

Shorts

Public hearing set for Saguache CR M39

SAGUACHE — The Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing at the Saguache County Road and Bridge meeting room Tuesday, July 7, 2020, at 2 p.m. to consider vacating the last portion of Saguache County Road M39, approximately 0.27 miles.

The Road and Bridge office is located at 305 3rd Street in Saguache.

To view the proposed vacation of the last portion of Saguache County Road M39 please contact the Saguache County Administration – P.O. Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 or by calling 719-655-2231.

Written comments will be accepted until Thursday, July 2, 2020, and may be sent to Saguache County Administration at P.O. Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 or email to wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov.

Treasurer's office closing June 22-25

SAGUACHE - The Saguache County Treasurer's Office will be closed Monday, June 22, through Thursday, June 25, so Treasurer's Office staff may attend training.

The office will reopen for business Friday, June 26.

Those wishing to make payments may drop them off in the ballot drop box located in the south parking lot of the courthouse (mail, credit card or e-check). Thank you.

Center school board meeting June 30

CENTER — The Center Consolidated School District Board of Education will be rescheduling the regularly scheduled June BOE meeting to June 30 at 6 p.m. This will be a Special BOE meeting as it will include approval of the original budget for Fiscal Year 2021.

This meeting will use teleconferencing or video conferencing, but Superintendent Carrie Zimmerman will be present for the meeting at her office.

Board President G. Lyn Bogle and board members Misty Palacios, Kimberlee Duran, Enrique Aguilar and Lloyd Garcia will participate by teleconference or videoconference.

Members of the public shall be allowed to submit requests to address the Board in the same manner that they were allowed at in person meetings of the Board. In order to expedite these requests, those requests may be emailed to amaldonado@center.k12.co.us.

The final determination as to whether an item will appear on the board agenda will be at the discretion of the Superintendent and Board President.

To participate in the meeting, visit <https://www.center.k12.co.us>, rescheduled board meeting.

Moffat citizens defend Gonzalez against false claim

BY TERESA L. BENNS

MOFFAT — The Moffat saga continues, with new developments painting a different picture of what Zengxi Gao and his friends have reported to the Sheriff's Office as theft from his marijuana grow located on Mayor Riegel Boulevard in the town.

Sheriff Dan Warwick says he now has received statements from several of the individuals involved in the incident and it is looking more and more like a civil dispute. The paperwork will be submitted to District Attorney Robert Willett soon for a determination, he confirmed.

A group of Moffat citizens (who wish to remain anonymous to avoid any recriminations), are protesting

the false characterization of Ernest Gonzalez, by Gao's spokesperson, as an illegal marijuana grower. Gonzalez was one of several who accompanied Garegin Pogosyan, the man who went to Gao's to collect his belongings May 18.

Gonzalez was recently licensed by the Marijuana Enforcement Division to grow retail marijuana in the Town of Moffat outside of Area 420, and as his friends point out, this would not be the case if he was growing illegally or had any history of illegal growing with law enforcement. Group members insist with Warwick that the incident which took place at Gao's establishment was a civil matter

Please see **MOFFAT** on Page 3A



The street named after Mayor Patricia Riegel in Moffat runs through the Potch LLC/Area 420 development adjacent to the town.

BoCC meeting highlights

SAGUACHE — The following highlights were taken from draft meeting minutes recorded by Saguache County Clerk's office staffer Dominique White for the regular June 2 Saguache County Commissioners meeting broadcast via ZOOM.

Public comment

Ralph Abrams asked questions and explained the Opportunity Zone. Saguache County is listed as an Enterprise Zone not as an Opportunity Zone. Abrams requested the commissioners look into becoming an Opportunity Zone.

The Opportunity Zone is federal program but supported by Colorado. It is a tax investment strategy. Commissioner Ken Anderson stated once they have a SLVDRG Meeting and get more information he will let Abrams know information he has available.

Robert Tafoya asked the Commissioners if they had gotten a response from CDOT about Highway 17. The Board agreed to send CDOT another letter and see if they can give a reply for their requested speed reduction through the Town of Moffat.

Commissioners reports

Jason Anderson — Spoke with Jill Hunsaker Ryan, head of CDPHE, concerning the unique situation with Saguache County in relation to the variance request and requested additional help with tracking and testing for the Center outbreak.

Tim Lovato — I delivered some masks

Please see **BOCC** on Page 8A



Decades of perseverance reaps rewards, results

MONTE VISTA — After decades of perseverance, the Monte Vista City Council voted unanimously at their June 9 council meeting to proceed with the final stages and design of the new Ski Hi Regional Event Center. Members of the

City of Monte Vista, the Friends of Ski Hi, Alcon Construction and principals involved gathered on the Ski Hi grounds to christen a new sign depicting the architectural rendering of the new facility.

The new Center will host the Ski

Hi Stampede, Rocky Mountain Ag Conference, the internationally acclaimed Crane Festival, SLV Home & Garden Exposition and a multitude of regional and statewide events that support the entire San Luis Valley.

Enjoy popcorn and a movie again

COLORADO - Governor Jared Polis announced Monday, June 15, Protect Our Neighbors, a framework that will empower local governments that can demonstrate strong public health and health care systems, paired with low virus levels, to make decisions about how they should reopen. The Governor also announced additional draft guidelines under Safer at Home and discussed the state's efforts to prepare for a potential second wave of the virus. The full guidelines are available online at coloradosaferathome.com, set to go into effect Thursday, June 18:

Residential summer camps may open with groups of 10 children indoors, 25 children outdoors, similar to day camps. We encourage camps to divide campers into groups and limit contact between those groups in order to limit potential

COVID-19 spread and make contact tracing easier.

Indoor events (conferences, receptions, museums) can begin to open -- these vary based on the size of the venue:

Regular sized rooms under 5,650 square feet may open up to 25 percent capacity or 50 people per room for rooms, whichever is fewer.

In large rooms, where you could have an even bigger radius -- a 6 feet radius, around each person -- rooms over 5,650 square feet may open to 25 percent capacity or up to 75 people per room, whichever is fewer.

In rooms double that size -- extra-large rooms with over 11,300 square feet -- may open to 25 percent capacity, or up to 100 people per room, whichever is fewer.



Following Governor Polis' announcement Monday, June 15, that indoor event venues can reopen under specific guidelines, the Vali Theater will be reopening this weekend, showing the movie "I Still Believe" at their usual times, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 5 p.m. Each showing can only have a 50 person maximum audience, and six foot distances must be maintained when in line for tickets and concessions, so patrons are encouraged to come early.

I'm happy to say that these large and extra-large venue distinctions will also apply to restaurants, houses of worship, life rights and higher education -- which are activities that are quite similar in nature.

Outdoor events (concerts, fairs, Please see **UPDATE** on Page 6A

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OBITUARIES

Harland Franklin Smith Jr., 86

Harland Franklin Smith Jr. was born September thirteenth, 1933, in Springfield Missouri. After a short battle with pneumonia, he died in the early hours of June 7, 2020, at the age of 86. Harland is to be cremated at Strohmayers Funeral Home, in Monte Vista Colorado. His ashes will be spread at a later date by his son Tony Smith, and family.

Harland joined the Marine Corps in 1950. During that time he served his country as a Sergeant, during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged in 1956.

Harland held Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology, from California State University, Los Angeles. He also studied art abroad at the Royal College of Art in London England. He then worked for many years as a Fire Protection Engineer for Parsons, and Jet Propulsion Laboratory. During this time, he also worked one year abroad in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela.

On Sept. 17, 1978, Harland married his beloved wife Shirleen Smith. Together Harland and Shirleen lived many years in California. In 2000, they retired to South Fork, Colorado. During this time, Harland was able to focus on his life's passions, painting beautiful watercolor and acrylic landscapes, and entertaining his many grandchildren.

Harland is remembered as a doting



husband, a caring father, a loving Papa, a brave Marine and a talented artist.

Harland is preceded in death by his Mother Edith Cleo Pope, his Father Harland Franklin Smith Sr. and his Son, Thomas Smith.

Harland is survived by his three sisters, Carol Smith, Brenda Smith and Nylene Hicks. His sons; Timothy, Tony, Zack and Mathew Smith. His three stepchildren; Leslie Zolman, Lynette Wolfe and Scott Wessell. His 18 grandchildren, his 16 great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

We love you Papa. -Trillian Klosiewski (granddaughter).

Arrangements in care of Strohmayer's Funeral Home.

Marilyn Wintz, 80

Marilyn Wintz was born in Aspen, Colorado on Valentine's Day in 1940. She passed away peacefully at home June 3, 2020. She was known for sending letters with perfectly cut out pink hearts that would fall out of the envelope like confetti. She was the daughter of Fred and Mary Cook. Marilyn and her brothers Joe and Jim Cook lived in beautiful places like Minturn, Aspen and the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming due to her father's job as a forest ranger where his office was the beautiful mountains. Her family moved to Monte Vista, Colorado where Marilyn graduated from high school and loved keeping up with her classmates who called her "Cookie."

La Garita Ranch, in Creede, Colorado, is where Marilyn spent her summers working between college semesters at Colorado State University and U.N.C., where she studied to become a teacher. A handsome young man home from the National Guard visiting his parents George and Dorothy Wintz captured her heart. Rod and Marilyn Wintz were married in Colorado Springs, Colorado and returned to Creede to manage the Wason Ranch for over 30 years, where

they raised their family and met many lifelong friends.

In the summers Marilyn planted beautiful flower beds for each of the cabins at Wason as well as taking care of the office and ranch duties. In her early teaching years, she began a preschool in the reception room at Wason Ranch, where finger painting and learning letters were building blocks for kids who had big dreams. Marilyn taught first and second grade as well as music at Lamb Elementary School. Her passion was teaching kids to read and to be ready for a life of learning and success. One of her greatest joys was keeping up with all of her past students and she referred to them all as "her kids." She also spent time as the Elementary School Principal and after her retirement went on to earn a PHD from the University of Denver.

Rod and Marilyn retired to "Rel Rio" along the Rio Grande River where they loved seeing and hearing the river daily. She treasured the view of the river and enjoyed having a cup of tea with friends in this beautiful and peaceful place.

Marilyn Wintz is survived by her daughters Marilee Wintz and Shirrae Fazio, J.D. Fazio and her beloved



grandsons, Jaxson and Ty Fazio. She was supportive and encouraged her family to be strong and happy in life. She is predeceased by her husband of over 50 years, Rod Wintz, her older brother, Joe Cook, and her younger brother Jim Cook. Marilyn has chosen not to have a public service. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in her name to the Creede School District Endowment Foundation, P.O. Box 429, Creede, CO 81130. "When the student is ready the teacher appears."

When the student is truly ready the teacher disappears." Lao Tzu

Please see more Obituaries on Page 7A

Ricky Jerald Vargas, 51

Former valley resident Ricky Jerald Vargas passed away June 12, 2020. He was born April 17, 1969, in Monte Vista, Colorado to Armando Vargas and Estella LeBlanc - Vargas. Ricky enjoyed drawing, he had a great sense of humor and he loved joking with all that knew him. He especially loved spending time with his family.

Ricky is survived by his daughter Victoria Vargas, his siblings, Frank Vargas, Herman (Lupe) Vargas, Alma Bertina Vargas, Armando Vargas, Ramona Vargas and Leanora (Jesus) Almeida as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sisters-in-law Helen Vargas and Clara Vargas.

Cremation was selected and services will be held at a later time. To express condolences to the family,



please visit www.rogersfunerals.com Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista is in care of the arrangements.

Celebration of Life Jim Gustin April 18, 1962, to Dec. 4, 2019

The Gustin Family cordially invites family and friends to celebrate your favorite work, hunting and fishing memories you shared with Jim on June 21, 2020 beginning at noon at the Gustin Getaway.

We will have a BBQ which was one of Jim's favorite ways to have a get together. Some beverages will be provided and you are welcome to bring your own.

If you need directions text 719-849-0418 and they will be texted back to you. Please provide how many people will be in your group.

Best wishes to all. Hope to see you there.

Carol, James & Jessica Gustin

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MOFFAT Continued from Page 1A

— a collection of belongings by a former employee, (Pogosyan), with assistance from town officials.

Because Gao's property is on Potch land at present, and the town and Potch seem to be at odds, the group behind Gonzalez is questioning the source of the information and report made by Gao. This after months of apparent cooperation between Potch officials and the town to achieve the annexation, now challenged by two attorneys and the county.

They believe Gao's spokesperson may be associated with the Potch, LLC group, and the accusation made against Gonzalez could stem from a comment made by Gonzalez about Potch, LLC during a town meeting earlier this year regarding real estate sales.

Some have objected that although lots are selling in Potch LLC/420, those selling the lots do not have the necessary real estate licenses. This was confirmed by the *Center Post-Dispatch* last year with the Department of Regulatory Affairs (DORA). The website for Area 420 does not seem to have any licenses listed.

While town officials are not talking, some town residents report that all is not well in Potch, LLC paradise. There have been water disputes between the town and Potch/Area 420, and one source says several citizens witnessed an incident where harsh words went down

between Mayor Riegel and Potch LLC developer Whitney Justice over the water issue. Another resident has forbidden Potch/Area 420 to transport water across his property.

There are conflicting stories, but the general consensus from the citizens recounting the initial incident run as follows. Gao's operation was shut down by the Town of Moffat and is not operational per the State since December, allegedly after some marijuana could not be accounted for at the facility. Pogosyan was an employee of Gao's at the time, and after the shutdown, could not collect his belongings.

Warwick commented that according to statements he received, it appears that Pogosyan had some financial stake in the equipment removed from Gao's facility. Group members said it was the current lease holder for Gao's property, Matt Litrenta, who finally let Pogosyan, Gonzalez and the town officials in to collect his property, so there was no "break-in" as some reported.

Nor was Canna Valley Consulting (CVC), associated with the town, there to conduct an audit rather than assist in collecting Pogosyan's property since the facility had already closed. "All they took were the things that belonged to him [Pogosyan]," one group member noted. The mayor and town officials did not take anything other than the property that belonged to Pogosyan, s/he added.

But the Moffat group observing from the sidelines believes that when all is said and done, those now seeing

the potential problems with Potch LLC/Area 420 and the disputed annexation will be the losers. "They

were taken for a ride by these people," one group member said. "We all were, including the town."



Re-Elect **Gene Glover** Rio Grande County Commissioner District 3

I am running for re-election as a Republican to continue serving ALL the residents of Rio Grande County.

First, I want to say thank you for your trust in me for the first term. I also want to ask for your vote again so we can continue the work we have started together!

I have enjoyed working on and representing Rio Grande County constituents on various boards, including: Colorado Health Pool, Vice-Chairman of the Landfill board, Rio Grande County Library District, Tri-County Seniors, South Central Colorado Seniors, Homelake Veterans, Rio Grande County Weed District Board, State of Colorado Weed Board, MAT (Medical Assisted Treatment for Opioid treatment), Safe Routes to Schools, TPR/CDOT, West SLV bus line, San Luis Valley Board of County Commissioners and the Complete Census Count Committee.

I also attend committee meetings with the Monte Vista Chamber, URGED, Rio Grande County Museum, Quarterly municipal meetings with the City of Monte Vista, Town of Del Norte and Town of South Fork, Friends of Ski-Hi project and the Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference & Trade Fair Committee.

I'm looking forward to continuing my hard work for the best interests and continued progress of Rio Grande County and the San Luis Valley.

I'm always available to hear your concerns and answer questions, please don't hesitate to call (719) 298-1135.

Remember to support our local businesses when possible and let them know we appreciate them being here for us!

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- Improving our economic growth
- Defending our constitutional rights.

I am a resident of Huerfano County and as a native Coloradoan, I care deeply for the land, resources and people of our great state. I can be described politically as a Christian, Constitutional Conservative because these are the values I was raised with and the principles I live by. I have increasing concerns about the direction our state is heading and that is the motivation behind my candidacy. At one time we were a largely conservative state that included blue collar Democrats who often held the same principles. That has changed in recent years as the larger urban areas have given way to the misguided political ideologies of the left, abandoning the interests and principles that have historically been the fertile ground for Colorado's growth, industry and quality of life.

This seat is vitally important in light of the Democrat majority in the state assembly and in the Governor's office with their increasing infringement on the rights and freedom of our people and ever more obstacles to reasoned and responsible growth and productivity. They particularly impact the people, interests, and way of life of rural Coloradoans, which make up much of this district. The truth is that most Coloradoans do not agree with the ideological policies that drive the far left agenda in Denver and Washington D.C. That's why this seat must stay in the hands of the Republican Party as a counterweight to further erosion to our individual freedom and prosperity.

As your next state representative, I promise to stand up for your values, rights, Colorado's resources and way of life. I look forward to earning your support as your next state representative. I am anxious to hear your thoughts, on how together we can again re-establish reason, and the conservative principles that have served Colorado so well in the past.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Logan Taggart

~ Logan Taggart

OPINION & EDITORIAL

LETTERS

A vote for Cyriacks is a vote for water, the environment and government accountability

To the editor,
I am running for Saguache County Commissioner, District 1, in the upcoming primary for the Democratic nomination. The single most important job of county commissioners is financial oversight of the county's administrative and budgetary functions. How tax revenue is handled and distributed makes all the difference in how that money is put to work for you and me.

As the owner of Advantage, LLC, I have provided bookkeeping and accounting services to businesses and nonprofits in Saguache County for more than 20 years. I have served on the Crestone/Baca planning commission. I have worked for the Baca Grande Property Owners' Association and have served two terms on the Board of Directors for the Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District. I was a co-founder of the Crestone Baca Land Trust, dedicated to conserving our beautiful landscape.

Throughout my time here, I have worked in the community as a news writer, as a volunteer and a community activist. I have been a voice to protect and enhance the natural beauty of our valley, and to develop policies that protect our water and our quality of life into the future.

Over the past decade, I have observed at commissioner meetings how our resources and revenues are not being used effectively to ensure citizens are receiving county services they deserve and pay for. My observations have been confirmed by two professional county administrators – both of whom resigned in the past year pointing to serious

vulnerabilities with the county finances – weaknesses that could lead to fraud or embezzlement. We desperately need commissioners who come into office knowing the issues and having the qualifications, track record, and desire to actively participate with our county administration to streamline systems and to create clarity around goals, income, and expenses so that we can prioritize and make responsible decisions.

Why would you vote for me? I know what the issues are. I have been present and part of discussions over the years. I have observed what has worked and what has not. I have skills and experience to bring to the table that can begin to resolve ongoing, historic concerns.

I believe that the people of Saguache County have a right to know how their money is spent. There should be policies in place that outlines how citizens can easily understand the revenues and expenses of county funds; the appropriation and budgeting of these funds.

Working together, we can and should improve our county systems and services, and in doing so improve the lives of everyone who resides here.

Lisa Cyriacks



Support Tom McCracken for Saguache County Commissioner

To the editor,
I am writing this letter in support of Tom McCracken for Saguache County Commissioner District 1. Tom has lived and worked, mostly in agriculture, in Saguache County for 40 years, creating different businesses that have generated hundreds of sustainable jobs and markets for products produced here in the Valley. As a farmer, he learned firsthand about water law and the water issues our county faces and worked with surface water users in the county to protect water rights. He has the experience we need to both protect and conserve our precious water resources. Through the businesses he created, Tom has

gained a wide range of the business skills that are necessary for running our county government, including working with accountability.

We are quite fortunate to have Tom running for commissioner. He has the experience to provide excellent leadership and the innovative ideas to help our county prosper while retaining its rural way of life. I invite readers to take a look at Tom's website: mcrackenforcommissioner.com, then join me in voting Tom McCracken for Commissioner District 1 for capable, innovative leadership and a sustainable future.

Jan Foster Müller
Crestone

Take a chill pill

I am sure most of you have heard the phrase "take a chill pill" at some point in your lives.

And we pretty much know what it means when we are told that: sit down, shut up and relax, which seems easy enough. But it's like the comedian Ron White says happens when he drinks too much: "I have the right to remain silent -- but not the ability."

Now Ol' Dutch is not sure who first advised "take a chill pill" but it may have been the wisest thing ever dreamed up. And considering our path in history as human beings and the anger seen more and more in society, there are a lotta folks who could surely use a double dose of the chill.

The other day Ol' Dutch was just driving along at the town speed limit of 40 mph. Suddenly a truck roared around me in the no passing zone. Glancing to the left to see what I thought was certainly an officer responding to a call or an ambulance en route to save a soul, I was greeted instead by a large raging mouth and middle finger salute to boot.

I am not sure why driving the speed limit set the person off so much but I prayed for them -- well, prayed that they would get caught by the police and contribute to the local economy. I cannot count the number of times I have pulled over on the shoulder to let these hurried folks by here in my town but it's a lot.

And it's not only driving slowly that will get the reactions but passing someone not doing the speed limit will also get you an introduction to the bird.

It was that kind of week for Ol' Dutch as he saw his share of insanity and it was depressing at the very least to imagine what sets these people off.

Watching TV the other night I did see an ad for a new medication with claims that it heals and cures just about everything. It's a new nose irrigation system and all the patient has to do is run this medicine up your nose under pressure and all your ills will suddenly disappear.

Ol' Dutch can remember back in the day when there was still a high dive board at the local pool. You know, before everything like bike riding,

yard lot football, baseball, jungle gyms, tether ball and eating erasers was banned as too dangerous for children.

On a side note, we actually had a classmate that ate all of the big old rubber erasers he could get his hands on. You know, the big green ones the teacher sold for a nickel? I don't think it ever hurt Sam one bit and in fact, he still had a bounce in his walk at the 30th class reunion.

But back to the high dive. Every summer, day after day we would all gather at the local pool and swim away the hot Kansas days. The city pool had a huge concrete hole filled with water and the main feature was a 12' high diving board.

We lined up to climb that pipeladder sometimes falling to the concrete below. No one sued or claimed an injury in those days as children were supposed to know better than to fall or at least take the blame if we did.

But up we would climb and soon off the end of that diving board we would go. And what a joy that was except when you forgot to close your nose and mouth and then you got what is today called a "nasal irrigation."

None of us seemed to be sick or angry in those days and maybe it was because of the frequent nasal cleansing with the strong chlorinated water from the pool.

So maybe there is something to the new product being offered on TV and a simple nasal flush would solve some of the real anger we see around the country.

But if that doesn't help, maybe they can pass out a few more chill pills to help alleviate the pain people experience. And maybe even give some to the angry people, too.

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 Trout Republic



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

Vote for Cyriacks

To the editor,
There are two open seats in the current primary. The Democratic race for the District 1 seat representing Crestone and the Baca is hotly contested. I would like to share thoughts with you about why I feel it is so important that we elect Lisa Cyriacks as our District 1 commissioner. With Coronavirus cases in our county currently standing at 99, our county health administrator having recently resigned, and a pandemic that is dramatically impacting the financial stability of our county, we need to be sure that our most capable people are in positions to do their best work, and that we are all working together.

We need leadership that understands the deeper implications of our current situation as it effects family incomes and needs, economic development plans, tourism and small business. Saguache County has long needed systems for financial accountability. County staff are unhappy, and throughout the County vital needs are going unmet. Our county works cooperatively with the entire San Luis Valley, and our

Commissioners need to understand these relationships and dynamics. We cannot be insular and single-issue-focused. Our leaders need to know the players how to be effective. We need to be big picture, and to elect leaders who carry a wholistic systems view of how we can optimize within a larger reality of county, regional and statewide factors. We need leadership equipped to make realistic, visionary, and fiscally feasible decisions in the best interests of the whole community.

Lisa Cyriacks time and again has thanklessly put herself in the hot seat in the service of this county. She is willing to speak when others remain satisfied with the status quo. Lisa is a strong advocate, and she comes to the table with strong convictions and a track record of working effectively in coalitions of diverse groups in a wide range of areas important to our community. She is a regular presence at county commissioner meetings, planning meetings and any number of other related events. She has served as a board member on the Water and

Sanitation District, and she even served on the Board POA director. She understands and participates in the workings of our county better than anyone.

I serve as chair of the Saguache County tourism Council. When Lisa shared with me her interest in running for county commissioner, I realized that with her in office I would be held to a higher standard and inspired to achieve that higher standard. Lisa challenges us to be our best selves with clarity and self-discipline. She also believes in creating the supportive networks so that we can all participate in the work that needs to be done. We need Lisa Cyriacks in office. Please submit your primary ballot and please vote for Lisa. You can reach Lisa directly at lcyriacks@rocketmail.com or by phone 719-256-4140 with your questions and thoughts.

Vivia Lawson
Chair, Saguache County Tourism Council
Broker/Owner Sangre de Cristo Real Estate

Vote for Bill McClure

To the editor,
I am Bill McClure, candidate for Saguache County Commissioner District #2 (Center and La Garita areas). I believe that a Democrat is one who stands for social justice, cares about their fellow man, and works for all people including those less fortunate. These uncertain times require leaders who have a working knowledge of Finances, Budgeting, Planning and Management. I have the background.

Past background experience:
Served as County Commissioner from 1997 to 2005.

Was an early supporter of SCSEED, working with the Nature Conservatory to support and funding the program.

Served on the Great Sand Dunes Advisory Council to become a National Park.

Member of the San Luis Valley Resources Development Group.

Town of Center Administration during which time we acquired 90 acres on the north side of Center for future expansion and growth.

Current involvement:
Member of Saguache County Planning Commission

Member of Rio Grande Water Conservation District, instrumental in obtaining funding for the update of Saguache County Land Use 1041 regulations to fight the "Water Grab."

Member of Ilene G Kerr Children's Foundation which funds projects for

Saguache County children
Town trustee for the Town of Center

I am self-employed as a tax accountant, providing financial services and small business consultation.

I am considered a community activist because I will stand up for Saguache County just as I have for my clients. I will work for progressive change and a stronger future for Saguache County. If you have questions about my past background or current activities, please contact me. elcentro13@outlook.com 719-588-1040.

Bill McClure
Center

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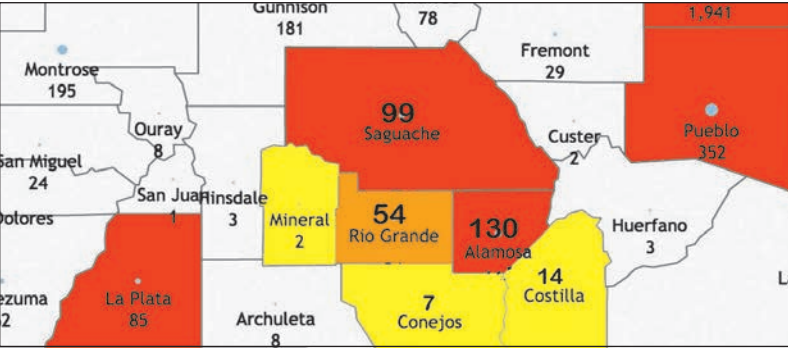


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COVID-19 still on the rise in the San Luis Valley

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During the past week San Luis Valley COVID-19 positive cases rose from 259 to 306 – an increase of 47 cases. Active cases decreased from 132 to 89. Alamosa County saw the largest increase in positive tests from 103 to 130. Rio Grande County rose from 46 to 54 positive cases.

UPDATE Continued from Page 1A

(receptions, receptions) can also begin to open: limited in size, and things like games that encourage mingling are not allowed. Outdoors parties must be spaced 6 feet apart, up to local capacity limits.

Standard venues under 5,650 square feet may open up to 50 percent capacity or up to 50 people; Personal services will be able to expand to include things like facials, beard trimming, lip waxing, etc. where the client has to take off a mask -- these services are permitted if the worker has adequate protection.

Extra-large venues, over 11,300 square feet can open up to 50 percent capacity or up to 175 people. Non-critical manufacturing facilities can expand in-person workforce up to 50 percent or 50 people per room.

Large venues over 5,650 square feet may open up to 50 percent capacity or up to 125 people;

Bars will be able to open at 25 percent or up to 50 people indoors but must follow the same guidelines as restaurants where parties are seating,

The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing at the Saguache County Courthouse Commissioners meeting room located at 305 – 3rd Street, Saguache, Colorado, on the following date:

Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 2PM

to consider vacating the last portion of Saguache County Road M39, approximately .27 miles

To view the proposed vacation of the last portion of Saguache County Road M39 please contact the Saguache County Administration – PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 or wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov, or by calling 719-655-2231.

Written comments will be accepted until Thursday, July 2, 2020 and may be sent to Saguache County Administration at PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 or email to wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov.

By: Ken Anderson, Chairman
Chairman, Saguache County Board of Commissioners

No. 1553 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, June 18, 2020.

Father's Day Brunch

AT THE RIO GRANDE CLUB IN SOUTH FORK

Sunday, June 21
10 am - 1 pm
Father's Day Golf Rates
\$69 for 18 holes

Music with Steven Baxter

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OBITUARIES

Gerald "Moon" Mullins, 85

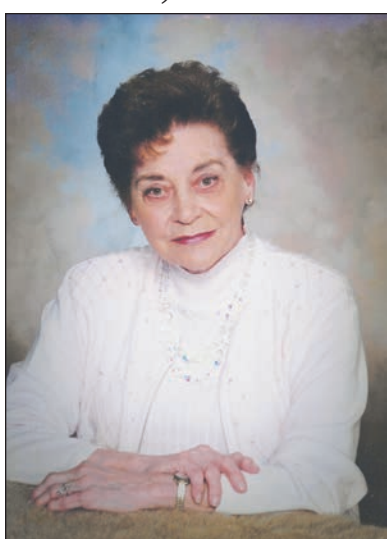
Gerald "Moon" Mullins was born on June 24, 1934, in Cotopaxi, Colorado to Hugh Patrick and Orilee Mullins. Moon graduated from Cotopaxi High School in 1952 after which he enlisted in the United States Air Force. Upon his honorable discharge in 1956, he attended and then graduated from Adams State College in college in 1960. Moon and Phyllis (Adams) were married that same year. Over the years, they lived in Bailey, Gunnison and Monte Vista, where Moon taught, was a guidance counselor, and where he and Phyllis owned the Fabric Barrel and Moon's Pro Shop while raising their family. In retirement, they settled in Colorado City. Moon enjoyed playing golf, playing bridge, and was an avid hunter and fly fisherman. Mostly, he loved his family and traveling to all his kid's and grandkid's events. Moon went to heaven to be with his wife April 27, 2020. He was preceded in death by his parents Hugh and Orilee, two brothers Johnnie and Hughee, and his wife Phyllis. He is survived by his children, Kana (Greg) Condon, Katrina (Albert) Francis and Monte (Stacie) Mullins as well as her grandchildren Chase (Jill), Kyle (Tammi) and Heath (Katy) Francis, Luke and Arika Condon, Taelor (Brandon) Sanchez, Clay and Faith. Moon is also survived by four great-grandchildren, Jaycee, Jessa, Brady and Rynlee Francis. Also surviving him are siblings, Idell Clark and



Glenn Mullins, in addition to many much-loved nieces and nephews. On Saturday, June 20, 2020, at 11 a.m. there will be a Celebration of Life for Gerald "Moon" Mullins, or as Moon put it, his Farewell Party. It will be a graveside service at the Cotopaxi Cemetery followed by lunch and fellowship at the Cotopaxi Church in Cotopaxi, Colorado. Donations can be made to Friends of Hollydot at P.O. Box 19621, Colorado City, CO 81019 or the Joni Fair Hospice House at 1207 Pueblo Blvd. Way, Pueblo, CO 81005. Flowers can be sent in Care of Monte Mullins to 918 Fourth St., Alamosa, Colorado. Moon's full obituary can be read online at www.davismortuary.com

Ruth Marie Karcher, 95

Ruth lived in Decatur, IL for 73 years and was married to Ernest R Karcher until he passed in 1978. While in Decatur, they raised their 9 children: Joanna Miller-Shelbyville, KY, Lawrence (Shelby) Karcher-Decatur, IL, Stephen (Sharon) Karcher-Sullivan, IL, Susan (Tom Larson) Gillespie-Monte Vista, CO, Yvonne (Tony) Garofalo-St. Peters, MO, Annette (Dick) Brown-Blackstone, VA, Christina (Charlie) Ewing- Atwood, IL, Theresa (Sid) Palmer-Decatur, IL, Barbara Karcher Tucker-Decatur, IL.



Ruth was blessed with 26 grandchildren, 41 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren. Preceding her in death are her grandson, 2nd Class Petty Officer Logan S Palmer, 2 special sons-in-law Ron Miller and Tim Gillespie, as well as her parents Lawrence and Katie and her brothers Paul and Bernard.

Ruth was very independent and active until she was 90 at which time she began to need help from family. Over the next three years she was assisted in her home by her children until she moved to Colorado with her daughter Susan in 2018 where she passed June 2, 2020.

Ruth was born in Dahlgren, IL to Lawrence and Katie Aydt on April 10, 1925, where she lived until her marriage to Ernie on Nov. 11, 1946 when they relocated to Decatur, IL. to begin their new life and family.

Ruth was an accomplished vocalist and pianist playing and singing alongside her father at St. John's Catholic Church while growing up. Once married, she continued to use her extraordinary gift at St. James Catholic Church in Decatur. She has now been promoted to high soprano soloist in the Heavenly Angles Choir where she will sing her signature solo, "Ave Maria".

She worked in Mount Vernon as a certified hairdresser until she married. During her life she volunteered countless hours to organizations such as St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary, the KC's, the Garden Club, St. James Church and School, the Red Cross and many others but also took pride in giving gallons of her rare blood type to the American Red Cross. She was an Election Judge, worked at St. Mary's Hospital and retired from the Macon County Tax Assessor Office.

As her family, we would agree that our mother worked tirelessly to provide a safe, stable, loving home and was an accomplished seamstress and an outstanding cook and baker, to name

just a few of her extraordinary talents. Her quick wit and humor always kept us laughing and for the past 42 years, since her husband's passing, has been mother, father, friend, and comforter providing endless love and care. We all consider it an honor to have cared for her and to give back just a little of what she gave to us.

She was not only a devout Catholic, but was also dedicated to the Christian Faith which brought her great comfort during her life and especially in her final years. She worked diligently to know and understand the teachings of Our Lord and Savior, seeking God and praying daily until taken home. She died peacefully and is now rejoicing in heaven with the loved ones who have gone before her. Although the hole she has left in so many lives is gaping, we are encouraged to know that one day we will be rejoined with her in heaven and will live together throughout eternity.

Ruth's arrangements have been coordinated by Roger's Family Mortuary of Colorado. She will return to Gholsons Funeral Home in Dahlgren, IL for interment on Sat, June 20, 2020.

A Mass will be celebrated at St. Johns Catholic Church at 10 a.m. for the immediate family. Once the family has been seated, others are welcome to join with a total of 100 per Covid-19 Guidelines. A graveside service with viewing will follow.

Everyone is required to follow social distancing and MUST wear a mask!

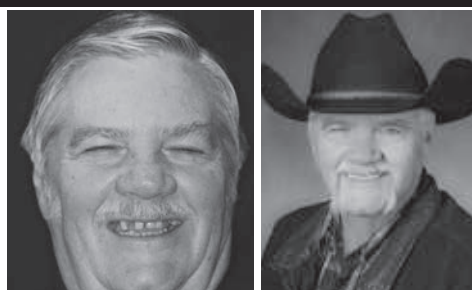
Memorials can be made to the "Logan Stephen Palmer Leadership Success Program-LSP2" at 787 Spruce Hill Drive, Decatur, IL 62521.

To express condolences to the family, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com

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BOCC Continued from Page 1A

to the Center School Superintendent for the children and adults for the summer programs. The cloth masks were donated, and the paper masks were given by Saguache County Commissioners. Overall, 1,500 masks were donated by Saguache County. I received an email from the Center School Superintendent that they had given out 750 masks to the area residents.

Ken Anderson — Attended a teleconference with the Seniors. The fiscal year will be coming to a close at the end of June, 4,745 meals were served and 3,024 were served in Saguache County. There is a veteran's program coming out of Pueblo to serve the veterans.

Public health report

Mona Lovato and Janet Beiriger delivered the public health report. Beiriger stated an area in the Baca Grande Subdivision is under a boil water advisory.

Several people in attendance at the DSS food distribution in the Center Park last week were without masks and were not in cars as needed; they also were gathering in large groups. A total of 750 masks were given out. It will take 2-3 weeks to get someone to come down from the State to help with testing and the investigation.

Road and Bridge

Road and Bridge Supervisor Randal Arredondo presented an agreement from Center Soil Conservation for weed spraying. He suggested having them come in and present their agreement to the Board. Arredondo also presented two bids for a small plow truck. Commissioner Lovato asked Arredondo to have bids submitted to the county administrator in a sealed envelope. The Board agreed to postpone the decision until the next meeting.

County Attorney

County Attorney Ben Gibbons stated he has an opening brief that is due to the Moffat matter on June 9. After that the town has a time period to file their brief, we will see if the court rules on the briefs or if they will require oral arguments. Gibbons forwarded two new bills that are being introduced to the Board. One has to do with suspending any privilege or immunity to police officers. The other is about price gouging.

County Administrator - County Administrator Wendi Maez presented the Public Health Sales Tax Grant in the amount of \$3,000 for COVID-19 expenses to the Board. Commissioners unanimously approved the grant to the town of Center for \$3,000. Correction of a motion to award Saguache County Schools 100 percent of the Secure Rural Schools fund was also made by a 3-0 board decision, but there was no change to the amount granted.

Revenues and expenditure through the month of April 2020 were presented to the Board. Maez has been attending several meetings with valley and state public health directors.

Everyone is willing to step in and help with COVID-19. Commissioner Lovato and Maez met with the Public Health staff Thursday, May 28. A discussion took place concerning Public Health staff wages and increases. Two Public Health employees were not given their three and 5 percent increases, and the Board voted to grant the increases in a 3-0 decision retroactive to Jan. 1, 2020. Commissioners also voted 3-0 to grant a \$4 per hour increase to public health employees, less the one employee, until a public health director is hired.

County Housing

After convening under the board of County Housing, Commissioners entered into executive session but no reason for the session was recorded in the minutes.

Office of Emergency Management

Emergency manager Bobby Woelz presented the board with a proposal for his hours. The proposal suggested an increase to 40 hours per week retroactive to January 2020 and use the remaining 87 hours of overtime to be used as comp time in August. In a 3-0 vote, commissioners moved Woelz to 40 hours per week retroactive to March 1 through the remainder of the year. The Board agreed to look at policies before making a decision regarding the comp time.

Land Use

Interim Land Use Administrator Amber Wilson presented proposals for two marijuana businesses to Commissioners. Day Old/Huckleberry Farms LLC requested they be allowed to pay their Reclamation bond to the County Treasurer in cash because they were having problems obtaining the bond. Lowered

from \$100,000 to \$10,000 in any other way. The Board voted 3-0 to allow them to pay the Treasurer \$10,000 in cash. Blooming Budz requested an extension

on their compliance with Conditional Use permit requirements which have not been fulfilled. Commissioners granted the extension in a 2-1 vote, provided the

business shows significant progress such as 50 percent which is electricity, two greenhouses and one storage container added to the business.

Commissioners then accepted bids on county-owned lots in the Baca Grande and Mineral Hot Springs Estates. The meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.




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Courtesy photo

South Fork Farmers Market launches into 2020

SOUTH FORK - The local vendors of the San Luis Valley are getting ready for another phenomenal farmers market season! The South Fork Friday Market, brought to you by Sol Mountain Farm, will be set up at the South Fork Visitor Center grounds every Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The first market kicked off on June 5 and runs through Sept. 4. Swing by every Friday morning this season to check out this high-quality market of unique local products.

In order to be able to continue to host this amazing community event, we need vendors and attendees to follow social distancing policies. All visitors and vendors are required to wear masks while at the market grounds, maintain 6' distance between others, and do not touch merchandise you do not intend to purchase.

The South Fork Farmers Market has grown to be one of the best markets in the San Luis Valley for local food, produce, arts, crafts and jewelry. It boasts an abundantly diverse group of local vendors who gather every week to share their passions with the local community. You can pick up everything from local honey, pasture-raised meat, organic produce, local spices, art, food, plant starts, CBD products, handmade wood work, jewelry, pottery and so much more!

The market is always looking for new local vendors to share their goods. If you are interested in vending, fill out and submit a vendor application form at www.southforkfm.com

So come on down to South Fork, Colorado every Friday morning to grab some unique local goods along the mighty banks of the Rio Grande.

The Colorado House passes Law Enforcement Integrity Act, sent to Polis

COLORADO - Senate Bill 217, The Law Enforcement Integrity Act passed 52-13 in the Colorado House Friday, June 12.

SB20-217, the Law Enforcement Integrity Act, enacts several provisions that will prevent police brutality and increase transparency and accountability in Colorado's law enforcement system. Outlined below are among the bill's key provisions:

Mandate body cameras, make video of police misconduct publicly available, and hold officers accountable when they fail to record. Officers will have to record interactions with the public and, when they turn off their camera, they will be held accountable. When officers are accused of misconduct, the bodycam footage must be released to the public within 21 days and ensures the victim of the officer misconduct and the victim's family receive the footage 72 hours before public release.

Require data collection and public reporting on policing. All law enforcement agencies will be required to track demographic data of individuals they encounter. This data will include any use of force (both the type and severity), civilian searches, forced entries into homes, and the unholstering and discharge of a firearm.

Rein in use of deadly force by officers. Changes use of force standard to (1) **outlaw chokeholds**; (2) **outlaw deadly force against someone fleeing the police** who does not pose an immediate risk; (3) outlaw the use of deadly force to arrest people for minor offenses and non-violent offenses; and (3) require officers to use non-violent means before resorting to any force.



Courtesy photo

The House Chamber standing as Representative Herod speaks.

Require Officers to Intervene to Stop Excessive Force. Creates a duty for officers to intervene and stop excessive force and makes failure to intervene by an officer a criminal offense.

Decertify bad officers. If a court or internal investigations finds that an officer used unlawful force or officer is convicted of a violent offense, tampered with body camera footage to cover up misconduct, or failed to intervene to stop unlawful use of force that results in serious bodily injury or death, the officer will lose POST certification, thus stopping bad police officers from continuing to put the public at risk.

Public Database to Prevent Rehiring of bad officers. Officers who are found untruthful, terminated for cause, or decertified would be listed in a publicly-available database to prevent them from moving from one agency to another.

Justice for Victims of Police

Violence by Ending Qualified Immunity. The bills allows victims of police misconduct to bring a lawsuit for the violation of their constitutional rights. Officers found liable will no longer be shielded by the doctrine of qualified immunity which has served to protect bad officers from accountability and denied justice to victims.

Protect protesters from police use of tear gas and projectiles. In response to incidents at recent protests, this bill prohibits law enforcement officers from shooting rubber bullets indiscriminately into a crowd and prohibits targeting rubber bullets at someone's head, torso or back. It also prohibits using tear gas without first warning the crowd and giving people time and a route to disperse.

Attorney General Lawsuits Against Bad Police Departments. Authorizes the Attorney General to bring lawsuits to force bad police departments to change. **Please see HOUSE on Page 8**

The missing link

It arched across the cloudless sky like someone throwin' chum
But they weren't fishin', no my friends, the object was a thumb
It launched from Kenneth's dally when his heelin' rope came tight
And whizzed by Eddie's horse's head and disappeared from sight.

Eddie did a double take... hors d'oeuvres flashed through his mind,
A little sausage on a stick that looked like Frankenstein.
"Are you okay?" he asked when Kenneth finally took a breath
His ropin' glove was crimson red, his face was white as death.

"Yeah, help me find my thumb," he said. "I better go, I think."
"You go," said Ed, "I'll bring it when we've found the missing link."
The next day Eddie got a call from Kenneth's lawyer friend.
"A suit," he said, "for negligence is what I recommend."

Well, Eddie was surprised a bit, "We packed his thumb in ice.
We emptied out the beer and pop, a real sacrifice
And put it in the cooler then we rushed it straight on down
I even got a ticket speedin' comin' into town.
I've had some past experience. It's happened

here before."
"Well, we'll concede," the lawyer said, "your service was top drawer.
The packing job was excellent, but in the final sum
In spite of all you did for Ken, you brung us the wrong thumb."

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

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June 10-30, 2020 Monte Vista Co-op Farm Store

Father's Day Special June 10- June 30

Item Number	Product Name	SALE PRICE
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6534127	Pit Boss Pellet Grill 82	\$589 ⁹⁹
7145402	Pit Boss Pellet grill 34	\$389 ⁹⁹
2710036	Oxford Relaxer Chair	\$48 ⁹⁹
8614080	Diamond Pro 89 Dog Food	\$39 ⁹⁹
3662152	Oklahoma Joe Smoke	\$289 ⁹⁹
7184989	String Lights 30ft	\$33 ⁹⁹
0561746	Shop Towel 6pk	\$12 ⁹⁹
7203253	Makita Power Head Kit 17in	\$429 ⁹⁹
3831708	Crescent Long Nose Plier	\$18 ⁹⁹
7210776	Contractor Tool Bag	\$19 ⁹⁹
082458	Tool Works Big Mouth tool bag	\$28 ⁹⁹
CTK121	Crescent Mechanics Tool Set	\$79 ⁹⁹
L1125	Crescent 25ft Measuring Tap	\$21 ⁹⁹
8956625	4.5gal portable air elec compressor	\$299 ⁹⁹
7227853	Battery charger 120v	\$259 ⁹⁹
5739974	DeWalt table saw stand	\$79 ⁹⁹
0681767	DeWalt Miter Saw	\$229 ⁹⁹
3047768	Troy Bilt leaf blower	\$159 ⁹⁹

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5537287	Traeger Pro 22 Pellet Grill	\$599 ⁹⁹	464003	Westinghouse generator	\$499 ⁹⁹
5103809	Generator 6500W	\$829 ⁹⁹	8915498	Plasma Cutter	\$749 ⁹⁹
0853556	Generator GP3600	\$489 ⁹⁹	0877886	Table Saw	\$199 ⁹⁹
528575	Generator 7500W	\$999 ⁹⁹	4709168	Arch Center Ramp	\$199 ⁹⁹
0853507	Generator GP6500	\$799 ⁹⁹	6719132	Black&Decker Work Bench	\$69 ⁹⁹

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Statewide Primary ballots mailed

COLORADO - This week, county clerks across Colorado are mailing ballot packets for the June 30 Statewide Primary. Clerks have until Friday, June 12, to mail ballots to registered voters eligible to participate in this year's statewide primary. To limit the spread of COVID-19, Secretary of State Jena Griswold is encouraging Coloradans to return their voted Statewide Primary ballot by mail or drop-box. "Our statewide primary will largely determine the ballot for the November general election. I encourage Coloradans to vote their mail ballots to help stop the spread

of COVID-19, while also having their voices heard in this historic election," said Colorado Secretary of State **Jena Griswold**.

Registered Republican, Democratic and Libertarian voters will receive the ballot of their party. Unaffiliated voters who did not indicate a party preference before the June 1 deadline will receive both a Democratic and Republican Party ballot and should only return one voted ballot. Voters who do not receive a ballot by June 17 should contact their county clerk and recorder.

Voted ballots must be received by county election officials by 7 p.m.

June 30. After June 22, voters are encouraged to return their ballot by drop-box rather than by mail to ensure their ballot is received before the June 30 deadline.

This is also the first year that 17 year-olds are able to participate in Colorado's two primaries, provided they turn 18 years of age by the General Election Nov. 3. Colorado is one of just 17 states that allow this added level of accessibility.

Coloradans can update and verify voter registration, register to vote online, or find a Voting Services Polling Center at www.GoVoteColorado.gov.

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

SPECIALIZING IN QUALITY POST FRAME BUILDINGS

	Commercial Equestrian Hobby Shops	Agricultural Garages And More!
Eastern CO 970-230-2052	NE and Western IA 402-426-5022	Wisconsin 608-632-1389
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Mountain View Restaurant is now open for Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner!

 We've missed you and are happy to see our customers again!

Breakfast Every Day
Lunch & Dinner
8 a.m.-2 p.m. & 5 - 8 p.m. Tues.-Sat.
Breakfast & Lunch 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday!

Full Menu! Come see us for your Southwest and American Favorites!

Mountain View Restaurant

**2099 Sherman Ave.
Monte Vista
(719) 852-9919**



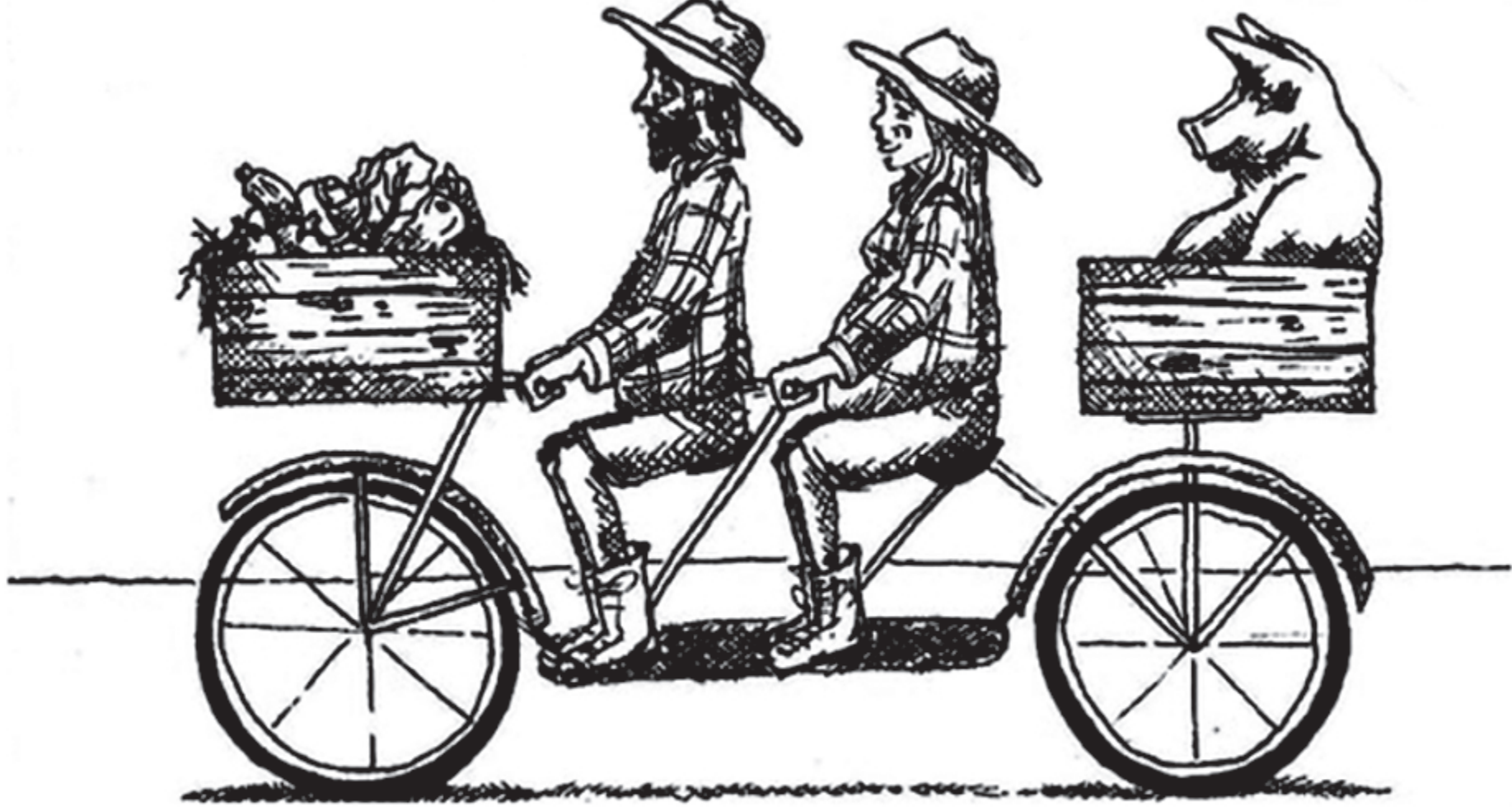
Deer attacks 5-year-old boy in Colorado Springs backyard



Photo courtesy Colorado Parks and Wildlife/Bill Vogrin

This deer attacked a 5-year-old boy who was playing with his father on the trampoline in the backyard of their Colorado Springs home Thursday, June 4, 2020. Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials believe the deer was illegally fed and became habituated to people, losing its natural fear of humans. CPW officers euthanized the deer.

SOUTH FORK FARMERS MARKET



**Every Friday from 9 am - 1 pm
@ the South Fork Visitor Center
www.southforkfm.com**

Valley-Wide Classified **FREE!** MARKETPLACE

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



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TRANSPORTATION
58 MOTORCYCLES
59 VEHICLES WANTED
60 CLASSIC CARS
61 4X4'S
62 VANS
63 TRUCKS
64 AUTOS FOR SALE
SERVICES
65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
66 CHILD CARE

RATES

15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications
\$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.
Garage Sale Ads: 15 Words or less for 1 week
\$12 + 35¢ each additional word.
Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Limited to private party only, 2 ads per person, 4 weeks.)
Convenient ad placement: To place your ad in person come to the office at 835 First Ave. in Monte Vista, or call (719) 852-3531. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may also fax your classified to (719) 852-3387 or email at monte vista class@gmail.com
Check your ad the first day: To ensure your ad is correct, check it the first day it appears in the paper. If there is an error in your ad, call us right away so we can correct it. If an error appears in your ad, Valley Publishing will credit you with one additional day of advertising.
Our ad policy: Valley Publishing accepts all classified advertising except that which it deems objectionable to its readers. Credit or replacement ads will not be given for early ad cancellation.

DEADLINE

Thursday 5:00 pm
Call 719-852-3531
or email: MonteVistaClass@gmail.com

Easy Payment Options

We accept Visa, Master Card, American Express, Discover, Checks, Money Orders & Cash



04 Lost and Found

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

05 Notices

WE BUY ANTLER: 5 miles west of Del Norte on HWY 160. 719-657-0942

07 Help Wanted

Del Norte Bank is seeking to fill a full-time position for a Loan Processing Manager. Primary duties will be to supervise boarding secondary market and portfolio loans and conduct general loan servicing. Two years of experience in loan processing preferred. This position offers a competitive wage and a full benefit package. Submit application by June 25, 2020 to postmaster@truelocalbank.com, which is available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers. Call 719-657-3376 and ask for Traci. EOE. (6/24)

Comtrix Solutions, Inc. is looking for Medical Technologists to work in the Del Norte, CO area. Positions require: Bachelor's degree in Medical Technology or Life Science; Must have ASCP Certification. Please send resumes and cover letter to 23099 Red Sunset Place, Aldie, VA 20105. Please refer to job code #JP/MT20 in your cover letter.

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@tricotcountyseniors.com. (6/17)

Del Norte Bank is seeking to fill a full-time position for Teller in the Creede Branch. Duties will be to accept deposits, loan payments and process withdrawals while maintaining a balanced cash drawer. Must be personable and pleasant answering the phone and greeting customers. Many other duties will be assigned as needed. The position is permanent, full-time, M - F, 8am - 5pm with a robust benefits package. Application available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or inquire at 117 N. Main, Creede or call 719-658-0126 and ask for Cassidy. EOE. (6/17)

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. (

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 opportunity employer. (6/17)

10 Apartments for Rent
2-Bedroom 1 Bath duplex W/Yard Available July 1st \$650/Month 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. (6/24)

17 Real Estate For Sale
Home for sale overlooking Navajo

coloradopress
ASSOCIATION NETWORK

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

WANTED

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Call: 720-988-5617
Write: Minerals, PO BOX 3668, Littleton, CO 80161
Email: opportunity@ecmresourcesinc.com

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Buy a 25-word statewide classified line ad in newspapers across the state of Colorado for just \$300 per week. Ask about our frequency discounts! Contact this newspaper or call Colorado Press Association Network 303-571-5117

Conour

www.slvanimalshelter.com

Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society

If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366

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

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

Visit Our Facebook Page

Rated 5 Stars

"Tonya and crew are a great bunch. Add their boneless and bone-in wings, sauce selections, LOTS of tasty pizza choices, and even beer.. now this place is worth frequenting! See you again soon!" -mwmajor87, Google

Welcome to South Fork!

We're available for curbside delivery for pick-up orders and we have limited seating available for dine-in! Don't forget our easy online ordering at www.mountainpizzataproom.com!

Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMTs and our Veterans always receive 20% off!

30483 Highway 160, South Fork
11 a.m. to 8 p.m. DAILY

Easy Online To-Go Orders:
MountainPizzaTapRoom.com

Thank you for supporting our employees during this difficult time

This is Goldie, she is a female pitbull mix around 2 years old. She is very friendly with people and has a fairly calm temperament.

This is Waffles, she is a 1 year old Pitbull mix. She is very friendly, but can have a lot of energy sometimes. She does well with some dogs but not all dogs.

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

This is Rosie, she is female Pitbull mix around 2 years old. She is friendly with people, we are unsure of how she does with other dogs.

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

Valley Wide Classifieds

Lake! 3 bedroom, 2 bath, electric radiant heat, air conditioning, stucco exterior, metal roof, large trex deck with expansive views of the lake. Also has a 30'x40' insulated and heated boat storage. Selling fully furnished, just bring your swimsuits! 719-850-2775 (6/24)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 Garage Sales Unit sale at Twin Pines Storage Hwy 149 And Elm St. South Fork kitchen items, china, antiques, stroller, coffee makers, several sand paintings, plus many miscellaneous items. Also C-12 unit sale, Nicki Philbern whose address is 3221 Baltimore Ave. Pueblo, CO 81008. June 20th, 8:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. (6/17)

Huge Garage Sale propane grill, books, material, household items 2qt. jars fish tank, patio set, much more June 18, 19, 20 7AM -sun down corner of Hwy 370 and 5 East, watch for signs. (6/17)

36 Miscellaneous Covid or Clarity Handbook Uncover Secrets for Really Simple Immunity \$12 719-937-9378 (6/24)

Wanted: 14 or 18 Gauge Old Square or Cars and or Mining Equipment 970-749-0749. (6/24)

Propane Refrigerators and Ranges Sold Here. Call For Options and Prices. We Also Stock Solar Powered Refrigerators and Freezers. Bontrager's Variety Store, 9726 S. County Road 3E, Monte Vista. (719)852-0500 (06/17)

Spring Solar Sale! 240-Watt Panels Only \$210.00 Each. Bontrager's Variety Store, 9726 S. CR 3E Monte Vista. 719-852-2500 (06/17)

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

SOLAR PANELS! 240 WATT AND SMALLER. We Stock Inverters, Charge Controllers and Batteries in Brand Names of Outback, Magnum, Rolls, More. We Also Carry Cable and PV Wire. Thank you for Buying at Bontrager's Variety Store. 9726 S. CR 3E Monte Vista. 719-852-0500. (TFN) (06/17)

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

50 Livestock HERITAGE BREED TURKEY POULTS – Burbon Reds from free range parents. \$20 each or \$35 for 2. Limited number available. Ready to butcher at 28 weeks (toms average 30 lbs, hens 15 lbs.) Straight run only. 719-850-2832 (6/17)

53 Trailers 1987 Nomad Travel Trailer 1-Owner \$4,000 OBO. 719-580-2290. (7-8)

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

63 Trucks 2004 Ford F-150 4.6 V8 149,000 miles, \$3,800 OBO. All maintenance records, (970) 663-1058 (6/17)

Perfect for Parades, Halling hay, Potatoes, Ext. 1977 F-350 W/12' Steel Bed. 61,000 miles \$5,800 or OBO. 720-201-3857. (7/1)

64 Autos for Sale 2007 Nissan, Quest. Runs great, Asking \$1800.00 OBO NEW TIRES, OIL CHANGE, MILEAGE 186,242. Engine 35L Cell: 719-480-4104 (7/1)

65 Professional Services Roofs (Metal, EPDM, TPO), Stucco, Flooring, Tile, Decks, New Construction & Remodels. Free Estimates. Reliable Carpentry, 45 years of Experience 719-496-7630 Drug and Alcohol Free (6/17)

LICENSED PLUMBER does all types of plumbing repairs and plumbing remodels at reasonable rate. Quick service. Call anytime, available weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (06/24 TFN)

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

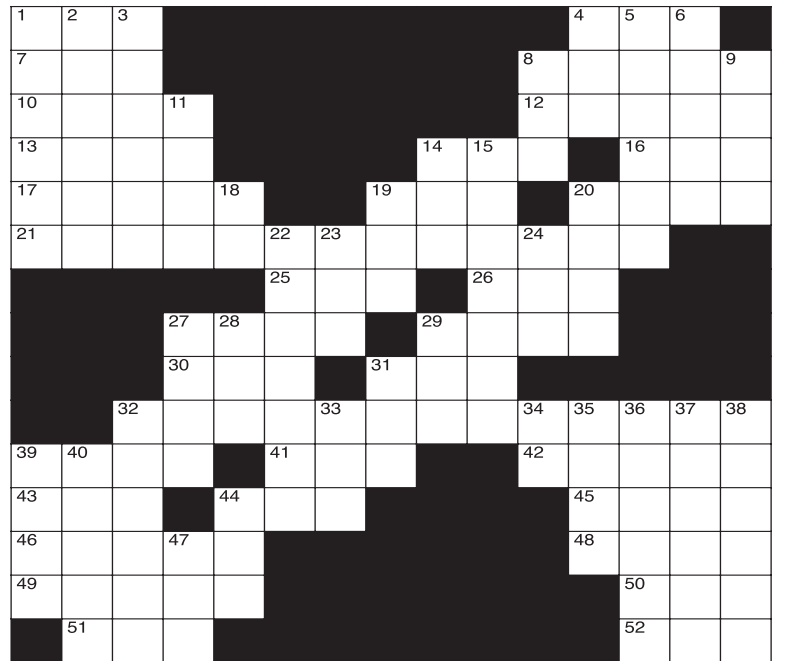
Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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ACROSS

1. Expression of disgust
4. A place to unwind
7. A type of cooking range
8. Grasp tightly
10. Sea eagles
12. Carb dish
13. Late-night host
14. Revolutions per minute
16. Indicates odd or erroneous
17. FDR's military chief of staff
19. Swiss river
20. Norwegian district and river
21. A form of motivation
25. Car mechanics group
26. Once a must-have home theater accessory
27. Broken branch
29. Apple and pumpkin are two
30. Skeletal muscle
31. Small Eurasian deer
32. Tight-lipped fellow
39. Comes after a cut
41. A place one lives
42. Cognizant of
43. Albanian monetary unit
44. Carrot's partner
45. Famed garden



46. Chilean seaport
48. Days (Spanish)
49. Sudden anxiety
50. 100 square meters
51. A type of beer
52. French/Belgian river

DOWN

1. Spanish dish
2. Concurs
3. ___ and her sisters
4. Patti Hearst's captors
5. Used to refer to cited works
6. A state of excited movement
8. Advertising term (abbr.)
9. Nocturnal S. American rodent
11. New York art district
14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
15. Pre-release viewing
18. Northwestern Canadian territory (abbr.)

19. Consumed
20. Falters
22. Radioactive form of an element
23. Catch a wrongdoer
24. Breeze through
27. Thick piece of something
28. Yellowish-brown color
29. "The Raven" poet
31. Rural free delivery (abbr.)
32. Creating
33. Supervises flying
34. Northwestern state
35. Was obligated to repay
36. Diverging in lines from a common center
37. Bleak
38. We all have them
39. Hit with the palm of one's hand
40. Sea that's part of the western Pacific
44. Political action committee
47. Famed Spanish soldier El

Solution to last week's puzzle

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



Three ways to buy: In-Store • NEW Take-Out Service or Online at viaero.com

This promotion requires phone trade-in, activation on a qualifying Viaero postpaid rate plan, and purchase of an eligible phone on the Viaero NOW! installment plan. A new line of service is required for each free Samsung A51 promotion. Up to \$200 ETF credit available with eligible port-in. Promotional discount applied over 30 months and ends when the balance is paid. Remaining balance due if line is terminated. Customers porting in a new line of service will receive an account credit for the activation fee. Activation fee and tax based on the full price of the device due at purchase.



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

2020 FARM SERV

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7 FARM SUPPLY



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Seed • Farm Supplies • Feed • Grain • Equipment

Community Committed... Agriculturally Driven

9 SEED & GRAIN



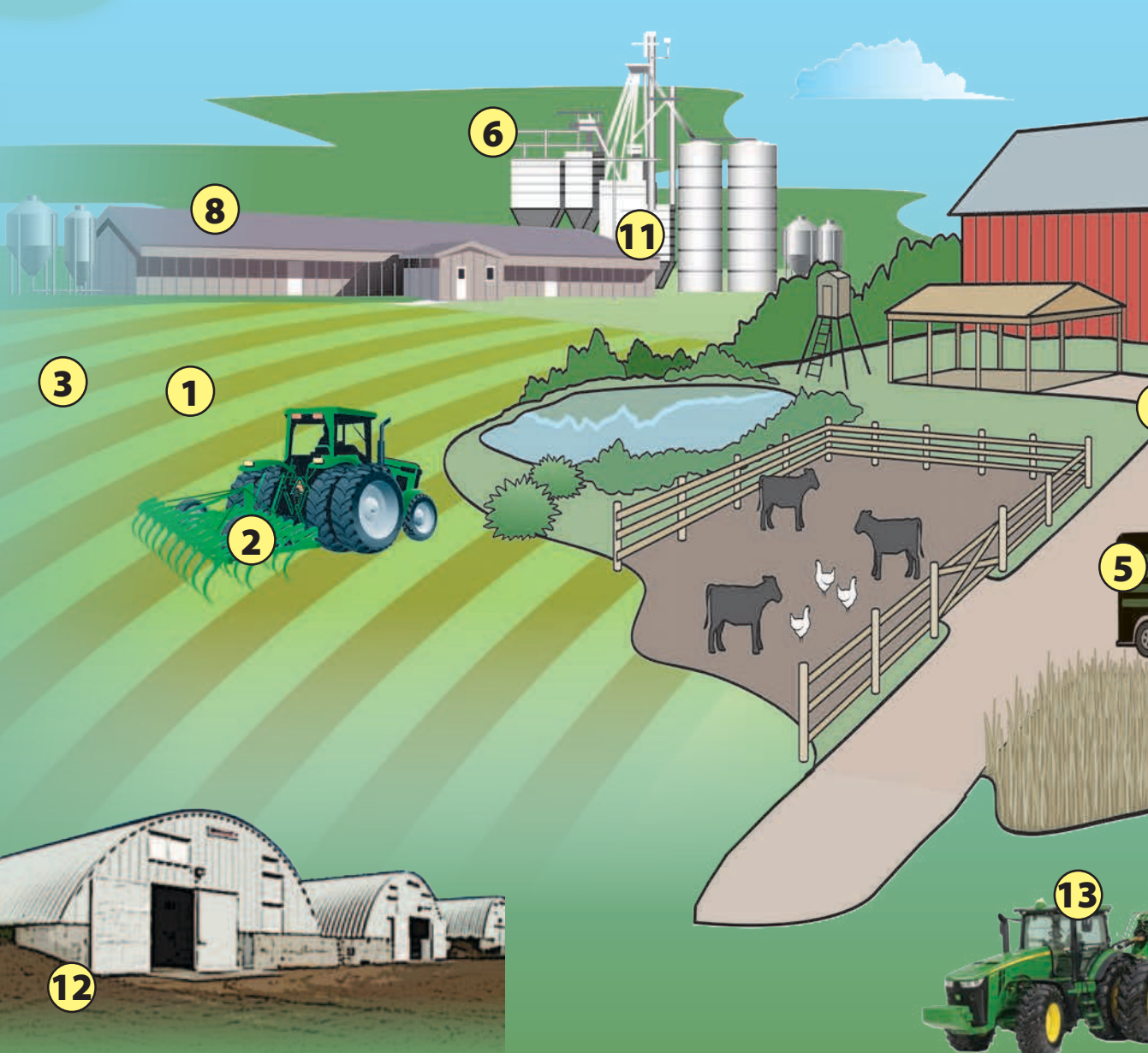
Eric Kimberling • Brett Hemmerling

When it's time to purchase seed for your farm or ranch, consider this, **Rio Grande Seed & Grain has the largest inventory and best selection of seed available in the San Luis Valley.** Need a custom mix? No problem, just ask. We also offer a Full Line of Ranchway Feeds, Minerals and Tubs.

Here is a partial list of seed available now!!! If you need seed not listed below, call us & we'll order it for you.

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- Super Sugar
- Oats
- Barley
- Terra Nova
- Turnips
- Clover
- Winfred
- Radish
- Buckwheat
- Pasture Mixes
- Hunter Hybrid
- Pacific Gold
- Vetch
- Lawn Grasses
- Mustard
- Millet
- Alfalfa
- Sordan 79
- Peas
- Wheat

719-852-4088



11 CHEMICALS/FERTILIZER



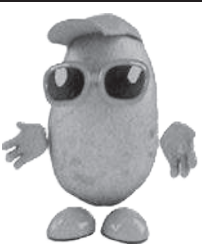
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12 AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS



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"Sprouts Wenta-Away"

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13 FARM EQUIPMENT



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Jim Higel 589-2116



6 FARM SUPPLY



Stone's Farm Supply

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Ag Chemicals &
Custom Application

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771 E. 3rd • Center

8 AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

ivi INDUSTRIAL VENTILATION, INC.

Providing the Valley with
Ventilation, Refrigeration &
Post Harvest Chemical Needs

John Martinez, Regional Manager
1393 E. Hwy 160 • Monte Vista
Mobile (719) 588-2485

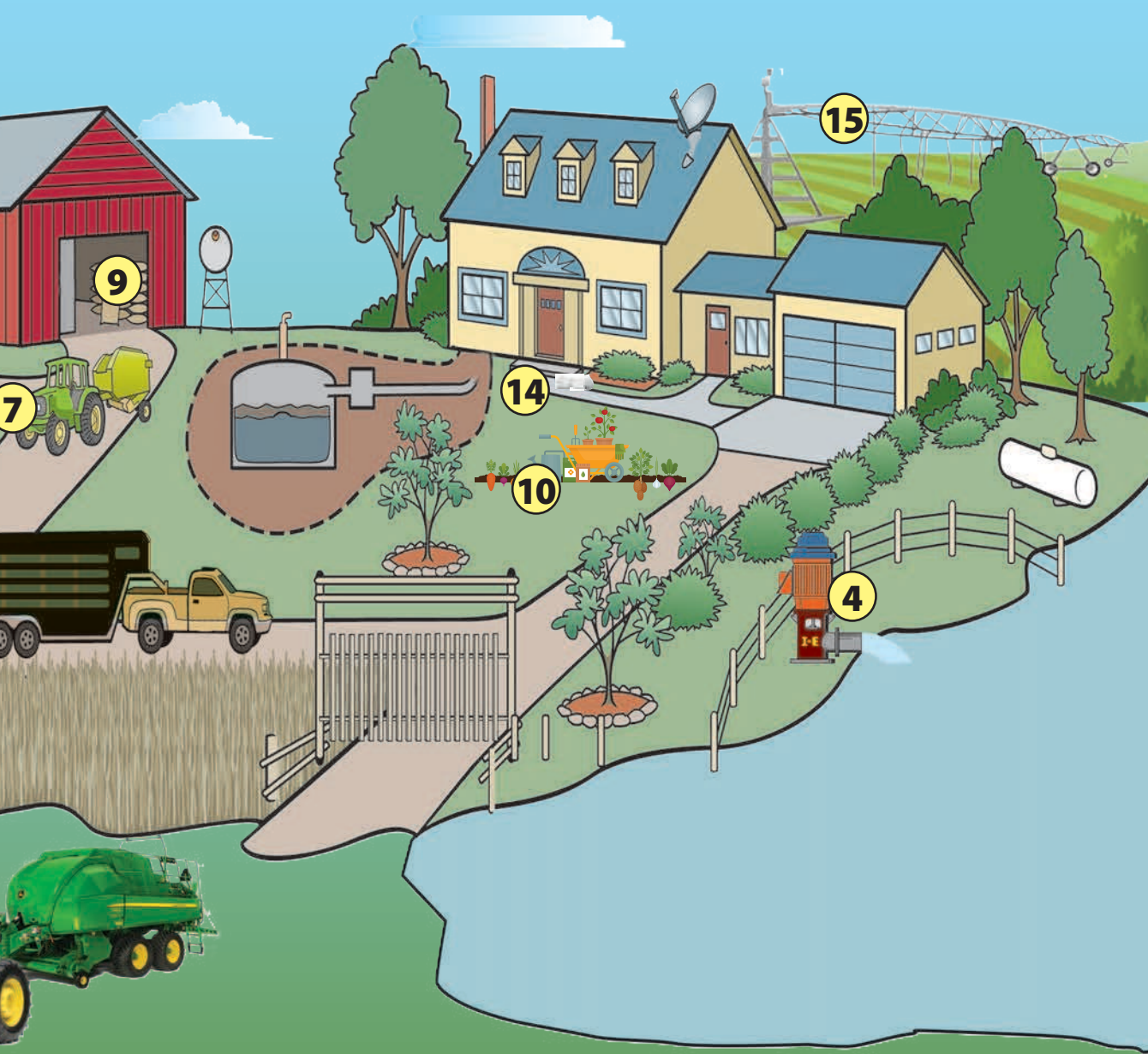
10 FERTILIZER & SOILS

SLV Garden Center, LLC

The Sawyer Brothers
719-852 GROW (4769)
1669 N Hwy 285 • Monte Vista
(north of Dos Rio Restaurant)

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Tinctures, Creams, Salves, Capsules, Pet Products
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14 NEWS

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CENTER POST-DISPATCH
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The Mineral County Miner
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CONEJOS COUNTY
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Valley Publishing **719-852-3531**

15 IRRIGATION

VALLEY

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*AutoPilot control panel specifically for linear machines

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VALLEY
www.valleyirrigation.com

Blood drives scheduled in Alamosa – free antibody testing

SAN LUIS VALLEY - Three blood drives will be taking place in the San Luis Valley, with social distancing guidelines in effect.

“We are encouraging appointments only at the blood drives right now,” said Megan McCarter, donor recruitment representative for Vitalant, the company conducting the blood drives. “Walk-ins will not be allowed.”

Making an appointment will allow the staff of the blood drive to be able to keep donors at the state-requested six-foot distancing from each other. Blood donation operations such as blood drives are not considered “gatherings” under the current social distancing guidelines, but as essential health care activities.

In addition, for free, donors will learn about their antibody status for COVID-19. Vitalant will use an FDA approved test, regardless if the donors show symptoms. Blood donations are critically low, especially for types O, A-negative and B-negative red blood cells.

Cliff Numark, Vitalant’s Chief of Marketing, added, “A positive antibody test does not mean that someone is immune to COVID-19. But they might be eligible to donate plasma in the future to help patients who are battling COVID-19.”

Alamosa Community Blood Drive: June 23, from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, located at 927 Weber Drive in Alamosa. To schedule an appointment, call the Vitalant appointment center at 1-800-365-0006, ext. 2.

To make an appointment online or for more information on blood donor eligibility, frequently asked questions about blood donations during this pandemic, and the most up-to-date donor information, please go to Vitalant’s website at www.vitalant.org.

HOUSE

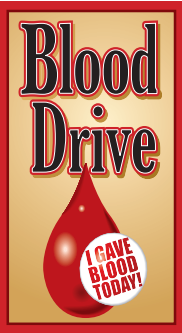
Continued from Page 1

and to bring criminal charges against officers for violations of POST standards.

Representative Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez, co-sponsor of Senate Bill 217, states, “It’s not every day we have the opportunity to vote on a true life and death issue in the legislature, but that’s exactly what we did today,” said Rep. Gonzales-Gutierrez, D-Denver.

She goes on to say, “The bill we passed today will make lasting, overdue change to our law enforcement system and will hopefully prevent the deaths of Black and Brown people at the hands of police in Colorado. I am honored to have accomplished this work with another woman of color, Representative Herod.”

Senate Bill 217 will now be sent to the Governor’s Desk to be signed into law.



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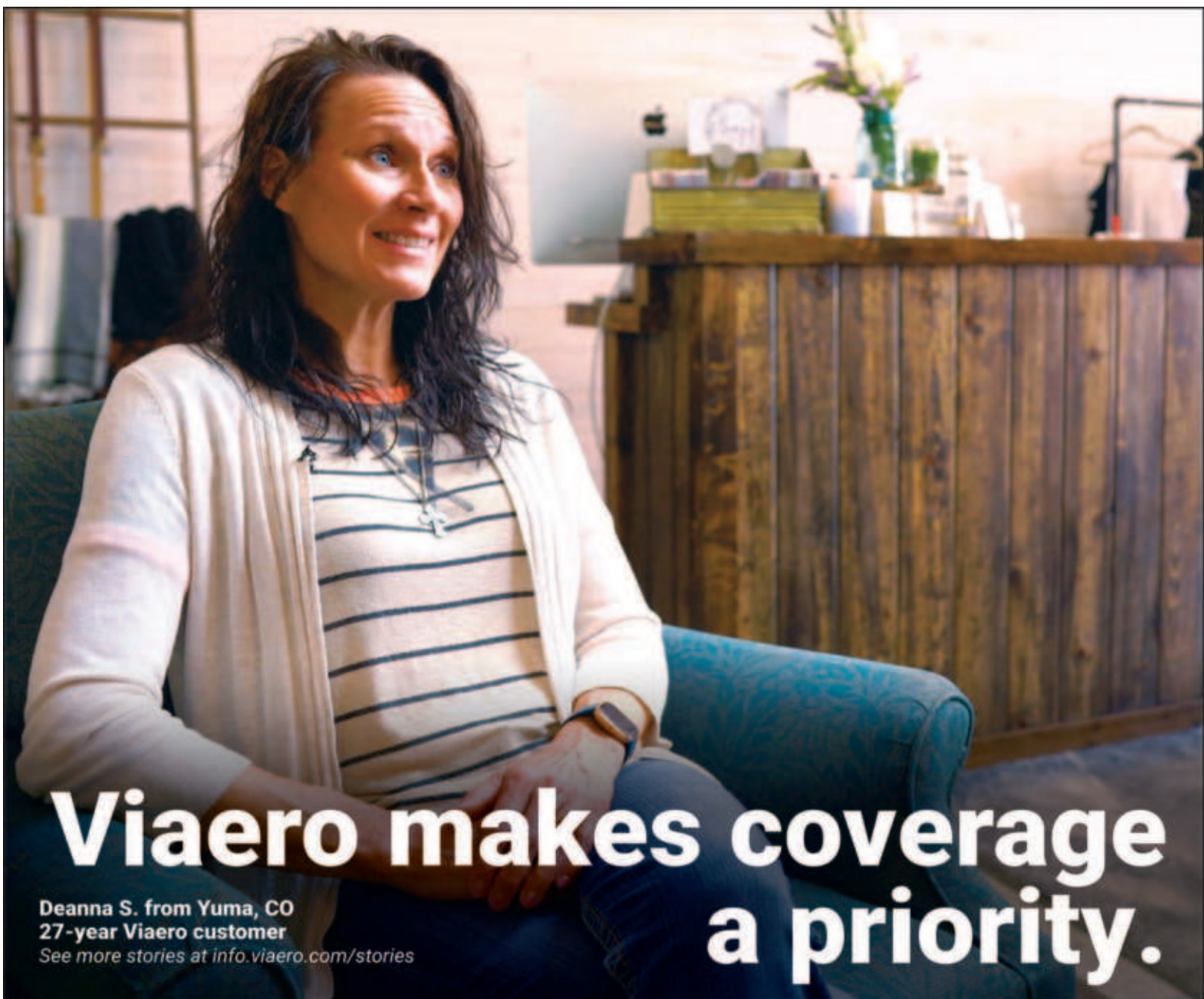


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Reining in the facts on Equine strangles

Since the first vaccine was invented in 1796, the practice of immunization has transformed how we view infectious diseases, taking many pathogenic invaders from being deadly threats to easily preventable maladies. For humans and animals alike, vaccines are important health care tools.

Dr. Leslie Easterwood, a clinical assistant professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, says the equine strangles vaccine is one that is of particular importance for horse owners in protecting their animal.

“Strangles is the common term for the bacterial respiratory disease caused by Streptococcus equi, subspecies equi,” Easterwood said. “Strangles infections most commonly present as an upper respiratory infection that primarily involves the lymph nodes in a horse’s jaw. Symptoms include high fevers, thick nasal discharge, depression and a lack of appetite.”

The bacteria that causes strangles in horses may sound familiar to their human owners; a cousin of this bacteria, called Streptococcus pyogenes, causes strep throat in people. Though these bacteria are genetically similar and cause upper respiratory symptoms in both species, horses with strangles cannot infect humans, and humans with strep throat cannot infect horses.

“Strangles is spread via respiratory secretions from infected horses,” Easterwood said. “It is highly contagious from horse to horse and is pretty common.”

Since strangles is easily transmitted between horses, vaccination is an important tool for minimizing the spread of this disease.

“Although the disease rarely results in a fatality, it will make horses sick and can lead to loss of production, decreased performance and quarantine, in some circumstances,” Easterwood said. “Vaccination does not provide complete protection, as with all vaccinations, but it can help to decrease the chance of contracting the disease in susceptible populations.”

Since horses are often kept in groups—grazing together at pasture, sharing pens or neighbored in stalls—contagious diseases can quickly work their way through a herd. As such, vaccination remains an essential tool for both individual and herd health.

Ultimately, the decision of whether to vaccinate an animal comes down to the owner, Easterwood says, although there might be situations during which a third party takes interest in a horse’s vaccination records.

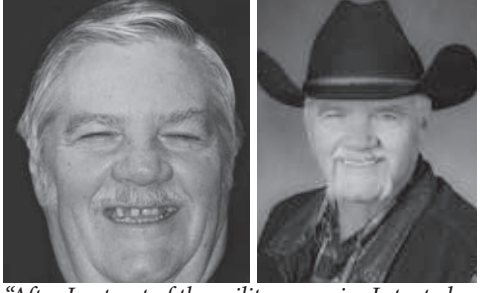
“There are no governmentally mandated vaccinations in horses,” Easterwood said. “Some boarding and breeding facilities will require vaccination to board at their location, but that is not a legal requirement.”

Even if no legal requirement enforces the vaccination of horses, owners should still consider consulting with their veterinarian to determine what care is best for maintaining the health of their animal. Reining in the facts on Equine strangles.

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San Juan Mountains Association partners with RGNF

The San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) is now an official interpretive and educational partner of the Rio Grande National Forest! Following a recent agreement with the Rio Grande National Forest, SJMA is now offering Visitor Information Services at the Divide Ranger District Office in Del Norte along with the RGNF Supervisors' Office in Monte Vista. This new agreement is expected to be a step forward allowing SJMA to bring the mission of "Explore, Learn, Protect," to the San Luis Valley.



SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS ASSOCIATION

www.SJMA.org

expected to raise awareness of SJMA. New possibilities to shape the conversation around the responsible enjoyment of the Rio Grande National Forest lie ahead. The hope is that future generations can be impacted and gain an appreciation for all the outdoors has to offer through these comprehensive and immersive learning experiences for students through high school ages. SJMA seeks to "inspire the next generation of conservationists." The implementation of these programs in the San Luis Valley have potential to shape the future of the Rio Grande National Forest by

investing in efforts to positively influence the way in which students interact with the landscape.

In these challenging times, there

Land, Water and People

BY HELEN SMITH

seems to be a renewed focus placed on the value of public lands. It could be argued they offer an escape of sorts. As a result, spreading the message about the need to take care of these assets has reached an essential level. The SJMA team is working diligently, with our national forest partners, to help spread the message of Explore, Learn and Protect. It is more important than ever to remember that the use of these lands is a privilege to be enjoyed responsibly.

Helen Smith is the SJMA Visitor Information Specialist at the Rio Grande National Forest in Monte Vista. She is a native of the San Luis valley.

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SJMA partners with the U.S. Forest Service to educate the public on how to responsibly visit national forests in Southwest Colorado. SJMA seeks to inform and better prepare those who make use of the land, whether they are from out of state or regulars. Bringing these services to a new area has the potential to create a new set of opportunities for the RGNF. Based in Durango, Colorado, the San Juan Mountains Association was established in 1988 for the purpose of assisting the San Juan National Forest in providing education and interpretation of public lands across Southwest Colorado. Since that time, SJMA has continued to advocate for the stewardship of public lands. Education is also a key component of the work that SJMA participates in. This includes summer camps, teacher workshops and interpretive hikes.

SJMA currently operates under a participating agreement with the San Juan National Forest for the development of educational programs, publications and volunteer projects, as well as providing interpretive services. The partnerships that have been forged have allowed the SJMA staff to serve in a supporting role for the National Forests.

In addition, SJMA develops and conducts a variety of activities through its Cultural Program. This program provides education and interpretation of the numerous cultural resources on public land and adjacent properties, including prehistoric and historic archaeological remains, ethnographic resources, and the records and data associated with these resources.

SJMA's new partnership with the Rio Grande National Forest seeks to increase public awareness and understanding of the unique natural resources contained within the Rio Grande National Forest. The Rio Grande National Forest contains over 1.8 million acres of public lands, including portions of Colorado's largest wilderness area, the Weminuche Wilderness, which contains the headwaters of the Rio Grande River, a critical watershed for millions of Americans throughout the West. According to SJMA Executive Director, Brent Schoradt, "SJMA is thrilled to partner with the local community and the U.S. Forest Service to help educate the public on the irreplaceable forests, watersheds, and recreational resources of the Rio Grande National Forest."

While the current situation has proven to be challenging for the RGNF team, good work is still being done. For example, plans to hold a regional Visitor Information Services training later in the year, including the design of an outreach program for area school districts and students, is in progress. Additionally, SJMA provides online resources such as maps and other materials to help locals and visitors alike learn more about the vast public areas that surround them.

Each of these new opportunities are



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender

Gay Panic or Transgender Panic Defense bill sent to Polis for signature

COLORADO - Earlier today, the Gay Panic or Transgender Panic Defense bill (SB20-221) overcame its final hurdle as it passed out of the House of Representatives on a vote of 63-1-1 and is now headed to Governor Jared Polis for signature.

SB20-221 is a revival of HB20-1307, which had passed out of the House before the coronavirus shutdown. Once reconvening, the HB20-1307 was postponed indefinitely May 26. Through the tireless efforts of Representative Brianna Titone (D-Arvada), Representative Matt Soper (R-Delta), Senator Dominick Moreno (D-Commerce City), Senator Jack Tate (R-Centennial), and Senator Jessie Danielson (D-Wheat Ridge), the bill was reintroduced June 9.

The gay and trans panic defense is a legal strategy that cites a victim's sexual orientation or gender identity as the causal factor for a defendant's violent reaction — including murder. In 2013, the American Bar Association (ABA) unanimously approved a resolution to urge governments to ban the use of this tactic, which resulted in 10 states banning the defense.

One of the most recognized cases

that employed the gay and trans panic defense was that of Matthew Shepard. In 1998, Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old college student, was beaten to death by two men in Wyoming. The men attempted to use the defense to excuse their actions. Despite widespread public protest, the defense is still being used today.

In July of 2008, 18-year-old Angie Zapata from Greeley, Colorado, met 31-year-old Allen Andrade and they spent three days together, during which they had at least one sexual encounter. When Andrade discovered that Zapata was transgender, he viciously beat her with a fire extinguisher. Upon his arrest, Andrade said he thought he had "killed it." While Andrade tried to excuse his bigotry by using the defense, he was found guilty of both first-degree murder and a hate crime and was sentenced to life in prison. In other cases, the defense has been successful.

The defense has been banned in 10 states - California in 2014, Illinois in 2017, Rhode Island in 2018, Maine in 2019, New York in 2019, Nevada in 2019, Connecticut in 2019, Hawaii in 2019, New Jersey in 2020, and Washington in 2020.

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During the Year!

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2020 Ray and Colette Skeff Scholarship recipients

MONTE VISTA - Scholarships for Monte Vista High School have been awarded in the amount of \$665 to Meagan Beckner and Larissa Medina. Meagan plans to attend the Med America Nazarene University in Kansas and Larissa plans to attend the Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

Scholarships for Center High School have been awarded in the amount of \$665 to Kristine Hoffner and Samantha Gonzalez. Kristine plans to pursue a Bachelors' in Pre-Med, and then go on to medical school. She will attend Adams State University in the fall. Samantha plans to start at Adams State and wants to continue her education to become a doctor.

An annuity was purchased for both the Monte Vista School District and the Center School District in 2003. Each year a check is sent for the interest on the funds to be given as a scholarship to students selected by the schools. Kansas City Life Insurance Company is on the hook for a minimum of 20 years and a maximum if either Ray or Colette are living.

The year 2020 is the 17th year of the Skeff Scholarship for both schools and the total awarded is \$53,660. The seniors of 2020 would have been 1 year old when the scholarship started in 2003.

The Skeff's wanted to give the scholarships to express their support for deserving students who want an education. Ray was a graduate from Center High School and Colette was a graduate from Monte Vista High School.



Ray and Colette Skeff awarded four Valley graduates with their annual college scholarships.



Larissa Medina



Samantha Gonzalez



Maegan Beckner



Kristine Hoffner

Monte Vista High School Honor Roll

3.0-3.74 GPA 2019-2020

Omar Aguilera
Elijah Archuleta
Jovanna Arroyo
Laisha Arroyo
Emilie Beckner
James Bell
Joseph Benavides Jr
Kobie Brady
Fernando Chan
Kaitlynn Chavez
Nikayla Cleghorn
David Clutter
Fernando Coss
Alex Deherrera
Genesis Delgado
Ashley Duran
Jason Duran
Piper Edington
Braxton Fringer
Cobi Garcia
Jacob Gutierrez
Lilly Henderhan
Addan Heredia
Haley Hicks
Cole Hindes
Annika Holder
Brycen Hotz
Christian Ibarra
Matyson Jones
Nathaniel Juarez-Paredes
Arthur Lopez
Casandra Lopez
Damian Lopez
Vianney Lopez
Jocelyn Lopez-Duran
Dulce Maldonado
Amyiah Martinez
Jaxon Martinez
Chase Mcgee
Diego Milian
Madison Miller
Anika Najera
Angel Nungaray
Aleena Ortega
Alyssa Ortega
Hunter Pacheco
Josiah Perea
Yareli Perez
Madison Plane
Megan Quintana
Rosemary Rodriguez
Leon Romero
Mario Sanchez
Emilio Sandoval
Daniel Santiago De Jesus
Henry Seger

Noelle Seger
Kaylie Self
Taija Smith
Alyssia Soto
Alyssa Tipsword
Naomi Vigil
De'anna Villalba-Robles
Jonah Waggoner
Renee Widger

Principal's Honor Roll 3.75-4.0 Gpa 2019-2020

Urianna Acosta
Trent Anderson
Deangelo Archuleta
Jenna Barnett
Maegan Beckner
Haley Bernal
Syriah Bernal
Hailiee Cale
Karicia Ceballos
Daniel Clark
Keianna Duran
Madison Edmonds
Chevelle Garcia
Memphis Garcia
Blaine Gillespie
Grace Goodland
Keaton Gregg
Kahi Lee Herrera
Chloe Hindes
Ethan Hotz
Tonita Lopez
Marissa Martinez
Moses Martinez
Larissa Medina
Mareh Medina
Colton Mellott
Benjamin Michel
Madison Miller
Damian Moreno
Sara Nehring
Carlos Ochoa-Marquez
Amada Quintana
Camille Rawinski
Caleb Riegenbach
Sahara Rodriguez
Adelia Romero
Davion Samora
Gabriel Samora
Anastasia Sanchez
Evan Stults
Isaac Stults
Levi Trujillo
Blair Vanderpool
Andres Villa
Kylee Wilson

National Essay and Artwork Contest winners

MONTE VISTA - Last day of school arrived and has now allowed students from Sargent Elementary to receive their awards that were earned before spring break. Each year the Colorado Association for Family and Community Education (CAFCE) sponsors the National Essay and Artwork Contest. Members from District V FCE and Friday Morning Club FCE help sponsor and coordinate getting the information to the schools that participate here in the Valley. The contest is based on CHARACTER COUNTS!® utilizing its Six Pillars of Character with the Respect Pillar being the emphasis for this year. Any fourth grade level student in a public, private or home school is eligible. Entries include a short essay story and a hand drawn picture.



The contest starts at the county level. Rio Grande County winners this year are from Sargent Elementary School. First Place goes to Bella Maze; Second Place to Brayden Norris; and Third Place to Benjamin Voutsalath. Bella also placed Third at the State level for her essay and artwork. Their teachers were Mrs. Durre and Mrs. Rockey. Congratulations to all!

Sargent Honor Roll

High School Superintendent's Honor Roll:

Madelyn Beiriger
Payton Brown
Nigel Cortright
Kyla Davis
Parker Ford
Jaylynn Gomez
Lauren Hefner
Kamryn Holland
Chinmay Jayanty
Jennifer Johnson
Stephanie Johnson
Clay Kimberling
Antonio Martinez
Breannen Maxwell
Daylon Maze
Kage Pepper
Megan Peterson
Ashlyn Rockey
Taylor Rockey
Kendra Sears
Cole Seger
Katherine Sewell
Drew Smith
Caden Stickens
McKenzie Tolliver
Angelica Urbina
Mary Willis
Carson Wolfe
Autumn Yocom
Noah Young
Montana Younkerman

Westen Burkhart
Annabelle Heineman
Brooke Hoffstaetter
Saige Hostetter
Cayden Larimore
Hayden Lester
Sydney Lorentzen
Jack Noonan
Aaron Price
Jordan Rockey
Garett Thomson

Principal's Honor Roll:

Deonisia Camacho
Tanner Kenison
Maia Krattli
Evolyn Raybourn
Seth Waggoner
Daniel Willis
Abby Birdsong
Joshua Carbutt
Tori Hill
Azmarae Lister
Trenton Lovelace
Trenton Paskett

Sargent FBLA qualifiers

Sargent FBLA State Leadership Conference Top Ten Winners List.
Top four individuals or teams qualify for the virtual National Leadership Conference.

Database Design and Applications
Chinmay J. 1st Place National Qualifier

Future Business Leader
Kendra S. Top Ten

Help Desk
Kyla D. 2nd Place National Qualifier

Journalism
Katherine S. Top Ten

Introduction to Business Communications
Mary W. Top Ten

Hospitality Management
Team of: Breannen M., Drew S., Angelica U. Top Ten

Introduction to Business Communications
Kamryn H. 4th Place National Qualifier

Introduction to Business Procedures
Montana Y. 4th Place National Qualifier

Congratulations to all! Way to represent Sargent!

Congratulations to the Sargent students for placing at the Regional History Day

Research Paper:
1st Place - Whitney Brimhall 2nd Place - Lauren Deacon

1st Place - Clint Blackmon and Antonio Martinez

Individual Exhibit:
1st Place - Katherine Sewell

Individual Website:
2nd Place - Chinmay Jayanty 3rd Place - Ashlyn Rockey

Group Exhibit:
1st Place - Montana Younkerman and Mallory Carbutt 2nd Place - Jeni Johnson and Clay Kimberling

Group Website:
1st Place - Taylor Rockey and Mary Willis

Individual Documentary:
1st Place - Nigel Cortright 2nd Place - Karen Holguin

Please be sure to tell them congrats when you see them!
--
John Willis
HS Social Studies Sargent HS

Group Documentary:

Principal's Honor Roll:

Desirae Lopez
Mitchell Plane
Evan Watts
Mallory Carbutt
Karen Holguin-Guzman
Madison Kyffin
Aiden Price
Lindsey Temple
Lexus Aguilar
Christopher Brandt
Lauren Deacon
Brennan Gearhart
Wyatt Hanson
Sara Hensley
Cameron Hsu
Riley Kenison
Marian Kidd
Sadie Mitchell
Caleb Rabon
Alicia Urbina-Gregory
Eliana Walker
Nathan Garcia
Luke Hoffstaetter
Dustin Kyffin
Riley Lester
Danae Lucero
Trevor Paskett
Akyia Ross
Shelby Temple
Gregory Watts

Junior High School Superintendent's Honor Roll

Makayla Brown
Jessica Buser
Liam Ellithorpe
Lucas Garcia
Ellaree Rockey
Emma Sewell
Becca Stambaugh
Mayah Stephens
Mia Stickens
Josiah Yocom
Giovanni Aguilar

Farmers excel at State

Science Fair:

Saige Hostetter - United States Navy and Marine Research Award

Corbyn Wright - United States Navy and Marine Research Award
Brooke Hoffstaetter - Colorado Medical Society CSEF Award

Giovanni Aguilar - Colorado Medical Society CSEF Award
Emma Sewell - 4th Place Chemistry

Jordan Rockey - 1st Place Botany

Chinmay Jayanty - Honorable Mention in Chemistry



FFA:

Chris Brandt - 2nd place in Extemporaneous Speaking
Ashlyn Rockey - 1st place in Prepared Public Speaking will represent District 4 and Sargent at State FFA in the fall.



Congratulations Sargent School District Students & Class of 2020 Graduates!

You are the Best! We are so Proud of you!

Sargent School District
(719) 852-4023

Monte Vista Co-op Congratulates the 2020 Scholarship Winners!



Lexi Metz

Dennis Kay Memorial Scholarship:
Lexi Metz, Sangre de Cristo

Mike Kelley Memorial Scholarship:
Jennifer Johnson, Sargent



Jennifer Johnson



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Monte Vista Kiwanis Club awards scholarship

The Monte Vista Kiwanis Club is pleased to announce Renee Nicole (Nicki) Widger as the recipient of the 2020 Tony Perea Memorial Key Club Scholarship for \$1500.00. Tony Perea was a long time faculty sponsor of Key Club and the scholarship was established in his honor. Key Club is the Kiwanis sponsored service club for high school students. The scholarship is available to the college/vocational school of the student's choice. Nicki was chosen for her academic achievement, community service, membership, and active participation in Key Club activities by serving as Lt. Governor of Division 5 her junior year and serving an additional year on the Key Club District Board her senior year. The scholarship is primarily funded by the Crane Quilt Raffle held during the Crane Festival.



Karen Widger, Monte Vista Kiwanis Club member, presents the Tony Perea Memorial Key Club Scholarship certificate to Nicki Widger. Courtesy Photo



Adele Barr

Conejos County Rotary Club using contest to educate students about drug addiction

LAJARA—The Conejos County Rotary Club began a coloring contest focusing on addiction prevention and demonstrating commitment to a drug free life. The Club has partnered with exceptionally talented students at the high school level who draw the pictures that campaign and bring awareness to the effects of drug abuse. “Our goal is to develop an activity/coloring book with all the drawings that



Aubrey Robbins

have been submitted and present it to the elementary school students this coming year.” said Rotarian Jason Coombs. The Club just announced this year’s winners. Long time Rotarian Adele Barr, awarded a \$100.00 check to 1st place winner; Angel Linares, Sanford high school student. Centauri high school representative Aubrey Robbins, awarded a \$50.00 check to 2nd place winner Lizzy Valentine, Centauri high school student. “We are so proud of the students who participated in this project.” said Lois Trenholm, Club President. For more information regarding the contest, contact Lois Trenholm at POB 245, La Jara, Co 81140.

2020 Regional Science Fair Award Winners For Sargent Secondary School

Daylon Maze (10) Jason Romero Memorial Award \$50
 Chinmey Jayanty (10) 1st Place Chemistry
 Jason Romero Memorial Award \$50
 CSEF Award Winner
 Alternate to International Science Fair Winner
 Rafe Paulson Teacher of the Year (alternate to go to International Science Fair)
SARGENT JR. HIGH SCHOOL BEST SMALL SCHOOL AWARD for MIDDLE SCHOOL (22 years)
 Emma Sewell (7) Navy/Marine’s Military Award
 Dr. Frank Moore Memorial Chemistry Award (\$100) Jason Romero Memorial Award \$50
 1st Place Chemistry
 CSEF Award Winner
 HM Best Paper Award
 Broadcam Masters Award
Jessica Buser (7) BEST OVERALL MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT
 International Science Fair Observer’s Award 1st Place Physics
 CSEF Award Winner
 Broadcam Masters Award
 Jordan Rockey (8) HM Best Display Award
 HM Best Oral Interview Award
 Middle School Potato Award \$50
 1st Place Botany
 CSEF Award Winner
 Broadcam Masters Award
 Ellaree Rockey (7) Rio Grande Water Shed Award \$50
 Rio Grande Water Award \$25
 Geological Solutions Award \$100
 Jason Romero Memorial Award \$50 1st Place Earth Sciences
 Trenton Paskett (8) Center Soil and Water Conservation Award \$30
 3rd Place Environmental Sciences
 Liam Ellithorpe (7) SLV Research Center Potato Award \$50
 2nd Place Botany
 Kaleb Watson (7) Diabetes Health Award \$50


HM Biomedical Science
 Mayah Stephens (7) Middle School Principals’ Award \$10
 Josiah Yocum (7) Middle School Principals’ Award \$10
 HM Best Oral Interview
 Genny Maxwell (8) 3rd Place Behavioral Sciences
 Lucas Garcia (7) 2nd Place Behavioral Sciences
 Westen Burkhart (8) HM Botany Costilla County Soil/Water Conservation Award \$25
 Hayden Lester (8) 2nd Place Biomedical Sciences
 Saige Hostetter (8) 1st Place Biomedical Sciences
 Jason Romero Memorial Award \$50 CSEF Award Winner
 Broadcam Masters Award
 Brooke Hoffstaetter (8) 2nd Place Consumer Sciences
 CSEF Award Winner
 Giovanni Aguilera (8)) 2nd Place Consumer Sciences
 CSEF Award Winner
 Joshua Carbutt (8) 3rd Place Earth Science
 Cooper Gosar (7) HM Engineering
 Trenton Lovelace (8) 3rd Engineering
 Makayla Brown (7) HM Engineering
 Mia Stickens (7) HM Environmental Science
 Deonesia Camacho (7) HM Environmental Science
 Corbyn Wright (8) 2nd Place Physics
 CSEF Award Winner
 Garrett Thomson (8) 3rd Place Physics
 Jason Romero Memorial Award \$25
 Jacey Matt (7) 2nd Place Zoology
 Tori Hill (8) HM Zoology
 Terri Paulson-Teacher of the Year Award Winner
STUDENTS REPRESENTING SARGENT AT THE COLORADO SCIENCE and ENGINEERING FAIR (April 2-4, 2020)

- Saige Hostetter
- Jordan Rockey
- Brooke Hoffstaetter
- Emma Sewell
- Jessica Buser
- Giovanni Aguilera
- Corbyn Wright

STUDENTS REPRESENTING SARGENT AT THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE and ENGINEERING FAIR in LA, CA:

- Jessica Buser
- Chinmey Jayanty (alternate)

Sargent Elementary Science Fair Awards
 Parker Mitchell
 Best Overall
 Paper Award
 1st place - Elementary Physics
 Madeline Mitchell –
 Honorable Mention - Paper Award
 1st Place - Elementary Environmental Sciences
 Cold Water Resources Award
 Wildlife and Natural Resources Conservation Award
 Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Award
 Costilla Soil and Water Conservation District Award
 Durae Naranjo
 Honorable mention - Oral Presentation
 2nd Place – Zoology
 Jason Romero Memorial Award
 SLV Veterinary Association Award
 Addison Roepke
 Honorable Mention - Display Award
 1st Place - Middle School Environmental Sciences
 Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Award
 Soil and Water Conservation Society of America Award
 Center Soil and Water Conservation District Award
 Office of Naval Research Award
 Kyra Griffin
 1st Place - Display Award
 3rd Place - Middle School Chemistry




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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
Pedro Gonzalez

ASU Douglas Thomas Scholarship, \$2,000

Kristine Hoffner
Pending — Marco Molina, Elizabeth Molina



Rio Grande County Sheriff Don McDonald, presents Danae Lucero with County Sheriffs of Colorado (CSOC), scholarship award for Rio Grande County.

Danae Lucero receives County Sheriffs scholarship

RIO GRANDE COUNTY - The Rio Grande County Sheriff department recently awarded Danae Lucero, from Sargent High School the County Sheriffs of Colorado scholarship for Rio Grande County. CSOC, Colorado's state sheriffs' association, offered 30 awards of \$500 each this year to deserving high school and college students in Colorado to fund higher-level educational expenses for the 2020-2021 academic year.

A citizens' committee selected the winner for each county. Committees made their selections based upon criteria established by CSOC, including leadership, merit, character, involvement, purpose and need. Applicants were required to be full-time, legal Colorado residents who planned to attend a Colorado university, college or trade school.

CSOC established the scholarship program in 1978. Since then, this effort has continued as a meaningful expression of the sheriffs' confidence in and respect for education and training. Monies for the program are derived, in part, from the CSOC honorary membership fund, which consists of contributions from individual citizens and businesses each year.

CSOC established the scholarship program in 1978. Since then, this effort has continued as a meaningful expression of the sheriffs' confidence in and respect for education and training. Monies for the program are derived, in part, from the CSOC honorary membership fund, which consists of contributions from individual citizens and businesses each year.

Centauri selected 'Model of Excellence'

LEESBURG Va. — Centauri High School at La Jara is among 24 SkillsUSA schools cited as Models of Excellence for 2020. The annual program recognizes the exceptional integration of personal, workplace and technical skills into SkillsUSA chapter activities. This is the highest honor bestowed on chapters by SkillsUSA, which is among the largest student organizations for career and technical education.

"Our Models of Excellence represent the very best in chapter achievement and community involvement," said Chelle Travis, executive director of SkillsUSA. "These students represent America's future skilled workforce and are future leaders in their local communities. It is a tremendous honor for these chapters and the recognition validates these outstanding SkillsUSA programs."

The top 24 SkillsUSA chapters selected as Models of Excellence will be evaluated in June for top honors. A panel of judges will evaluate each of these highest-level schools based on their goals, plan of action, results, evaluation and SkillsUSA Framework integration. Business and industry partners will conduct finalist interviews with students and advisors, and then help select the top three schools to be recognized on June 26 during the National Leadership and Skills Conference Virtual Recognition Session.

The focus of Models of Excellence is student-led activation. These students learn and practice the skills that every employer seeks, including leadership, initiative, communication, teamwork

and problem solving by taking the lead on all SkillsUSA activities. Their SkillsUSA instructors take the education of these students to the next level by guiding them, but never doing the work for them, elevating learning from classroom instruction to successful application of skills.

In addition to Centauri, the following schools are being named Models of Excellence:

Cape Cod Tech (Mass.)
Catawba Valley Community College (N.C.)
Center for Advanced Technical Studies (S.C.)
Central High School (Wyo.)
Forsyth Central High School (Ga.)
Gloucester County Institute of Technology (N.J.)
Greater Lowell Tech High (Mass.)
Grovetown High School (Ga.)
Kofa High School (Ariz.)
Lanier Technical College (Ga.)
Lynn Vocational Technical Institute (Mass.)
New Madrid County R-I Technical Skills Center (Mo.)
North Platte High School (Neb.)
Norwalk High School (Calif.)
Plymouth South Technical Studies (Mass.)
Sandy Creek High School (Ga.)
Statesboro High School (Ga.)
Union Grove High School (Ga.)

Upper Valley Career Center (Ohio)
Valley Academy for Career and Technology Education (Ariz.)
Watertown High School (Wis.)
Willow Canyon High School (Ariz.)

Woodland High School (Wash.)

The Models of Excellence program promotes the intentional learning of personal, workplace and technical skills outlined in the SkillsUSA Framework

for student development. Specific characteristics defined within each skill area provide tangible benchmarks for student achievement and chapter programming. Achievement is measured by student efforts in implementing essential workplace skills including personal responsibility, integrity, work ethic and organization in chapter activities. The hands-on approach of this program actualizes the SkillsUSA mission of empowering members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. The top three schools receive national recognition and the opportunity to share their stories through SkillsUSA in publications and trainings.

About SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is a nonprofit partnership of education and industry founded in 1965 to strengthen our nation's skilled workforce. Driven by employer demand, SkillsUSA helps students develop necessary



personal and workplace skills along with technical skills grounded in academics. This SkillsUSA Framework empowers every student to succeed at work and in life, while helping to close the skills gap in which millions of positions go unfilled. Through SkillsUSA's championships program and curricula, employers have ensured schools are teaching relevant technical skills, and with SkillsUSA's new credentialing process, they can now assess how ready potential employees

are for the job. SkillsUSA has more than 372,000 annual members nationwide in high schools, middle schools and colleges, covering over 130 trade, technical and skilled service occupations, and is recognized by the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor as integral to career and technical education. With the addition of our alumni, membership last year was 434,141. We have served more than 14 million members since 1965. For more information: www.skillsusa.org

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