possession. Several ATVs/UTVs were stolen and some were recovered.

One of the cabins Troth is accused of breaking into was totally trashed, Warwick stated. "The cabin owners lost almost everything," he said. "Household items, tools, chain saws, they even tore out a wall and removed the copper wiring." Things not stolen were then broken. He estimated that the combined theft and damages on that cabin run to \$200,000.

Other suspects may be involved, Warwick said and the investigation continues.



Moffat mayor under investigation

BY TERESA L. BENNS

MOFFAT — Moffat Mayor Patricia Reigel is currently under investigation for an incident that occurred on Mayor Patricia Reigel Boulevard in Moffat last month. Reigel and the town code enforcement officer are accused of improperly removing items from a local marijuana operation.

According to a report received from a representative of the marijuana business, Reigel and the town's compliance team entered the property "under the auspices of doing a routine inspection." Sheriff Dan Warwick stated Tuesday that Reigel and her team appear to have become involved in a matter that should have remained between an employee of the grow and his employer.

Video footage from the grower's report

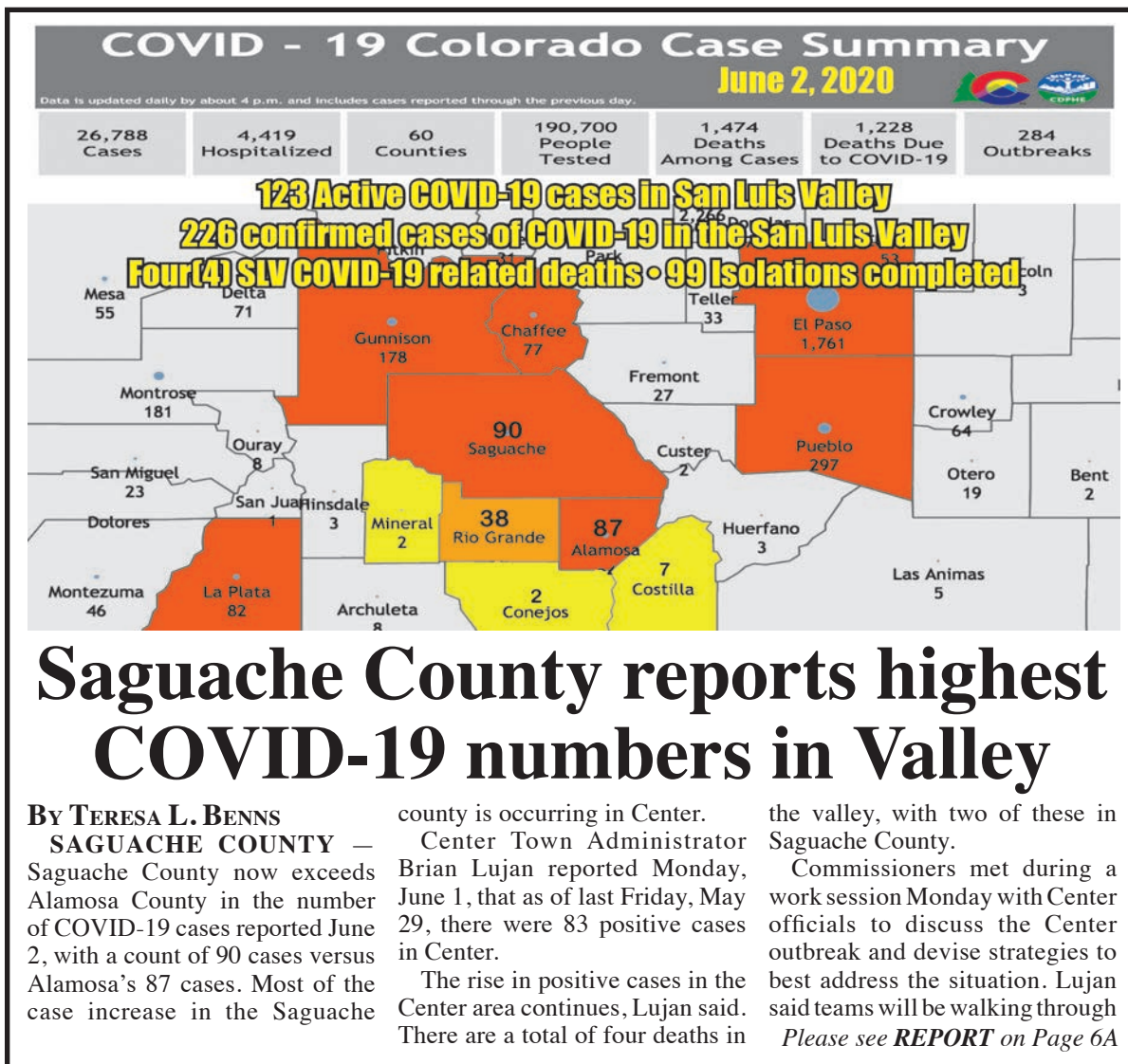
allegedly shows the town's two compliance officers,

paid by the Town to assist in the Marijuana Enforcement Division inspections and enforcement, hauling items off the property in their own vehicles. Warwick says he has yet to review the video. The report claims one compliance officer "has performed side work for a grower — an obvious conflict of interest."

The grower report states further: "The team spent three hours removing truckloads of items from the premises with no explanation. The entire [incident] was recorded on surveillance video." One portion of the video reportedly shows Reigel urinating on the property.

Sheriff Warwick says the incident will

Please see MAYOR on Page 8A



Saguache County reports highest COVID-19 numbers in Valley

BY TERESA L. BENNS

SAGUACHE COUNTY — Saguache County now exceeds Alamosa County in the number of COVID-19 cases reported June 2, with a count of 90 cases versus Alamosa's 87 cases. Most of the case increase in the Saguache

county is occurring in Center. Center Town Administrator Brian Lujan reported Monday, June 1, that as of last Friday, May 29, there were 83 positive cases in Center.

The rise in positive cases in the Center area continues, Lujan said. There are a total of four deaths in

the valley, with two of these in Saguache County.

Commissioners met during a work session Monday with Center officials to discuss the Center outbreak and devise strategies to best address the situation. Lujan said teams will be walking through

Please see REPORT on Page 6A

San Luis Valley unemployment faring better than nation and Colorado

BY TREY SPAULDING

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Recently released Colorado unemployment figures from the Colorado Department of Labor and Unemployment (CDLU) for April 2020 indicate that the San Luis Valley is more resilient than most of the state. Rural Colorado counties are faring better than more urban and resort counties. The average unemployment rate for Colorado was 12.0 percent in April 2020 and nationwide the figure was 14.7 percent.

The SLV county with the lowest unemployment rate in April 2020 was Saguache with 7.0 percent unemployment. This number, however, will most likely increase due to the COVID-19 outbreak in the county in May. Saguache county is followed by Costilla county with 8.0 percent unemployment, Conejos county at 8.3 percent, Alamosa 9.4 percent and Rio Grande with 10.7 percent unemployment.

Not seasonally adjusted
Please see VALLEY on Page 6A

Food, health supplies distribution a big hit in Center

BY TERESA L. BENNS

CENTER — The food and health supplies giveaway in Center last week at Casa Blanca Park was a huge success, Department of Social Services (DSS) director Linda Warsh and Center Schools teacher/coordinator Susan Banning said Tuesday in emails and phone conversations.

"The line of cars was down toward Highway 112 and Fullenwider was backed up," Banning commented. "One person asked if it was a wedding or football game."

"I couldn't believe the huge outpouring of the community for this," Warsh wrote in an email. She thanked Center Police for helping direct traffic.

The curbside delivery of food
Please see SUPPLIES on Page 2A



Even preschoolers can obey the safe-at-home guidelines with sporty new masks provided by Center Schools. Center Schools' Parents as Teachers organization and also other school groups provided 725 masks for community members, 375 cloth and 350 disposable masks.

OBITUARIES

In memory of Troy Dean Felber, 80 Aug. 1, 1939 – Dec. 11, 2019

Troy Dean Felber went to his eternal home with the Lord on Dec. 11, 2019. He is preceded in death by his wife Suzy Alexander Felber, his mother Lanier Gibson Felber Woolley, and his father Clay Dean Felber, Jr. He is survived by his daughters Erin Felber and Becca (Felber) Reichenberger, son-in-law Robert Reichenberger, along with many cousins and countless friends.

Troy was born in Lubbock Texas, attended Texas Tech and went on to receive his medical degree in dermatology from University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. He voluntarily served in Vietnam from 1966-68 as a flight surgeon and Captain of his medical division. He was the recipient of 2 Bronze Stars, the National Defense Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Air Medal for heroic and meritorious service. In 1969, he married Suzy, and had Erin and Becca in the years following.

Troy was a longtime summer resident of the Creede area for over 50 years. He took his first fly fishing trip to the area as a graduation trip when he was 18 years old and was hooked. From then on, he was an avid fly-fisherman and enjoyed sitting on the deck of his beloved cabin in Big River watching the river go by and training chipmunks to eat from his hand. Over the years he and his



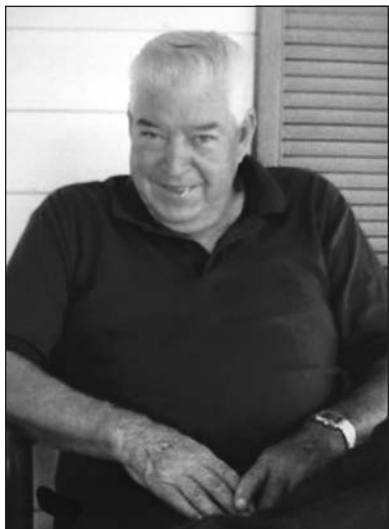
family entertained a multitude of family and friends at the cabin. Troy was a devoted husband and father, and a good friend to so many – always offering a listening ear, wisdom, as well as sharp wit and an amazing sense of humor. Many of his friends will always know him as “Flash.” He is greatly missed, and we know he is now fishing the Heavenly waters, catching all the ones that “got away.” We look forward to hearing the fish stories when we are reunited again.

The family expresses their deepest gratitude to New Dawn Memory Care, Compassus Hospice, Rio Grande Hospital, and the Mineral County Sheriff / Search & Rescue / EMS for their dedicated care and patience.

Augustine Trujillo (Augie or Pops), 81

Augustine Trujillo (Augie or Pops) was born Aug. 29, 1938 in Center, CO passed away Saturday, May 23, 2020 surrounded by his loving family. Augie worked for Quartermore Farms for over 30 years until he became ill and his health would no longer allow it. He was a member of the Poor Boy Car Club and enjoyed attending car shows in his '66 Chevy Truck. Pops loved spending time with his family and supporting his grand and great-grandchildren's sporting events.

He is survived by his children Darlene (Mike) Sanchez of Monte Vista, CO, Jeanette (Rod) Pheifer of Platte, SD and Jaxine (Jerry) Duran of Monte Vista, CO, as well as eight grandchildren Brandi (Devin) DeLange, Elias (Tasha) Sanchez, Nicole (Rich) VanZuidam, Michael (Amber) Sanchez, Brittney (Blake) Veurink, Tiffany (James) Pacheco, Karissa Rios, Keshawn Duran and 19 great-grandchildren; his siblings Patsy Martinez of Center, CO, Bernie Lovato of Monte Vista, CO, Lipio Lovato of Denver, CO, Bennie Lovato of Denver, CO, Jimmy Lovato of Denver, CO, Cecilia Chacon of Romeo, CO and his loving boss/brother Wes



Harrison; along with numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his wife Ernestine Trujillo, his son Jeff Trujillo, his parents, several siblings and numerous extended family.

The family has chosen cremation and will announce services at a later date. Rogers Family mortuary in Monte Vista is in care of the arrangements, to leave online condolences or words of strength for the family, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com.

Diego Samuel Alarid, 81

Diego Samuel Alarid of Albuquerque, NM went to his eternal rest May 26, 2020. Born in Espanola, NM, he was the son of Samuel and Aurora (Rivera) Alarid and was baptized in the Catholic faith. He attended Los Alamos High School where he played basketball. Diego served in the U.S. Navy and was also a cancer survivor, which deepened his faith.

He was preceded in death by his parents who lived in Espanola, NM until their death; his daughter, Antonia Garcia (Monte Vista, CO); his sister, Ramona Williams; nephew, Michael Marquez; brother-in-law, Louis Marquez; and several other extended family members.

Diego is survived by his sisters,

Lydia Marquez and Ersilia Rael (Albuquerque, NM); his children, Denise T. Ogden and husband, James (Allentown, PA); Joseph Alarid (Monte Vista, CO); 14 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren and many other relatives residing in Albuquerque, NM and the San Luis Valley, Colorado.

Diego was humble and easygoing. He was loved by all who knew him. He was a fan of UNM Lobos and the Denver Broncos. He enjoyed reading, singing, listening to music and telling jokes.

Thank you to the AHEPA National Housing Corporation for providing affordable housing for seniors. Arrangements entrusted to: Riverside Funeral Home of Albuquerque, 225



San Mateo Blvd., New Mexico Due to COVID-19, services will be held at a later date.

Please see **OBITUARY** on Page 4A

SUPPLIES Continued from Page 1A

came with the message “of support for the town,” and the importance of “staying at home” Warsh added. “The messaging was for people to come out for essentials only, that it is crucial to stay at home whenever possible, and to make contacts for help when needed.”

DSS personnel distributed dinner items including ground beef and

breakfast items to 100 families. The names and phone numbers of 66 additional people were taken down and Warsh said their food items will be delivered this week.

Center Schools' Parents as Teachers organization and also other school groups provided 725 masks for community members, 375 cloth and

350 disposable masks. Hand sanitizer also was distributed but supplies quickly ran out, Banning said.

The food and health supplies distribution was made possible with the support of DSS, the Center School District, the Center Vikings Youth Club, Alpine Achievers and the SLV Migrant Education Program.

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Loan Officer

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CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

BY SAGUACHE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

TRISH GILBERT
Now Recruiting - Student Election Judges!

This is an outreach effort asking for help from students to work as back-up judges during the June 30 Primary Election.

In order to promote our community participation at the high school level, we are enlisting the help of Student Election Judges from area high schools to work in our polling place as back-up judges.

Students have the opportunity to learn about democracy, log community service credit and earn money. The student, the community and the election process all benefit from these enthusiastic student leaders. It is a win/win situation for everyone.

Students are required to complete an application, which includes parental and instructor permission; student election judges need not be registered electors. There are no party affiliation requirements for Student Election Judges. Student judges must:

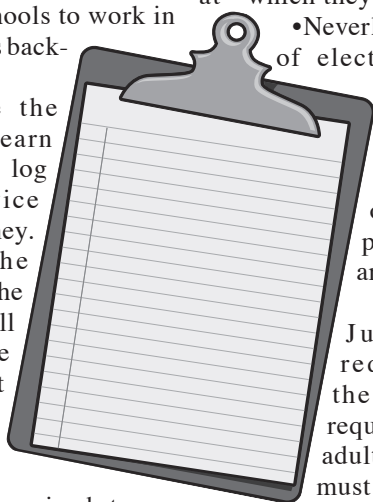
- Be at least 16 years old and a Junior or Senior "in good standing" at a public or private high school at the time of the election at which you plan to work;
- Have the approval of your

school's principal or designated administrator;

- Be a U.S. citizen by the date of the election at which you are scheduled to work;
- Be willing to serve - knowing that Election Day runs from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. - or longer;
- Be physically and mentally able to perform the duties of an Election Judge;
- Attend a mandatory Election Judge class prior to each election at which they work;
- Never have been convicted of election fraud, other election offenses or fraud;
- Not be related to any candidate on the ballot in the precinct where you are working;

Student Election Judges will be required to meet the same statutory requirements that the adult Election Judges must meet. They will be assigned to assist with experienced adult Election Judges and will be paid for their training. Backup Student Judges will be required to observe the election process.

The Clerk's office will work with you on scheduling. Students need not be from Saguache County but high-tech knowledge and solid computer skills are helpful. Current law requires public involvement. This is a wonderful addition to every polling place. It introduces



our young people to one of our most precious constitutional rights. It is also a great way to involve our younger citizens to the concept of community spirit.

In spite of the COVID-19 Pandemic, this election is going to happen. We'd like it to happen with your help. This is your opportunity to join THE-AWE-SOME-ONES!

(Jane, Desiree, Ben, Dominique and Rebecca). We really need your help! Together, we will have another successful election! For questions call 719-655-2512.

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NOTICE OF ELECTION RIO GRANDE COUNTY TUESDAY, June 30, 2030

TO THE ELECTORS OF RIO GRANDE COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Primary Election will be held by Mail Ballot on Tuesday, the 30TH of June, 2020 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. If you are a registered voter, you will receive a ballot at your mailing address beginning June 8th. Mail Ballots may be dropped off at the Rio Grande County Clerk's Office, 965 Sixth Street, Del Norte, Colorado, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ballots may also be dropped off on Saturday June 27th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, June 30th. A 24-Hour Drop Box is available on the west side of the building at 965 Sixth Street, Del Norte. Ballots can also be mailed using the envelope enclosed with the ballot. Ballots must be received at the County Clerk's Office by 7:00 P.M. on June 30th. The Postmark does not count as being received.

Your ballot will contain only the Races or Issues on which you are eligible to vote.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the office of the County Clerk and Recorder this 27th day of May 2020.



Cindy Hill

Rio Grande County Clerk and Recorder

OPINION & EDITORIAL

OBITUARY

Let me know how I can help

This past week brought sad news to our neighbors as their mother passed away somewhat unexpectedly. She and Magic Mike were married 55 years and had eight children -- all of which are fine citizens and would make any parent proud.

But as with each of us, there comes a day when we cross the great divide into the Heavenly realm and she is now on a journey of immense proportions.

They had a plethora of friends including Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie and so were comforted during this time of sadness in their lives.

Now Ol' Dutch has been around the merry-go-round more times than he likes to admit as evidenced by the sure to be four alarm blaze from the candles on my upcoming June 10 birthday cake.

But in those long years, I've noticed something about hard times and especially funerals. Well-meaning people come out of the woodwork, some for news of a possible inheritance and others to comfort and console those who have lost a family member. And it is to those that this column is dedicated today.

Stand around long enough at the wake, viewing, potluck, funeral service or graveside and you will hear everyone offering to help out the dearly-left-here folks with "anything you need, just call."

I got to thinking about that and how we have let that slide in the past. Maybe, the next time we get a chance, we need to shake down some of that goodwill and get help around the home place.

Magic Mike has a massive truck garden, hay fields, orchards and pecan trees and he is thinking about the hundreds of offers he had and so came up with the idea to inventory the skills of each well-meaning or slightly inebriated well-wisher so that his request of them is in their wheelhouse.

Who cannot use a good house cleaner around? And what person doesn't need an attorney, doctor, dentist, garden worker, policeman, notary public, hay baler and pastor at times.

Well maybe not the pastor as they will come any way at the drop of a hat if you get more than two people to preach to or at --- whichever is the case. But you get my drift.

We have long let people get by with telling us their good intentions without actually taking



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

them up on the offers and really, if you think about it, we have robbed them of the pleasure of helping out a friend in need. For you see it's not about us and our losses anymore but it's about the old adage "it's more blessed to give than receive." And we sure don't want to deny a friend or enemy of a certain blessing by giving to us.

Ol' Dutch thinks that instead of a visitors book at the funeral, we need a tome to capture the people willing to help out "whenever and whatever you need me for."

This may catch on as we'll name it what it really is: Empty Promises. The good news is that it will greatly reduce the number of attendees at said events and will also save having to provide a lot of pulled pork and fried chicken at the wake for hungry mourners.

Last funeral I attended was Miss Trixie's mother's funeral and I can recall about 300 people promising the moon to her dad and her at that time. And I think it's about time that they start bellying up to the proverbial bar and helping out with the cooking and cleaning and mowing too.

It's the least they can do after such a scrumptious meal they served at the wake and after Ol' Dutch sang such lovely and moving renditions of sad and melodious songs. After all, they really didn't sing for their supper and it's far past time for them to come good on those deathbed promises.

Get your Empty Promises books here and get documented proof before it's too late. Time is a-wasting.

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

Agnes B. C. Davis, 100

Agnes Blossom (Cline) Davis was born March 23, 1920, in Gage, OK to W.J. (Winfield Jacob) Cline and Grace (Warner) Cline. She passed away May 23, 2020, at her home in Las Animas, Colorado, from complications of strep and a stroke. Due to COVID-19, Celebration of Life and Memorial Services will be held at a future date in Las Animas and in Creede, CO where she had a second home.

The early years were spent surrounded by family in a small country house with a dugout cellar to protect from tornadoes, store garden products and raise baby chicks. Agnes, the youngest of the four children, loved school, participating in band, choir, school plays and even met Eleanor Roosevelt on a field trip. They rode horses to school until their father designed a bus for all the neighbor kids. She graduated from Gage High School as Class President and Valedictorian in 1937. She married her high school sweetheart, Cecil Everett Davis, on July 11, 1937, and was married for 70 years until his passing Memorial Day 2008. Cecil and Agnes made their first home on a dry land farm for two years near Shattuck stabilizing wheat fields in the Dust Bowl. Cecil and Agnes and his parents then bought cotton farms near Checotah, OK, where daughter Judy was born in Muskogee in 1942. In 1946, the family moved to Las Animas, CO following some neighbors and rented, then purchased an irrigated heritage farm south of town, from Florida (Bent) Hart Moore. Son, James, was born in La Junta in 1947. Cecil and Agnes had a passion for dancing, their favorite being the "Tennessee Waltz." They were determined that their two children and grandchildren would get college educations.

Agnes was employed at J.C. Penny's as an exceptional seamstress, clerk and window designer and later as an office manager and bookkeeper for Shaw Lumber Company, in addition to helping run the family farm with duties of gardening, driving tractors, washing, ironing, cooking, milking cows, separating cream, raising chickens and livestock.

In the 1960s the family moved into a new house they built on their property (using brick pavers from the La Junta Harvey House). After the LA Town Ditch water was sold, they farmed for two years in the Cornelia Community North of Arkansas River. That farm was sold in 1993. In 1986 Agnes and Cecil purchased a cabin near Creede, CO, which they enjoyed as their second home during the Colorado Summers and Fall.

Agnes was a devout Christian,

efficient, strong, beautiful, sweet, loving and one of a kind...from the Greatest Generation era. She took great pride in her family and loved time with her grandchildren, singing, "I love you, bushel and a peck" and 'This little light of mine', among other favorites and tried to teach them to say the ABC's backward. Entertaining family and friends at dinner parties, fishing, boating, water skiing, and camping trips were favorite pastimes. Music, dancing, sewing (a 4-H sewing leader), quilting, knitting, crafting, writing prose n poetry, playing games - ping pong, card games - 'Hand & Foot' and Scrabble were favorite activities. She played the piano and accordion, sang in church choirs and a local quartet, loved Columbines and flowers, Hummingbirds, bird and wildlife watching, and being a homemaker. Once she earned Homemaker of the Year at the local Harvest Festival. She was active in community: PEO organization, member of United Methodist Church (UMW), teaching adult Sunday School, BSF, the Creede Community Church, Square Dancing, Inter Se Se and Red Hats. In Creede she enjoyed Bingo nights, jeep trips and the hiking club. Agnes volunteered at the Theatre, Ladies Aid, Art Guild, Church events, BHA Cabin music fests & potlucks and Mountain breakfasts. Agnes enjoyed traveling with Cecil, family and friends. Her adventures included touring and RVing across the U.S and international travel to Mexico, South Pacific, Asia (Japan, Philippines and China), Europe, Scandinavia and Russia, the Mid East (Egypt, Jerusalem, Israel, Greece and Turkey), Australia and New Zealand, and Central and South America (Panama, Costa Rica, Ecuador and the Caribbean).

She had a love of life that was contagious, a witty sense of humor and a strong faith in God, whom she credited for her longevity, along with healthy eating, saying her body was God's Temple. She could still wear her high school graduation dress, turn cartwheels and do a headstand at age 80. During Cecil's declining years she was a devoted, dedicated, loving caregiver until 2008. Judy became caregiver to Agnes as dementia increased and she broke her hip in Jan. 2017. Elders have many advantages if able to stay with family. Pam Houston, an author and neighbor of Agnes' wrote in her book, "Deep Creek," "...if we lock grandmother in a room for the last 10 years of her life, so we can ...accomplish the survival of her loss in advance, in what way does it make our life easier? In what ways does it impoverish us?"



Agnes' legacy will hopefully live on through her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was loved and an inspiration to her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Cecil Everett Davis, and siblings Roe Byron Cline, John Winfield Cline and Freeda Irene (Cline) Taylor; a nephew, R.B. Cline, and niece, Cynthia (Cline)(Robert) Johnson; sister and brother-in-law, Louise and John D'Arcangelis.

Agnes is survived by her daughter & caretaker Judy (Joe) Thomeczek of Las Animas, and son Jim (James) Davis (Pine, AZ). Five grandchildren: Jennifer Hoelscher (John) Rutherford (Colorado Springs), Jeanette Alberg (Littleton), Brian Alberg (Denver); Tracey Davis (AZ) and Jeff (Megan) Davis (Phoenix, AZ). Four great-grandchildren: Cody Hoelscher and Kayla Hoelscher (Corbin) Palmer; Vivienne and Cheyenne Davis. Nieces and nephews: Roberta (Cline) Gill, Louise (Cline) Simpson, Raymond Cline, Kenny (Jan) Cline, Marlene (Cline)(Glenn) Calame, Jerry Cline, Bob Cline, Jeannie (Cline)(Kieth) Merrill, Jack Cline, Helen (Taylor) Hibbs, Mary (Taylor) Short, Barbara (Taylor) (Tom) Gobel; Don D'Arcangelis, Roger (Ann) D'Arcangelis, and Melissa (D'A) Allen.

Creede: In lieu of flowers, online condolences, cards and memorials may be directed to the family via <http://www.HorberFuneralChapel.com> (404 Locust Ave, Las Animas, CO 81054); or memorials to www.CreedeCommunityChurch.org (PO Box 126, Creede, CO 81130); OR CreedeLadiesAidSociety@gmail.com - (PO Box 126, Creede, CO 81130); OR Creede Repertory Theater (www.CreedeRep.org)

CENTER POST - DISPATCH

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State provides latest modeling data

Seeks input on draft guidelines for places of worship and outside activities

COLORADO - The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) today released additional modeling results from an expert group of public health scientists led by the Colorado School of Public Health (ColoradoSPH). The state is also seeking feedback on draft guidance for places of worship, personal recreation, and outdoor industries by Wednesday at noon. Updated guidance for short-term rentals goes into effect today.

The latest Colorado modeling report is available to the public, as are the presentation slides from today's media briefing. All modeling reports are available on the Colorado School of Public Health's COVID-19 website.

The report provides an estimate of the degree of distancing that Coloradans have achieved so

far. It also provides projections based on various policy scenarios around physical distancing, mask-wearing, and improved case detection and containment. The models are based on Colorado data and assumptions.

Key findings from report: Mobility data show a continued decline in time spent at home, likely reflecting the change from Stay at Home to Safer at Home.

The updated model findings, which cover the period through May 14, indicate that COVID-19 continues to decline in Colorado, but the declines have begun to slow.

The extent the community is social distancing has dropped to 75% through May 14 as the entire state moved to Safer at Home. The reproductive number is increasing.

Modeling projections that extend into the summer and through November 2020 continue to indicate a need for social distancing of at least 65% unless most people 60 years and older maintain high levels of social distancing (80%) as seen during the Stay-at-Home period.

Relaxation of social distancing to lower levels (45% or lower) is predicted to lead to a surge in sick people in excess of hospital capacity by mid-summer, even if implemented with mask-wearing, increased case detection and isolation, and higher levels of social distancing by all older adults.

Model findings indicate that increased mask-wearing will help control the COVID-19 epidemic.

Places of worship proposed required guidelines

Capacity Limitations
 • Indoors: Maximum 50% capacity or up to 50 people in primary worship space, whichever is fewer. Secondary rooms can continue to be used for up to ten people per room.

• Outdoors: Groups from different households spaced at least 6 feet apart, up to local capacity levels.

Physical / Social Distancing
 • Entering and exiting buildings should include at least 6 feet physical distancing by party. A "party" includes members of a household who live together.

• Seating in houses of worship should be arranged in such a way as to maintain at least 6 feet of distance in every direction between individuals or parties.

• Faith communities are encouraged to add additional services to accommodate the need for physical distancing, as well as consider shortening the services to minimize exposure time.

• Houses of worship should have a plan for distancing requirements

in restrooms (either one person at a time or close off multiple stalls in between the stalls that can be used).

• Multiple large rooms in a facility can be used as long as each space can follow ALL the guidelines and each room has 4 walls and a door. Service times may have to be staggered to accomplish this. Leaders must attend to distancing requirements, available restrooms, separate entrance/exit doors, and timely cleaning practices.

Grains or no Grains: Addressing pet owner concerns

Pet parents want to feed their dogs the best diet possible to keep their furry friends happy and healthy, but there are so many options on the market: prepackaged or home-cooked, wet food or dry, and grain-free or no grain.

Recently, interest has arisen surrounding grain-free diets and their impact on canine health.

When searching for the right food for their dogs, pet owners often focus on corn and wheat; however, many other grains are used in pet foods that have great nutritional value, including rice, barley, oats and millet.

"Much of the initial push for 'grain-free' diets for dogs came from folks who were drawn into the marketing strategy that dogs are carnivores and grains were unnatural," said Dr. Deb Zoran, a professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM).

"Dogs are, in fact, omnivores; they are actually programmed metabolically and nutritionally to use the building blocks from both plants (grains) and animals to meet their requirements for essential nutrients and energy," she said. "This is illustrated by wild dogs and wolves eating the ingesta—contents of the digestive tract that are largely plant material or grain—of large animal species they kill."

Pet owners choose what diet to feed their dog based on word-of-mouth, online, marketing of pet stores, or veterinary recommendations, but according to Zoran, many owners tend to choose their pet's diet based on pet food company marketing.

"The pet food industry is a very competitive place and many of the smaller companies and boutique foods do a fantastic job of marketing their products," Zoran said. "Unfortunately, those same companies do not all have the same resources for research and development and quality assurance testing.

"A recipe for good food is one thing, but if you don't test the product once it is made, processed and packaged, you can't be sure the food still contains what you intended, and that is where potential problems start," Zoran said.

It is important for dogs to have a balanced diet in order to thrive, and Zoran said dog owners should know that "there are nutrients present in grains that are essential for a complete and balanced diet."

"If grains are removed from a diet,

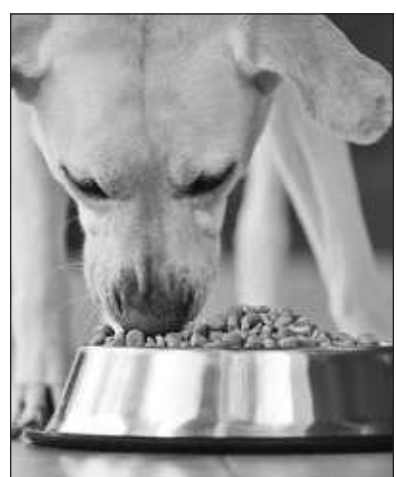
they must be replaced by another food source that has those nutrients in sufficient quantities to balance the diet," she said.

Some dog owners have switched their pets to a grain-free diet because of concern about possible wheat gluten allergies or intolerance, but, according to Zoran, these conditions are relatively uncommon in dogs compared to other types of food-related conditions.

"Many people have been convinced that their dogs have a 'grain allergy,' much like celiac disease or gluten disease in humans," Zoran said. "However, true dietary allergies in dogs are caused by the protein, or meat, sources in a diet. It doesn't mean that your dog can't have an intolerance to wheat gluten or another food ingredient, but it is not the same as an allergy.

"The bottom line is, your dog's skin, hair coat or gastrointestinal (GI) function may sometimes improve on a grain-free diet, but it may simply have been the diet change itself and not the lack of grains, per se," she said.

Zoran recommends that pet owners choose diets that have rigorous standards for research and quality testing; a well-developed reputation for providing



complete and balanced foods; and back up their label claims with nutritional quality control testing. Additionally, owners should always seek advice from their veterinarian before changing their dog's diet.

"If your dog seems to do better with diets without wheat or corn, consult a veterinarian or veterinary nutritionist for information about the safest diet options available on the market," Zoran said. "They can provide commercial and homemade options that can meet your dog's specific nutritional needs."

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How to find the elusive morel mushrooms

By TREY SPAULDING

SANLUIS VALLEY – Each year I enjoy scouring forest floors and riparian areas for the elusive morel mushroom. Every year when I find pounds of fresh morels and post my finds to Facebook I get the response from friends asking where did you find them.

So far this year, I have not been able to find any morels in the San Luis Valley. My reasoning is that it has been too dry for them to “pop”. With the recent rains and warm temperatures morels should be “popping” this week. But taking off and just walking through the woods looking for morels is likely not to reap much bounty. There is actually a little science to the morel foraging process that I will share with you to make your morel hunting more successful.

First, you need to know that morels have a mycorrhizal, or symbiotic relationship with trees that can last for years before they “pop” to the surface. The morel fungus receives carbohydrates such as glucose and starches that the tree produces. In turn, the relationship allows the tree to be able to absorb

much more water and nutrients from the soil due to the additional surface area of the mycelium. These Mycorrhizal fungi attach themselves to the tree roots and act as extensions of the tree’s root system stretching it out to absorb more nutrients.

There is a series of events that need to occur before morels “pop up” to the surface. First the tree has to experience trauma, stress or death. The most common event is a forest fire where trees are killed or severely damaged. But other forms of trauma can be beavers gnawing or cutting down a tree in riparian areas. I have found over 100 morels around the base of a large cottonwood that beavers cut down the previous year. Another example, is a microburst breaking the top or limbs off of a tree. Timber harvest areas of live trees is another example. These events have to occur prior to winter for the morels to pop up in late spring the following year. When the trauma occurs to a tree it disrupts the symbiotic relationship and causes morels to “pop” and spread their spores to the wind.

During the spring other conditions

have to come together at the same time for the morel fruit to appear. First, surface ground temperatures have to be consistently 53 degrees Fahrenheit. But this is not enough to make them “pop.” There also needs to be adequate ground moisture. Most important, the tree must have had a symbiotic relationship with morel fungus.

Fresh morels sell for \$30 to \$40 per pound and they are well worth the price. Once you taste them you will know why they demand such a high price. They are a delicacy that you will crave each spring.

Morels are not to be eaten raw as they contain a mildly toxic substance that is destroyed when they are cooked. Morels do not need much, if any, seasoning. Slicing them and cooking them in a skillet with butter or olive oil and a pinch of salt is all that is needed. They will greatly enhance any steak, hamburger, pizza or a green salad with robust flavor.

Morel hunting is a great family outing. Kids love morel foraging and with their keen eyesight and lower proximity to the ground they are fantastic at finding the mushrooms. Once you find one morel you should scour the area as there will be more. Great places to look are in tree root holes and beneath suspended logs.

Morels come in different color variations but their taste is the same. You will most likely find black or silver morels in burn areas and blonde versions in riparian areas.

There is a “false morel” that you need to be aware of but it is easily distinguished from true morels. Known as verpas, or “false morel”, they have a cap very similar in characteristics to the crown of true morels. But there is one distinct difference. Verpas have a cap that is not attached to the stem of the



To harvest a morel, pinch the stem off just above the ground to avoid getting dirt in your mushroom basket. Place the mushrooms in a colander and wash them in cool water before cooking.



mushroom. The cap of a verpa is like a closed umbrella where the top is not attached to the handle of the umbrella.

Happy hunting. I hope to see the bounty from your hunts posted on Facebook in the upcoming weeks.

REPORT

Continued from Page 1A

the community wearing masks and gloves and will be educating community members regarding the necessary measures to successfully prevent and fight the virus.

Commissioner Tim Lovato said that Roadway Inn in Alamosa has offered to accommodate quarantined victims while others have suggested erecting tents with cots for those in isolation. Trailers would also be available to rent but would be costly, he said.

Lujan told Lovato tents are not feasible and trailers are acceptable but too costly, although the federal government could potentially reimburse 75 percent of the trailer costs. Lujan said he would look into the Roadway Inn option. Saguache Emergency Operations Manager Bobby Woelz noted it may also be possible to use the old Del Norte School building for quarantine patients.

Mapping is in progress for the area, Social Services Director Linda Warsh said. Lujan cautioned, however, that mapping shouldn’t be so specific that community members in isolation or quarantine could be targeted. Warsh said access to the maps would be monitored carefully. County Administrator Wendi Maez noted HIPPA rights must be protected.

Lujan said many do not understand the difference between quarantine — where family members who have been exposed to the virus must remain at home until they show symptoms or are cleared by health officials — and isolation, when an actively ill patient or one who tests positive for COVID-19 must be separated from all other family members in a separate room until the virus runs its course. Those in isolation must be careful to frequently clean all items they

come into contact with.

The state can send in health workers to help ease the situation Lujan told commissioners, but Janet Beiriger noted it is not clear when that help will be available. Maez noted that the state is currently working on training additional staff.

Warsh reported there is a possibility the county could receive a \$110,000 grant from the state and encouraged all present to contribute comments and suggestions on obtaining the grant. Lovato said that a grant would require board approval to access and suggested the matter be taken before the valleywide commissioners meeting. Woelz noted that Alamosa officials believe the main problem lies with Saguache and Rio Grande counties.

Emergency managers for the state stand ready to help, Warsh said, and the county needs to ask them directly and ask for the right things.

VALLEY

Continued from Page 1A

employment numbers from the CDLU show that the total employed workforce for the San Luis Valley in April 2020 was 19,137, with 1,899 unemployed, equaling 9.9 percent of the SLV workforce being unemployed in April.

According to the CDLU, on May 31, 2020, there were 226 job openings advertised online in Alamosa county, 64 job openings in Rio Grande county, 19 job openings in Conejos county, 14 job openings in Costilla county and 25 openings in Saguache county.

If all of these jobs were filled our unemployment percentage would drop 1 percent.

In Colorado, Cheyenne county has the lowest unemployment rate with 2.4 percent unemployment. Cheyenne county is followed in increasing order by Kiowa county with 2.6 percent unemployment, Baca 2.7 percent, Yuma 3.3 percent, Washington 3.7 percent and Phillips with 3.8 percent unemployment.

The highest rates of unemployment are found in the

counties with affluent resort communities. Nationwide other affluent resort communities like Sun Valley, Idaho have the highest unemployment rates in the state. Pitkin county, where Aspen is situated, has the highest unemployment rate in the state with 23.1 percent. Pitkin is followed in decreasing order by Gilpin with 23.0 percent unemployment, San Miguel 22.3 percent, Summit 21.1 percent, and Eagle county with 20.5 percent unemployment.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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Local Election Guide

Center senior awards, scholarships announced

CENTER —The following list of awards and scholarships was mailed to Center High School seniors last month along with their diplomas. The list was compiled by Center High School counselor Adele Alfson.

Kiwanis Scholarship - \$1,000
Jose Villagomez
Kristine Hoffner
Armando Salazar

Jim Miller Scholarship - \$1,000
Chantal Almeida

STARS (Will Weatherford Memorial Scholarship - \$250)
Karely Villalobos

Viking Athletic Association - \$500
Devin Porres
Brandy Almeida

McCormick Scholarship - \$500
Chantal Almeida
Dolores Estrada-Hernandez

Skeff Scholarship - \$665
Kristine Hoffner
Samantha Gonzalez

Principal's Scholarship - \$1,000
Jose Villagomez

Center Service Scholarship - \$1,000
Jose Villagomez

Colorado Masons' Benevolent Fund Association (\$7,000 per year for four years)
Pedro Gonzalez

Western Colorado University
Jose Villagomez - \$4,000 for 4 years - \$16,000 total
Isaiah Callum - \$3,000 for 4 years - \$12,000 total
Brandy Almeida - \$2,000 for 4 years - \$8,000 total
Armando Salazar - \$2,500 for 4 years - \$10,000 total

Rural Philanthropy Scholarship - \$3,000
Pedro Gonzalez-Ayala
Elizabeth Molina-Valadez
Nuvia Quintana Reyes
Jose Villagomez

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Kristine Hoffner

Colorado School of Mines - \$1,000
Jesse Bencomo

University of Colorado Boulder Outstanding Junior (\$1,000 a year, for 4 years)
Jesse Bencomo

Society of Women Engineers
Elexus Trujillo—Highest Honors
Jazmin Duran — High Honors
Briana Moreno — Honors

Trinidad State Junior College — Learn Local - \$482.55
Eleazar Aguilar
Brandy Almeida
Chantal Almeida
Ricardo Borunda
Isaiah Callum
Jesus Frias
Abelardo Gomez

Pedro Gonzalez
Samantha Gonzalez
Jesus Hernandez
Kelvin Knapp
Joe Martinez
Marco Molina
Ismael Palacios
Vanessa Perez
Jessenia Portillo
Angel Ramos
Christian Ronquillo
Armando Salazar
Karely Villalobos

Trinidad State Junior College — Merit Scholarship - \$482.55
Brandy Almeida
Chantal Almeida
Ricardo Borunda

Isaiah Callum
Jesus Frias
Samantha Gonzalez
Marco Molina
Armando Salazar

Trinidad State Junior College — President's Scholarship - \$951
Jessenia Portillo

Adams State University — Grizzly Partner Scholarship - \$3,200
Eleazar Aguilar
Brandy Almeida
Chantal Almeida

Ricardo Borunda
Isaiah Callum
Dolores Estrada Hernandez
Jesus Frias

Abelardo Gomez
Pedro Gonzalez
Samantha Gonzalez
Jesus Hernandez
Kristine Hoffner
Kelvin Knapp
Joe Martinez
Elizabeth Molina
Marco Molina
Ismael Palacios
Obed Perez
Rubi Perez
Devin Porres
Jessenia Portillo
Nuvia Quintana
Angel Ramos
Christian Ronquillo
Armando Salazar
Tamara Trujillo
Jose Villagomez
Karely Villalobos

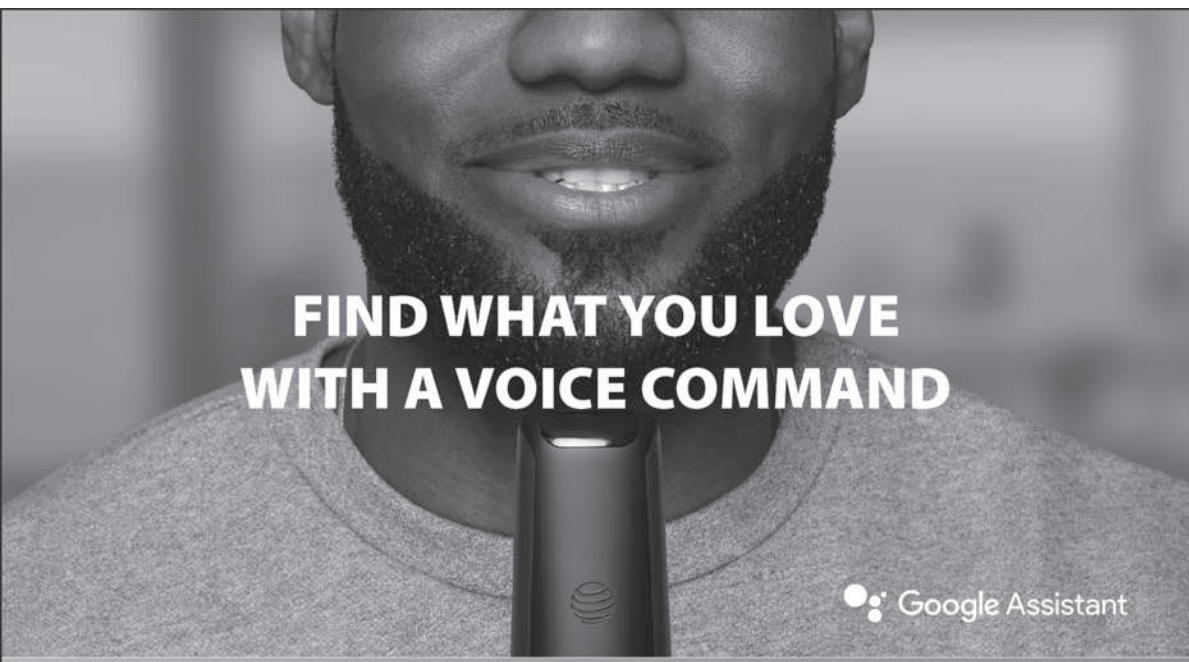
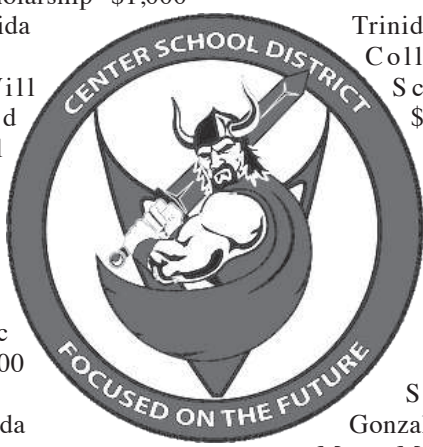
Adams State University — Vice President's Merit Scholarship - \$1,000
Dolores Estrada Hernandez
Kristine Hoffner
Elizabeth Molina
Devin Porres
Jessenia Portillo
Armando Salazar
Jose Villagomez

Armando Salazar
Jose Villagomez

Adams State University — CAMP - \$1,100

Chantal Almeida
Jesus Frias
Samantha Gonzalez
Nuvia Quintana
Armando Salazar
Dolores Estrada Hernandez
Jose Villagomez
Pedro Gonzalez

ASU Douglas Thomas Scholarship, \$2,000
Kristine Hoffner
Pending — Marco Molina,
Elizabeth Molina



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YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

Now that summer is almost here, the sky gets light early and doesn't get dark until late in the evening. So in June and July the best sky viewing is 10 p.m. until 4 a.m. Before and after that the only visible objects are the bright planets and a few really bright stars.

The full moon is on the June 5, but it will also look full on the June 4 as it shines from dusk to dawn. Both nights it will be close

to the red super star Antares in Scorpius the Scorpion. This is called the Strawberry Moon or the Rose Moon. If you get up early in the morning while the sky is still dark, the moon will be joining up with Jupiter and Saturn in the SE.

This time of year the Arctic Circle up north has the Sun 24 hours a day, so they never see the moon. The Antarctic Circle down south is the opposite. So there is no sundown there this time of year, and they can only see the moon.

The star cluster Omega Centauri, which is visible from here May and June, is the largest and most

luminous globular star cluster in our sky. By mid-June it reaches its highest point in our sky in the SSE around 10 p.m.

Spica the brightest star in Virgo will guide you to it.

Globular Star Clusters orbit the Milky Way

outside the galactic disk. They harbor tens of thousands to millions of stars, and they're tightly bound by gravity. At 17,000 LY away, Omega Centauri is one of the few of the Milky Way's 200 or more globular clusters that are visible to the naked eye. This one has 10 million stars and is 150 LY in diameter, so it's huge.

Spica is one of the 3 brightest stars in our spring sky and is the lower right one of the Spring Triangle. To find Omega Centauri first find Spica in the SSW, and then look 3 1/2 fists below it. You will see a fuzzy star. Then look at it with binoculars or a telescope to see more details.

I've been going out around 9:15 to look at Venus and Mercury. They've been highly visible in the WNW without any aid. Then I look at them with binoculars to see more of them. Venus is now gone, but will eventually appear in the morning sky, but Mercury is still visible for a few weeks.

Because of where we live, I haven't been able to view Comet STAR since the mountains prevent me from viewing objects that are low in the NE sky. I hope some of

Globular Cluster Omega Centauri

you have been able to see it. When it began to dim and is not as bright as originally predicted.



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MAYOR

Continued from Page 1A

be turned over to district attorney Robert Willett for review and could result in criminal charges. Warwick, however, feels the incident is more of a civil issue and should have been settled without participation by town officials.

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

"There is a possible question of judgment here," Warwick continued. "Reigel shouldn't have gotten herself involved — the parties should have settled it themselves." Warwick agreed that the incident places the town in a difficult situation and indicated the matter should have been referred to law enforcement.

Warwick says he has not heard from either the employer or anyone from the town, noting the employer has a language barrier that may delay his report. Both sides have involved their attorneys in the matter, he commented.

The grower's report includes a long list of complaints about the town, also witnessed by those attending meetings and noted for the past several years by Moffat citizens and property owners. These include:

- The mayor's conduct in public meetings, including explosive outbursts;
- Disrespectful treatment of board members;
- Abuse of authority
- Financial transparency issues
- Reluctance in providing the town's financial and other records under the Colorado Open Records Act;
- Conflicts of interest among board members and town employees.

The town clerk has resigned, and a special meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 2. A town official said in an email June 2 that it will be up to the board whether or not to accept her resignation. A special meeting is scheduled Monday ahead of the town's regular meeting.

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Durango hatchery takes first spawn from rare cutthroat trout

DURANGO - After nearly a two-year wait, Colorado Parks and Wildlife hatchery staff and biologists in Durango have spawned a new lineage of Colorado River cutthroat trout that were rescued from a remote stream during the 416 Fire in 2018.

This marks a major milestone for CPW's on-going species conservation work in Colorado, and the result of decades of work by dedicated biologists, researchers and field staff.

Fertilized eggs of the San Juan cutthroats will hatch by mid-summer; some of the fingerlings will be placed in back-country streams in the southwest area of the state and others will be held at the Durango hatchery to start a sustainable brood stock. Now, the hatchery staff and biologists will continue the long-term effort to restore these native trout to their home waters.

"I'm thrilled that we've gotten a spawn from these fish, it's been a long process and we've got a lot more work to do," said Jim White, aquatic biologist for CPW in Durango.

The story of these fish that hold a unique genetic marker goes back nearly 150 years and includes some serious biological detective work. Since the 1970s, CPW aquatic biologists have searched backcountry streams looking for



Courtesy photos

Cutthroat trout



Milking cutthroat trout



Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad to open modified season on June 13, 2020

CHAMA, NM and ANTONITO, COLO. - The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad (C&TSRR) will launch its 2020 season on Saturday, June 13, with its first train of the season departing from Chama, NM. Originally, the C&TSRR's opening date was scheduled for Memorial Day weekend but the railroad delayed the opening and modified its schedule to align

with restrictions surrounding COVID-19.

The historic steam railroad, twice voted North America's most scenic train by the readers of *USA Today*, will follow a modified schedule:

From June 13 - Sept. 11, one train a day will leave from either Antonito, CO or Chama, NM and stop at historic Osier, CO for a deli-

Please see C&TSRR on Page 10

Hind speak

"Hey buddy, maybe you'll rope better after your horse foals. Ha ha!"

"Thanks, pal. I had a horse like yours once. But his brain was so small his head caved in and he bit his own ears off! Look it's starting in yours... see that indentation."

The quick retort. That clever comeback, the snappy rejoinder that puts the annoying smart mouth in his place. The French call it Esprit d'Escalier - the wit of the stairway. In my case it would be better called Esprit d' Much Later. I don't think of what I wished I'd said till I'm tossing and turning at two o'clock in the morning.

My normal response to the roping chide would have been more like, "Huh? Oh. It's a gelding. Yeah, I guess you know, I get it. Ha, ha. Duh!"

The trick is to let the tormentor step into his own trap:

"My gosh, Bill, if I had a bull that threw



BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

calves like that I'd sell 'im as quick as I could!"

"You had... you did. I bought him at yer yearlin' sale two years ago!"

"This is ridiculous havin' to nearly undress to get through airport security."

"I've never heard anyone say that who's been hijacked."

"I've been tryin' to call you for three weeks to tell you about this great networking investment opportunity. How do you expect people to get a hold of you if you have an unlisted phone number?"

(A visual Esprit d'Escalier... the raised eyebrows)

"How can you live without a computer?"

"Somebody's gotta think up all that stuff you read on that little screen."

"Ugh... how can you wear that fur coat?"

"I'm doing research on lunatics and this seems to be good bait."

"Dear, why do you always under cook my bacon? You know I like it crisp."

"Yer mother always cooked it crisp and said you were difficult to potty train. I don't want you to revert."

"I hope you don't mind us joining you. Looks like yer catchin' all the fish."

"Not a bit, have y'all been vaccinated for leprosy?"

"I run every day. Are you familiar with running?"

"Yeah, I saw *The Fugitive*."

"How could anyone be so stupid?"

"Maybe it's the company I keep."

Now that you've got the idea, try this on...

"Did you make that bridle yourself or is your kid learning leatherwork in kindergarten?"

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

SLV COVID-19 cases approach 200, four SLV COVID-19 related deaths

SAN LUIS VALLEY - The San Luis Valley saw a large increase positive COVID-19 cases the past week. Forty new cases were reported Friday, May 29. The total SLV COVID-19 related deaths is now four(4) as Saguache County received notification of their second COVID-19 fatality. Currently, there are 106 total known active COVID cases in the San Luis Valley. There have been 17 total hospitalizations, and 87 total individuals have completed isolation. San Luis Valley Public Health has received feedback that readers would prefer to know the number of active COVID-19 cases rather than the total number of positives since the beginning of the pandemic. While this number is useful, it is currently difficult to estimate due to widespread community transmission and cannot be updated daily with accuracy. San Luis Valley Public Health has stated that they will report active cases when feasible.

Public Health officials in counties with variances in place are monitoring data carefully for variance compliance, as well as considering how the recent Governor's updated Public Health Order affects the variance. The Governor's Public Health Order issued Monday, May 25, applies to the entire State, including those that have submitted variances. Counties would need to submit a new Public Health order or variance request to deviate from the State.

Local Public Health agencies continue to pursue support from State and Federal agencies to manage the current situation in Center, particularly the follow-up that must occur after testing and help collect and monitor data. They are also actively pursuing solutions to reaching community members with targeted messaging and working to address the types of support that must occur so the individuals impacted are able to follow current guidelines to reduce the spread of illness.

Testing right now is limited to symptomatic individuals only. If you are sick, please call one of the hospital call-lines below to begin the screening process.

Rio Grande Hospital 719-657-4990

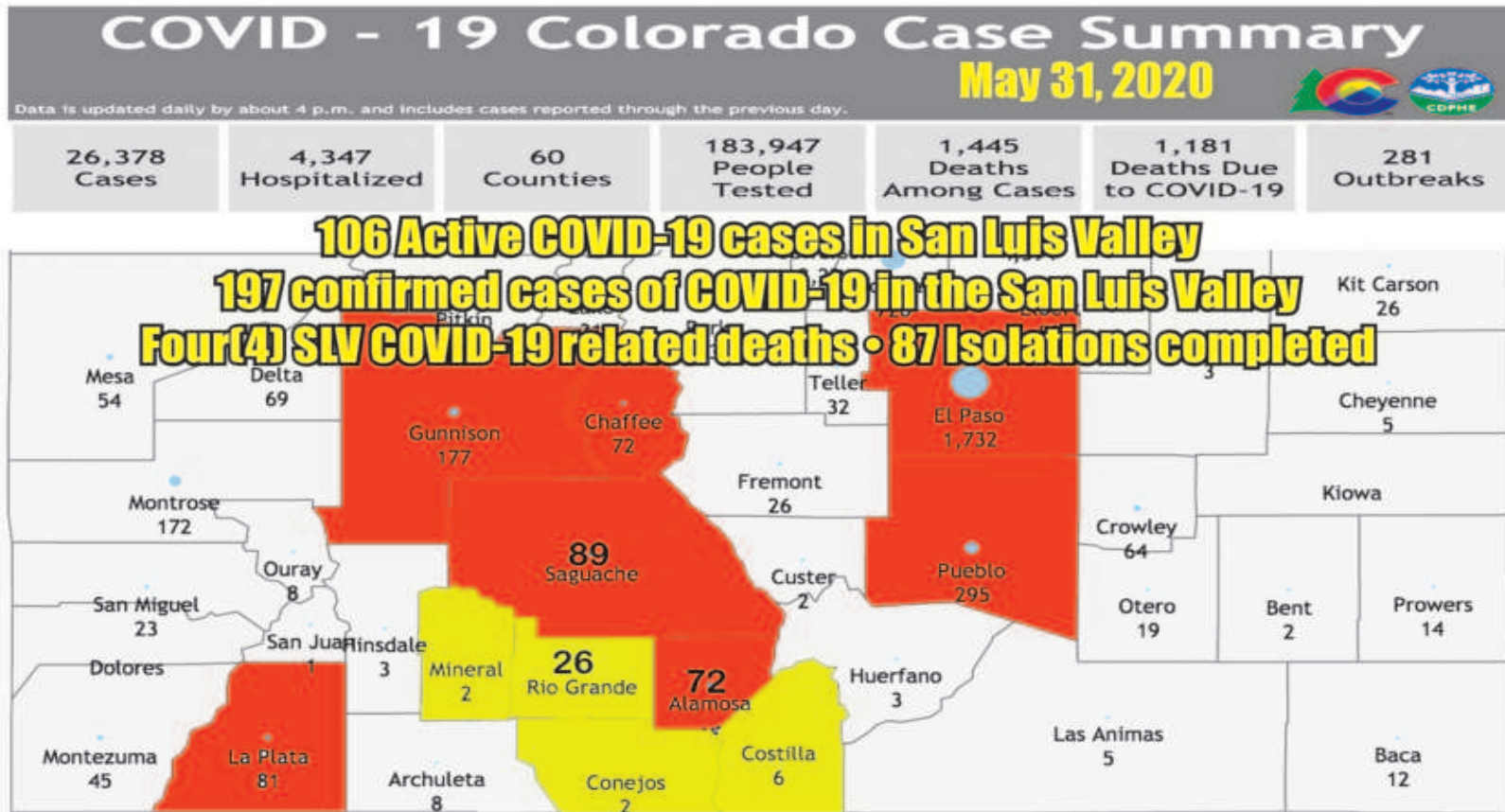
SLV Health Respiratory Clinic 719-589-2511 ext. 9

Valley Wide Health Systems 719-589-3658 ext. 9

Mental Health resources:
SLV Behavioral Health Group: 719-589-3671

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

Online: www.colorado.gov/ruralmentalhealth, www.slvbhg.org
SLV COVID-19 general questions: 719-480-8719, slvepr@alamosacounty.org.



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Deanna S. from Yuma, CO
27-year Viaero customer
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Glissading Safety

The sun crested the horizon with a few high clouds zooming to the east. Rays of light began to tease the water at Beaver Creek Reservoir. That was my sign, so I packed up the fishing poles and headed back up the road to our dispersed camp site nestled in the aspens at the top of a steep slope down to the open meadows along Beaver Creek. After a quick breakfast, I collected my gear, prodded my climbing partners and headed up the 360 road towards Poage Lake. About a mile before reaching the lake I turned onto the 322 road, headed southwest and parked at a gated logging road we had scouted the day before.

As we geared up, we discussed the routes we would be taking and agreed on the plan. We also briefly discussed what we would do if something went wrong during the trip. Our route took us across the road and into a wet drainage that slowly sloped up to the base of North Mountain. There was no trail to follow, just game trails and "bush whacking" over the downed trees and around wet bogs. A final turn south, a calf-burning steep slope brought us to timberline where we gained excellent views of Poage Lake, the Beaver Creek drainage and Hogback Mesa.

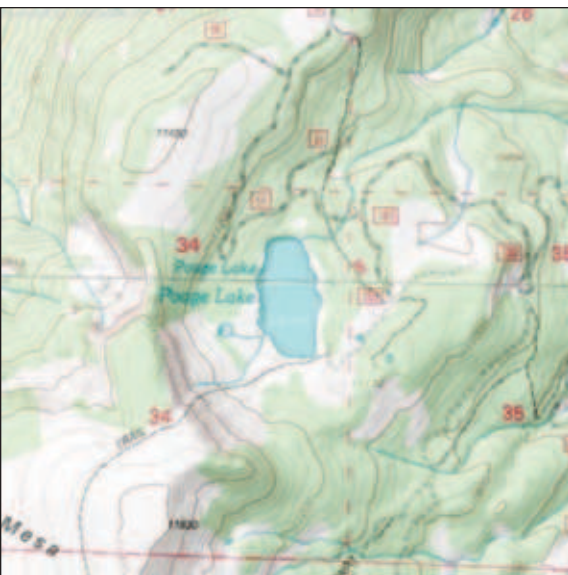
Taking note of some lower elevation snow fields for later playtime, we pushed for the summit. As we gained elevation, we were greeted by a very dark colored Marmot that looked more like a weasel than the typical light brown high-country critters we all know. A few pika squeaked their warnings to us as we passed. We finally reached that point when the climb became a gentle slope to the top. The two tall rock piles at the summit were a welcome sight because, as you all know, the wind was blowing

with its normal spring tenacity here in the SLV. While I'll never encourage the construction of large rock piles on mountain peaks, we did hunker behind one for a short spell.

It was time to reap the rewards of our climb so we broke out from behind the rock piles, took some great photos of wonderful scenery and began our walk down at a swift pace since a small snow squall had taken up position near Poage Lake and appeared to have its sights set on us. Just as we reached treeline, I guided my party to a small snowfield that had a safe run-out at the bottom and taught my partners the joys of glissading. This is when a person simply stands or sits on a sloped snowfield and slides down. It can be very thrilling and very dangerous, especially when you make a poor evaluation of the slope and end up sliding out of control. We didn't do that. The slope was only 60 feet long but relatively steep as glissading goes.

We hiked back up a few times to get a feel for the technique then headed across slope to a much longer snowfield. After a few runs on that slope, some backsides became wet and it was time to head for the truck. We hiked through the bogs and over the downed trees to a welcome snack waiting at the truck. It was a great hike and we spent the entire time alone on "our mountain."

Glissading can be quite thrilling and a very enjoyable activity to partake in, especially in late spring and early summer. But it can be very dangerous too. It is important to carefully evaluate snow conditions and slope to determine the potential for avalanches. Earlier this year, someone was caught in an avalanche while glissading in the Sangre De Cristo Mountains. It is equally important to evaluate the slope and consequences of reaching the bottom at high rates of speed. Most folks I know carry ice axes so they can self-arrest should they get going too fast. Our adventure didn't include ice axes, so our slope choices were very limited. Oh, how I imagined myself flying down one of the steeper slopes, but I didn't.



Land, Water and People

BY GREGG GOODLAND

Never make the mistake of compromising safety in the mountains. Always conduct your risk evaluations with an objective mind and never let your emo-

tions override good decisions. If you do, you stand greater chances of returning to enjoy new adventures on another day.

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

SLV REC ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020

7 A.M. - 6:30 P.M.
OPEN HOUSE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
AT SLV REC OFFICE, MONTE VISTA
*Light refreshments, prize drawings**
*(*must attend open house to be eligible)*
SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED

7 P.M.
VIRTUAL BUSINESS MEETING
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\$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.

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To ensure your ad is correct, check it the first day it appears in the paper. If there is an error in your ad, call us right away so we can correct it. If an error appears in your ad, Valley Publishing will credit you with one additional day of advertising.

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05 Notices

WE BUY ANTLER: 5 miles west of Del Norte on HWY 160. 719-657-0942 (6/3)TFN

07 Help Wanted

Wanted: yard worker for the Carnegie Library South Fork Branch, very good wage. Contact Carol Lee Dugan at 719-852-3931. (6/3)

The Del Norte Jr/Sr High School is seeking a qualified Secondary Social Studies teacher for the 2020/2021 school year. If you are interested please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Aaron Horrocks at ahorrocks@urtigers.co or contact Aaron at (719) 657-4030 ext 1001. Applications can be accessed online at <https://www.dncsd.org/business/employment-opportunities>. (6/17)

The Saguache County Land Use Office is accepting applications for a full time Saguache County Code Enforcement Officer. Applicants must have a valid Colorado Divers License, must pass a criminal background check as well as a pre-employment drug test. Applications will be accepted through June 5, 2020 or 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. (6/17)

Saguache County Land Use is seeking a part time Land Use Clerk. Duties include general office duties must pass a criminal background check as well as a pre-employment drug test. Application and job description are available on line at www.saguachecounty.net. Applications will be accepted through June 5, 2020 or until filled. Applications may be found on www.saguachecounty.net or may be emailed to you, please contact April Quintana at 719-655-2231 for further information. Saguache County is an equal oppor-

tunity employer.(6/17)

Elementary Teacher needed at Del Norte Elementary School for the 2020/2021 school year. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Amy at 719-657-4030. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: dncsd.org. (6-9)

Del Norte High School is seeking a qualified Boys' Basketball Head Coach for next season. If interested, please email Richie Madrid, Del Norte High School Athletic Director at rmadrid@urtigers.co or call him at 719-850-3623.(6-9)

Grande Meats seeks FT shipping clerk. Computer and telephone skills a plus, bilingual a plus. Packing UPS boxes, customer service, retail clerking, inventory control, light ranch chores, etc. Must work a 10-hour 4 day/week flexible schedule. Wages commensurate with skills. Send detailed resume with wage history and skills to: Box 10, Del Norte. CO 81132c(6/3)

Accepting resumes for Assistant Administrator position with Tri-County Senior Citizens and Housing. Must be proficient in Microsoft suite. (Word, Excel, Publisher) Prior experience in bookkeeping or accounting. Must be well organized, detail and deadline oriented. Will assist with day to day operation of Senior Center and Senior Apartments. Must relate well with people. Will plan activities, events and trips. Will prepare newsletter and reports for board review, will keep website current. Full Time Position 35-40 Hours per week Monday-Friday Mail resumes to 311 Washington street, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or email to mary@tricountyseniors.com. (5/27)

10 Apartments for Rent
2-Bedroom 1 Bath duplex W/Yard
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Del Norte 850-1118. (6/24)

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.

17 Real Estate For Sale
SAN LUIS HOUSE FOR SALE 3 Bedroom 1 Bath, recent remodel, 5 acres, Well, shed/garage/workshop. Motivated Seller \$117,500 719 992-4025. (06/10)

1,810 Square Ft 4-bedroom, 2-full-bath Large Deck with 8ft Walls. Twin Peaks Back Yard. Matching Barn 3-acres NW of Del Norte 13 Miles off of County Road 15 Will Sell Turnkey 8,400 elevation 360 Degree Mtn Views. 719-298-0779. Call No Later than 4:00PM. \$150K (6/24)

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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)

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

24 Garage Sales 3-Family Sale Friday and Saturday June 5th and 6th 56 Meadow Lane Monte Vista 7:00AM Queen Bed, DVD's, Linens, teenage boy clothes, book, misc. Masks Requested. (6/3)

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42 Feed & Seed WANTED TO BUY hay or mixed hay, most any size bale. Call 719-539-4313 or 719-239-1391. Pinon Ranch.(6/9)

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

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

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64 Autos for Sale 1999 Lincoln Town Car: Very Nice, 112,500 miles, Blue Book \$3,500, asking \$2,700. New tires, clean inside and outside. (303)902-9464 Text or Voicemail (06/03)

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



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Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com



Beautiful mountain property in Elk Mountain Springs! Just out of Saguache and is an hour from Salida and from Alamosa. Two adjoining parcels that equal close to 100 acres. The entire property is fenced and is cradled against a huge BLM mountain range. Perfect for hunting and camping. Several trails for ATV riding, horseback riding, mountain biking, and hiking! MLS #761980 Call Deborah Milne at 719-850-9532 for details. **\$232,000**

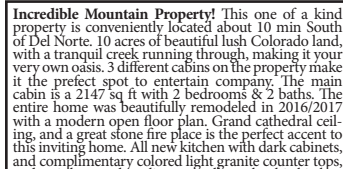
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Fantastic Home on 40 Acres with Water!
 5 bedroom • 2.5 bath • 3,216 sq. ft. • **\$630,000**
 Remodeled in 2016, the home has large, double-pane windows to enjoy the views, quartz counter tops, new stainless steel appliances, a private master suite with amazing features and so many more unique details. Heated 3-car attached garage plus addtl. detached garage/tack room. Established hay-meadow with surface water rights and 1.5 shares of Rio Grande Piedra ditch.
 MLS# 769101
Porter Realty, 503 Main St. Alamosa
 (719)589-5897 • mp@porterrealty.com



Cozy Home! Owner Will Carry Mortgage!
 1 bedroom • 1.5bath **\$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! MLS #762858
 38 Denette Lane • South Fork
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Incredible Mountain Property! This one of a kind property is conveniently located about 10 min South of Del Norte. 10 acres of beautiful lush Colorado land, with a tranquil creek running through, making it your very own oasis. 3 different cabins on the property make it the perfect spot to entertain company. The main cabin is a 2147 sq ft with 2 bedrooms & 2 baths. The entire home was beautifully remodeled in 2016/2017 with a modern open floor plan. Grand cathedral ceiling, and a great stone fire place is the perfect accent to this inviting home. All new kitchen with dark cabinets, and complimentary colored light granite counter tops, and stainless steel appliances really make this kitchen lovely. Master suite with awesome master bath, big standing tile shower, and double vanity. Plenty of large windows bring in the wonderful views of outside. The other 2 additional cabins are very charming, one has full living quarters with kitchen and living room, the other is more bunkhouse style with 2 bedrooms & 1 - 3/4 bath. So much can be said of this incredible property, it really must be seen to be fully appreciated! Call today! **\$649,900** Call Klay Gosar, 480-789-3159 MLS #766960

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Secluded Cabin Getaway!
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 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!
 MLS# 769112
Porter Realty, 503 Main St. Alamosa
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You won't believe your eyes! Stunning Views, Lots of Wildlife!
 3 bedroom • 2.5 bath • 2,900 sq. ft. **\$549,000**
 Check out some of the best, 360 degree, hilltop views in South Fork from your deck! Open kitchen, dining and living area, vaulted ceilings, Jacuzzi tub, finished basement with a rec room! MLS #767631
 852 Soaring Eagle Lane • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
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This beautiful mountain property is located in Southwestern Colorado near the Rio Grande National Forest. The property has a large creek running through it. This property offers a mountain rich and abundant with wildlife like elk, deer, grouse, and even an occasional bear. The creek is plentiful with trout and browns, virtually a park for the family. The nearby area has easy access to hiking, atvs, mountain bike trails, hunting and world class rock climbing. The property is 45 minutes from Wolf Creek Ski area. The house is very inviting and will call you back often! Coffee house style kitchen with custom Alder kitchen cabinets and stainless steel sink and dishwasher. Large master bedroom with amazing view from your bed! The other bedroom is large and has its own bathroom which is perfect for guests. The dining room is very spacious with a warm and communal feel - great for sharing meals. There is sun room with huge windows and a wood stove. The main bathroom is tiled with Italian stone and double headed walk in shower. There is nothing to be done to this property. Everything down to the baseboards and paint in like new, including windows, flooring, and lights. Everything was designed to be low maintenance. This property is like new condition and a very rare find! Don't pass this opportunity up **\$599,000** Call Klay Gosar, 480-789-3159 MLS #767017

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 MLS# 766729
Porter Realty, 503 Main St. Alamosa
 (719)589-5897 • mp@porterrealty.com



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
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Immaculate home with 3 bedrooms & 2 bathrooms. This quaint home has lots of opportunity to be updated to a persons own creativeness. There is a heated 3 car attached garage with insulated garage doors. Established yard with sprinklers system. Large over-sized concrete driveway. Newer metal roof. Close to parks, schools, and golf course. Call today to see this great home! **\$164,000** Call Tracy Gosar, 850-1815 MLS #76829

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Archuleta County

Contact the Pagosa Springs Area Association of REALTORS® for more detailed local statistics or to find a REALTOR® in the area.

Single Family	April			Year to Date		
	2019	2020	Percent Change from Previous Year	Thru 04-2019	Thru 04-2020	Percent Change from Previous Year
Key Metrics						
New Listings	65	41	- 36.9%	161	154	- 4.3%
Sold Listings	24	21	- 12.5%	75	90	+ 20.0%
Median Sales Price*	\$363,500	\$382,000	+ 5.1%	\$355,000	\$382,000	+ 7.6%
Average Sales Price*	\$389,542	\$420,465	+ 7.9%	\$420,981	\$441,367	+ 4.8%
Percent of List Price Received*	97.2%	95.8%	- 1.4%	96.9%	96.6%	- 0.3%
Days on Market Until Sale	172	153	- 11.0%	175	180	+ 2.9%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	204	198	- 2.9%	--	--	--
Months Supply of Inventory	7.3	6.4	- 12.3%	--	--	--

* Does not account for seller concessions and/or down payment assistance. | Activity for one month can sometimes look extreme due to small sample size.

La Garita rising: La Garita, Colorado USA

By FRANK WHITE

SAN LUIS VALLEY - A caldera eruption does not only leave behind what we come to know as historical sites, it creates beautiful energies. La Garita, Colorado is a very special place where one can feel geomagnetic forces as it interacts with our own body chemistry and that comes from the La Garita caldera.

A caldera is a large volcanic crater formed by an eruption that led to the collapse of the mouth of the volcano. This caldera covers the whole range of the western part of the valley. Geologists tell us that it

was formed 28 million years ago and that area has much rich mineral content, especially minerals like gold, silver, uranium, copper and zinc.

These were known by the natives. The neat and special feelings that come from this area were created by the caldera. The Ute tribes were very aware that the caldera brought these wonderful

energies and they embraced them.

They didn't necessarily share the same view as the geologists in that the energies came from geomag-

netic forces. Rather, they believed the good feelings were brought by unknown forces.

All people traveling in that area please note that you're going to feel that feeling.

The director of La Garita, Colorado USA, Frank Amadeo White, is working toward producing a special project which includes completing a restoration of history in La Garita. This will include a small museum with tipi's and a sweat lodge.

The intention of this article is to

get everyone acquainted with this beautiful area of mystical feelings, that are almost euphoric. We invite you to visit La Garita and experience those good feelings — to learn about the history of the land with Frank White.

Anyone who is intrigued by this invitation and who wishes to learn more, or just wants to have a great conversation about history please feel free to contact White. Please be looking out for the next part of our five-part series.

Frank White is the descendant of Antonio Blanco or Tony White as he was later known, who settled in La Garita in the 1800s. His dream is to open a museum on land the family still owns in La Garita to celebrate the history of the area. To familiarize Valley residents with La Garita's history, White is writing a series of articles that will appear in the Center Post-Dispatch for the next several weeks. You can contact Frank at FrankWhite1942@gmail.com or 303-587-6832.



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Colorado files lawsuit defending streams and wetlands

COLORADO — On behalf of the State of Colorado, Attorney General Phil Weiser filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Denver to protect Colorado's streams and wetlands from a dangerous federal rule that would leave them vulnerable to pollution under the Clean Water Act.

By radically changing how the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers define "waters of the United States" that are protected under the Clean Water Act, the new 2020 rule will leave a substantial portion of Colorado's streams and wetlands without federal protection and jeopardize the integrity and quality of Colorado's waters.

"The federal government's new definition of 'waters of the United States' violates the Clean Water Act, contravenes controlling U.S.

Supreme Court precedent, and ignores sound science," Weiser said. "This illegal action shirks the federal government's responsibility to implement this law and thrusts on Colorado the responsibility of protecting water quality with limited warning and with no support to do so. We are bringing this lawsuit to stop this new rule and reckless action from taking effect."

The Clean Water Act protects U.S. streams, wetlands and rivers from pollution. Previously, under Supreme Court precedent, the rule included ephemeral streams—streams that run because of melting snow or precipitation—and wetlands that aren't connected on the surface to larger bodies of water.

"We need to challenge this action to avoid a bigger problem for our economy at a time when our state is already hurting from COVID-19.

Some flood control, stormwater erosion, transportation, and other important projects may not be able to move forward because the new rule takes away the permitting path needed to ensure environmental protection and project development. That's a problem that we need to fix," said John Putnam, Environmental Programs Director, Colorado department of public health and Environment.

The new 2020 rule does not include many ephemeral streams or wetlands without a surface connection. The lawsuit states that the new, narrower definition of the types of water protected under the Clean Water Act eliminates federal jurisdiction over a significant number of Colorado's tributaries, adjacent waters, and wetlands that affect downstream waters, without provid-



ing any rational basis for the rule. This leaves Colorado's snowmelt streams and wetlands vulnerable to pollution, which would negatively impact our state's agriculture and outdoor recreation economy.

Through the lawsuit, Colorado is asking the court to maintain the definition in place since the 1980s and to stop the new, unlawful rule from

going into effect. In so doing, Colorado is following up on its comment to the agencies, which praised earlier 2008 guidance as legally sound and grounded in science. Maintaining the status quo will also protect important agriculture exemptions, respect state authority to administer water rights, and provide the appropriate level of federal partnership.

Pickleball picks up speed in South Fork for summer

SOUTH FORK- South Fork is gearing up for summer and have a wide range of events and activities planned for the coming months. Beginning Wednesday, May 27, the courts in South Fork will be open for Pickleball. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. will be scheduled play.

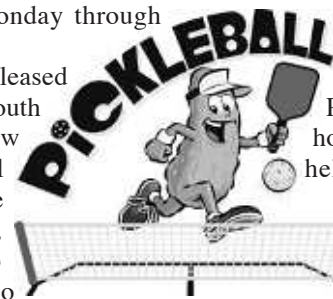
What is pickleball? Pickleball is a paddle sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis, and ping pong. Two or four players use solid paddles made of wood or composite materials to hit a perforated polymer ball, similar to a Wiffle Ball, over a net. The sport shares features of other racket sports, the dimensions

and layout of a badminton court, and a net and rules somewhat similar to tennis, with several modifications.

The nets remain up and the court is open 24-hours a day and seven days a week. The fees remain the same which are \$30 for single, \$50 per couple and \$3 per person for drop-in play. Please pay your fee and

pick up your pin at the South Fork Visitor Center, Monday through Friday.

In a statement released by the Friends of South Fork, "We have new nets and balls. All first timers please feel free to come, watch and learn to play. You may also want to check it out online to get



an idea of what we're doing; it's great fun for all ages, and the fastest growing sport in America! Pay for play is on the honor system and please help us keep our courts clean by picking up trash, leaving no cigarette butts, etc. and remember to Drink Responsibly!"

Creede Arts Council sponsors Music in the Park

CREEDE - Join us (socially distanced, of course) in Basham park for live music! The Creede Arts Council is sponsoring Music in the Park! Beginning in June we will enjoy Creede's talented, local musicians in Basham Park. The first and third weeks of June, July and August (weather permitting) beginning at 5 to 7 p.m. Bring your lawn chair, a picnic, your tapping feet and come join us in social distancing to great music!

- June 9, 23
- July 7, 21
- Aug. 4, 18

This is a free event, (tips to musicians appreciated) Looking forward to bumping elbows!! Call 719-658-0321 for more information.



The importance of better hearing

Hearing is important to every member of the family, from infants to seniors.

The audiology staff at SLV Health would like to encourage the residents of the San Luis Valley to schedule an appointment with an audiologist if they suspect hearing loss for themselves or other members of their family.

"Hearing loss is a problem in people of all ages," said Linda Vaughan, MA, CCC-A, the audiologist for San Luis Valley Health. "It can impact their lives at so many levels."

Hearing loss can come with age, but it can also come with exposure to loud music or loud headphone use, loud recreational activities such as hunting or shooting, or even loud noises at the workplace, such as construction, manufacturing or agriculture.

Some signs of hearing loss for adults include turning up the volume on the television or radio; difficulty understanding what people are saying; not being able to hear common household sounds such as the doorbell or a dog barking; ringing in your



Photo courtesy of SLV Health

SLV Health Audiologist Linda Vaughan, MA, CCC-A, would like to remind people of the importance of better hearing.

ears; or people telling you that you are speaking loudly.

Children with unknown hearing issues have increased difficulties, which could be seen as not following directions or responding to their name, academic and social issues, and even speech and language de-

lays.

For more information or to make an appointment about audiology services available at SLV Health, please call 719-589-8025. Information about the audiology department can also be found by visiting www.sanluisvalleyhealth.org.

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Man injured in accidental shooting in Center

By **TERESA L. BENNS**

CENTER — Center Police Chief Dale Meek reported over the weekend that on May 24 an incident occurred involving firearms safety which could have ended tragically. “With Memorial Day upon us and the Fourth of July in the near future, this is a good incident to share with our community,” Meek said.

Meek described the incident as an accidental shooting that took place at the Tierra Nueva apartment complex. No victim or suspect information will be released at this time as the investigation is ongoing.

The incident happened as a subject was putting away his .22 rifle after officers believed he had consumed a few beers. The subject accidentally shot one round off which traveled through the wall and struck the neighbor in the arm. The neighbor was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries but this incident, while serious, could have been much worse.

“I believe in the right to own and

possess firearms, but this is an incident that could have been prevented with proper gun safety,” Meek commented. He cautioned the public to never handle firearms while drinking alcoholic beverages or when intoxicated as this causes errors in judgement and handling of weapons. Someone’s actions handling a weapon while under the influence can be described as reckless conduct and is subject to criminal charges, he cautioned.

Always, Meek said, keep in mind the primary rules of gun safety:

- ALL weapons must be treated as if they are ALWAYS loaded.
- ALWAYS Keep The Gun Unloaded Until Ready To Use.
- NEVER let the MUZZLE of a weapon point at anything you are not willing to destroy.
- Keep your FINGER off the trigger and OUT of the TRIGGER GUARD until the sights are on the target and you are PREPARED to shoot.
- ALWAYS be certain of your target and BEYOND.



Courtesy photo

Great Sand Dunes implements emergency fire restrictions

SAN LUIS VALLEY - The entire area within Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve is under extreme fire danger due to below-normal moisture conditions combined with unseasonably warm temperatures and windy conditions. The resulting low fuel moisture situation has created severe wildfire conditions and any fire ignitions may result in extreme fire behavior. Additionally, long-term forecasts do not anticipate significant improvement in current conditions and the availability of firefighting resources is limited. Such conditions create a severe hazard to human health and safety and the potential for serious damage to park resources should a wildfire be ignited.

Therefore, to reduce the risk of fire and protect park resources the following restrictions are established under the authority of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.5 (a)(1) Closures and Public Use Limits, §2.13(c) Fires, and § 2.21(a) Smoking.

ited on the public land, roads, and trails within the National Park and Preserve-regardless of land ownership, including private property and inholdings, until further notice:

Building, maintaining, attending, or using an open flame including fire, campfire, stove fire, charcoal grills and barbecues, coal and wood burning stoves.

Smoking.

Exemptions:

Any Federal, State or Local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

Persons using devices such as stoves, grills or lanterns with pressurized gas canisters for isobutene or propane that include shut-off valves.

Persons within an enclosed vehicle, trailer or building.

These restrictions go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on June 3, 2020, and remain until rescinded. Please call the Visitor Center at 719-378-6395 if you have any questions.

The following acts are prohib-

Del Norte Covered Wagon Days canceled

DEL NORTE - The Del Norte Covered Wagon Days Committee has announced that they are canceling this year’s event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Carl Hill, Chairman, said, “It was a hard decision to make but after learning that many of the other events were being canceled, our board decided it was in the best interest of the community to cancel ours also.”

Coupled with the fear of spreading the virus is the financial concerns. Covered Wagon Days relies heavily on the donations from local businesses and individuals to put on this event every year. Hill commented, “that the businesses have been hit hard financially this year and we just don’t feel right asking them to donate to our event.” For more information call 657-2521.

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ACROSS

1. Small deer
4. Khoikhoi peoples
9. South African statesman
14. Keyboard key
15. Remove
16. A conspicuous constellation
17. Data executive
18. Retired NASCAR driver
20. Tightens
22. A picture of the Virgin Mary
23. “The Mission” actor Jeremy
24. Confidently
28. More (Spanish)
29. Sports highlight show (abbr.)
30. Hand out cards
31. Distinctive Asian antelope
33. Arabic greeting
37. Of I
38. Hip hop trio
39. Meat roll
41. One’s mother (Brit.)
42. ___-GYN
43. Belgian city
44. Plucks
46. Leak slowly
49. Denotes a particular region
50. General’s assistant (abbr.)
51. Divides
55. Kid
58. Inland Empire Expanded Learning Symposium
59. Engaged in conflict
60. Former CBS sportscaster

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14			15					16					
17			18					19					
20			21					22					
23											26	27	
		28				29				30			
31	32					33		34	35	36		37	
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51				52	53	54				55		56	57
		58							59				
60	61						62	63			64		
65							66				67		
68							69					70	

64. Characterized by unity
65. Working-class
66. Corners
67. ___ de plume
68. Influential French artist
69. “Very” in musical terms
70. Financial account

25. With three uneven sides
26. Football visionary Hunt
27. Primordial matters
31. Facing towards the flow of a glacier
32. “A Delicate Balance” writer
34. Emits coherent radiation
35. Commercial
36. Groups of foot bones
40. Out of print
41. Partner to cheese
45. German river
47. Concluding speech
48. Spanish dish
52. Prominent California cape Point ___
53. Any high mountain
54. Ethiopian lake
56. Mr.
57. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
59. Large, flightless bird
60. Oil industry term (abbr.)
61. Something one can draw
62. Officers in charge
63. Greek island

DOWN

1. Long, flat abdominal muscles
2. Small Eurasian willow
3. Justified in terms of profitability
4. Required
5. River that starts in Turkey
6. Disfigure
7. A way of communicating (abbr.)
8. Leaks slowly
9. Shady place under trees
10. Made a speech
11. Long, angry speech
12. Mortar trough
13. Autonomic nervous system
19. Southern India island
21. Grab quickly
24. Ancient Mesopotamian city

Solution to last week’s puzzle

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

C&TSRR

Continued from Page 1

icious lunch, included in the ticket price before returning to the station the train originated from.

Trains will leave from Chama to Osier then return to Chama on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Trains will leave from Antonito to Osier then return to Antonito on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. There will be no train on Monday and no half-day rides.

From Sept. 12 – Oct. 18, two trains will depart daily and run between Antonito and Chama with a lunch stop at Osier Station, following the traditional C&TSRR schedule.

If you need to cancel your res-

ervation this season, you will get a full refund if you cancel at least 48 hours prior to your trip.

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.

“People were riding this railroad before the Statue of Liberty was built or the first National Park was opened,” noted John Bush, president/CEO of the C&TSRR. “This railroad has steamed through our country’s great history, in both challenging and prosperous times.

We are grateful to continue our tradition of showcasing the untamed beauty of the Rocky Mountain West as it has been for centuries. These modifications were made to safeguard our passengers’ safety and the viability of the railroad during these unprecedented times.”

2020 Special Departures

The C&TSRR will also offer a limited number of special departures in 2020. Reservations are strongly encouraged, and departures are subject to change. Special departures include:

4th of July Dinner Train, leaves Chama at 5 p.m., dinner on Cumbres Pass, and a fireworks show, before returning to Chama at 10 p.m. There will be entertainment and a Fourth of July costume contest.

Wildflower/Botany Train, Aug. 2, 2020. This once-a-year special ride features acclaimed botanists

who will discuss the native wildflowers and plants along the route.

Dark Sky Dinner Train with Flamenco Guitar, Aug. 15, 2020.

Leaves Chama at 5 p.m., dinner on Cumbres Pass, with Flamenco guitar and festive attire encouraged. The train returns to Chama under a sky full of stars and a Dark Sky.

Sunset Dinner Train & Speakeasy, Sept. 19, 2020.

Leaves Chama at 5 p.m., dinner on Cumbres Pass with Speakeasy musicians and Roaring 20s attire encouraged. The train returns to Chama by 9 p.m.

Note that the sold-out **Fireman & Engineering Schools** will operate as originally scheduled. Please check the website for up to the minute changes.

Historic relaunch of the #168 Postponed

The first official appearance of

historic engine No. 168 has been postponed. The #168, one of only two locomotives of its class left in the world, has been completely restored to its original 1883 brilliance and was slated to return on Opening Day in 2020. Plans for the historic reintroduction of the storied #168 have been placed on hold. The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad will announce a new launch date as soon as possible.

Advance Reservations Recommended

With the abbreviated schedule, many rides on the C&TSRR, especially September fall color departures, will sell out well 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

TROUT

Continued from Page 1

isolated populations of cutthroats - Colorado’s native trout. In southwest Colorado in the 1980s and 1990s, biologists found cutthroat trout that were suspected to have unique characteristics in eight small streams.

Back then, however, technology to analyze genetics fully was still being developed. The biologists kept their eyes on the fish and made sure non-native trout were not stocked nearby.

In 2012, researchers from the University of Colorado went to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History looking for preserved specimens of cutthroat trout that had been collected in Colorado.

Two of the specimens they found were taken from the San Juan River near Pagosa Springs in 1874.

An analysis showed that the fish had genetic “fingerprints” specific to the San Juan River Basin. CPW researchers then began a similar analysis of the cutthroats they’d found in southwest Colorado. By this time, genetic-analysis technology had advanced and in early 2018 scientists confirmed that the marker in the museum specimens matched the cutthroat trout recently found in the wild.

Biologists and hatchery staff then made a plan to start propagating the fish. The 416 Fire helped push the project along.

When the fire started north of Durango, biologists worried that ash and sediment runoff could kill the cutthroats in the remote streams. So CPW worked with the San Juan National Forest to go into the area to capture the wild trout and bring them to a special isolation hatchery in Durango. Only 54 cutthroat were recovered from the fire area.

White and Durango Hatchery Manager Toby Mourning have been concerned because the fish did not produce any spawn last year and some of the fish died. But the turnaround this year is a major milestone for the restoration effort.

“We’re not getting a lot of eggs, but enough to provide some for a limited amount of stocking and some to start a captive population that will be sustainable,” Mourning said.

In order to protect the fish, CPW is not providing details on stream locations. Biologists hope that in a few years anglers will be able to find this unique cutthroat trout in the wild.

White explained that the work on this native is a significant conservation effort. In 2018, after the genetics of the fish were confirmed, he said: “We always ask ourselves, ‘What if we could go back to the days before mining, pioneer settlement and widespread nonnative fish stocking to see what we had here? Careful work over the years by biologists, finding those old specimens in the museum and the

genetic testing gave us the chance, essentially, to go back in time. Now we have the opportunity to bring this native trout back to southwest Colorado.”

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Wolf Creek Ski Resort takes proactive steps for ski season

By LYNDSIE FERRELL
CREEDE- Wolf Creek Ski Resort owner Davey Pitcher met with Mineral County Commissioners and Silver Thread Public health director Tara Hardy to discuss preliminary plans for the coming winter in hopes of getting ahead of the curve and be proactive in preparations for the next ski season. Pitcher opened his presentation explaining that he felt it was important to be proactive to prepare for the coming season and now was the time to think about the best approach for the coming year.



“Hopefully science will catch up and good things will happen but right now the writing is on the wall and we are wanting to figure out the best approach for next season. We are anticipating another winter of outbreaks and regulating operations, so we want to be proactive and work on having things in place. It would be nice not to have to worry about it but it is better to be prepared and not need it than to be caught off guard,” explained Pitcher.

“Wolf Creek is unique. We were fortunate enough to have gone to an electronic system two years ago. We no longer have the old tickets with punch holes, and everything is done through the RTP scanning system. We are a private corporation which allows us to make decision unlike other larger resort like Vail, Copper Mountains and Aspen. We want to use the data we have collected over the last two years to contact past pass holders; season pass holders and guests to get a comprehensive survey completed that could include questions from public health districts from our neighboring communities, not

just Mineral County,” continued Pitcher.

Pitcher continued to explain that the resort is thinking about the future, looking at a reservation type system, encouraging people to ski on offseason times or slow times and who would be willing to be screened before travel to the resort and surrounding communities where they will inevitably stay while visiting. “We are looking at what we can do to demonstrate a high level of care and how we could provide and look out for the well-being of employees and guests.”

Pitcher stated that he would be looking to speak with Public Health Districts from surrounding counties and to begin the conversation of

what opening the resort might look like come winter. Public health director Tara Hardy gave Pitcher her support in the endeavor stating, “I commend you for everything you are doing to keep the community safe and healthy and active. I am more than willing to work and support any proactive plan at this point.”

Pitcher did state that everything is in the planning stage and that the resort is not seeking a preapproval or any kind of approval from state officials at this time but is merely looking ahead to what the next ski season may look like if things do not progress in the COVID-19 pandemic. More details pertaining to the coming ski season will be reported as they come available.



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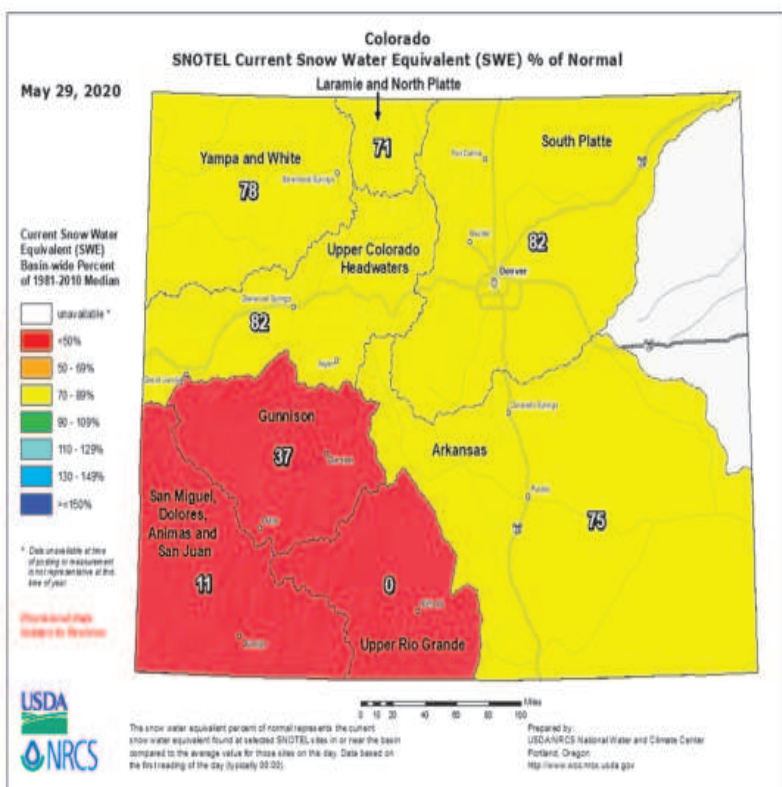
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Rio Grande National Forest fire danger high

winds and extreme dry conditions make it far more difficult to control wildfires. If everyone uses a little extra caution when outside during these conditions, it goes a long way to reducing the human caused fires.” The Stage 2 Order prohibits the following acts:

Igniting, building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, including charcoal grills and barbecues, coal and wood burning stoves, and sheepherder’s stoves.

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

SAN LUIS VALLEY - Gregg Goodland with Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) stated, “The current Fire Danger rating is High. RGNF is under Stage 2 fire restrictions. High

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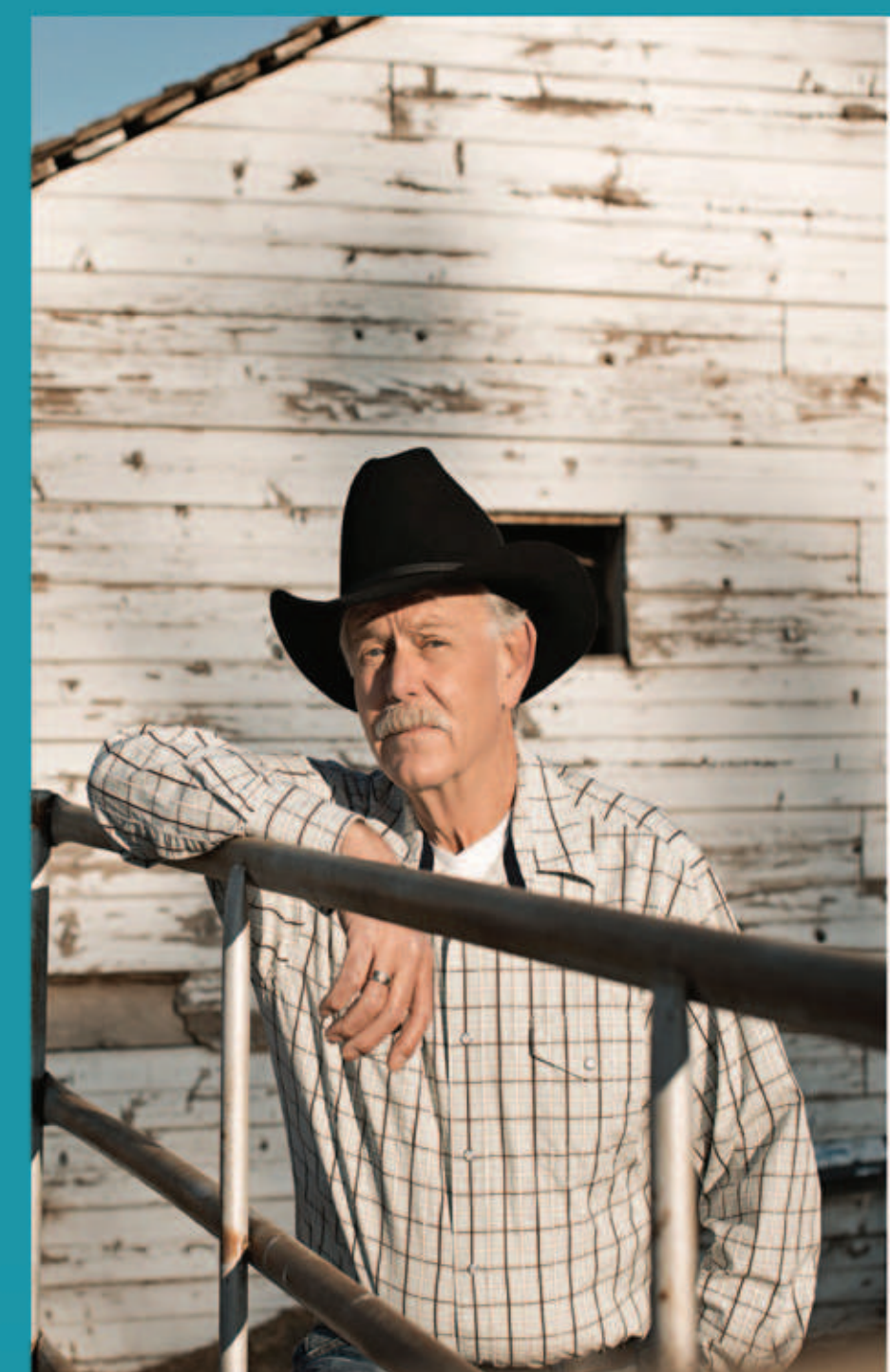
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