

## Shorts

### Free food and health supplies available in Center Thursday

**CENTER** — Saguache County Department of Social Services Food Bank is sponsoring a drive-by pick-up featuring food, masks, and hand sanitizer at the Casa Blanca Park on Worth Street from 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 27.

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



### LA GARITA RISING: La Garita, Colorado USA

By FRANK WHITE

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

A caldera is a large volcanic crater formed by an eruption that led to the collapse of the mouth of the volcano. This caldera covers the whole range of the western part of the valley. Geologists tell us that it was formed 28 million years ago and that area has much rich mineral content, especially minerals like gold, silver, uranium, copper and zinc.

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

They didn't necessarily share

Please see **LA GARITA** on Page 8A

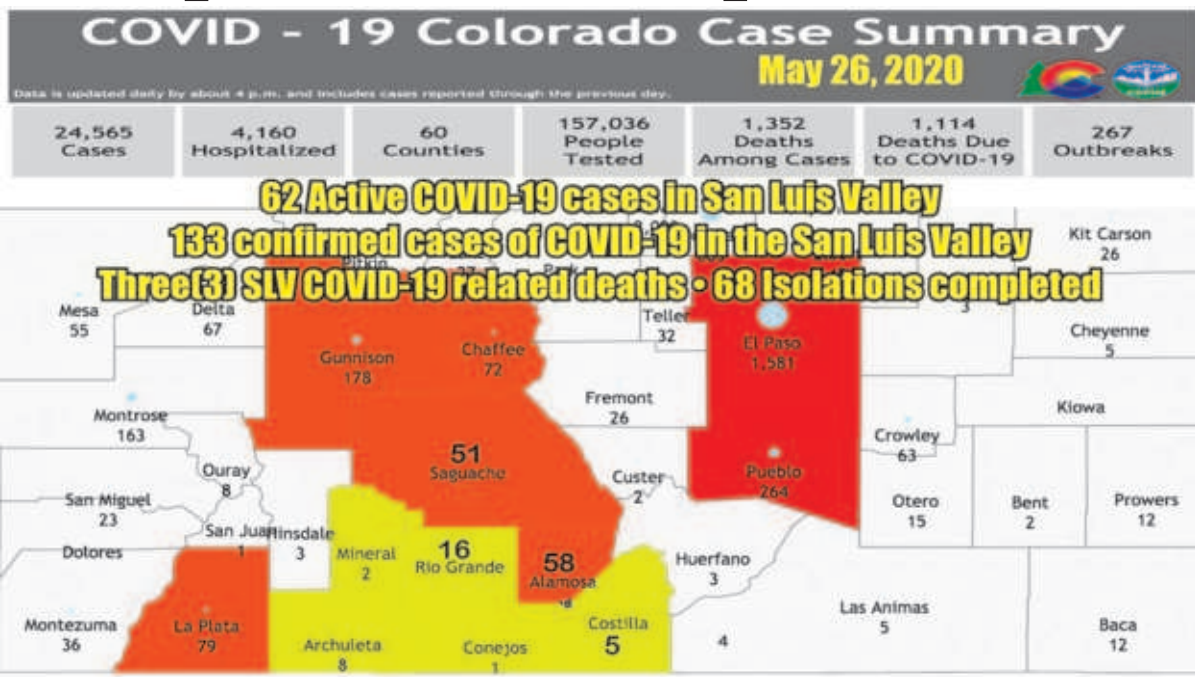
## Center beefs up COVID-19 precautions

By TERESA L. BENNS

**SAGUACHE** — The Saguache Board of County Commissioners met with the Center Town Board Tuesday during a special meeting via phone to discuss the COVID-19 outbreak in the Center community, Center Town Administrator Brian Lujan in an email Tuesday. Over Memorial Day weekend, COVID-19 positive cases jumped from 36 to 51 in Saguache County. Final test results are not back from the 60 tests conducted in Center Friday, May 22, but SLV health officials have confirmed that there are positive cases. An exact number has not been released.

The two boards discussed methods of educating and containing the outbreak. The town, Saguache Office of Emergency Management and Saguache Public Health all agreed to work together to contain the spread of the

Please see **CENTER** on Page 7A



## Mountain Valley Graduates



### Governor Polis issues guidance for restaurants, summer camps and private campgrounds

**COLORADO** - Gov. Jared Polis today announced updates to Safer at Home and changes to restaurants, summer camps and private campgrounds.

"We are still a long way from returning to normal, but these updates are a step in the right direction because Coloradans



are doing a good job so far limiting our social interactions. If we can continue staying at home as much as possible, wearing face coverings and washing our hands when leaving the house, then we will be able to slow the spread of the virus while reigniting our economy. If not, it will cost lives, and the economic pain will also be worse," said Governor Jared Polis.

"Coloradans value our diverse culinary scene and amazing restaurants, and I'm proud that our state is now providing science-based guidelines on how restaurants can open as safely as reasonably possible for their employees and customers. Diners will have more space between tables and at many restaurants, more opportunities to eat outside. The safest thing anyone can do is stay home whenever possible, but for those who want to shop and dine we want to make sure it can be done as safely as possible," the Governor continued.

Governor Polis updated and extended the Safer at Home Executive Order. The executive order also directs CDPHE to develop and issue guidance related to restaurants and summer camps.

Beginning Wednesday, May 27,

Please see **POLIS** on Page 7A

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

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

# OBITUARIES

## CAROLYN HOOKER SCULL, 81

Carolyn Hooker Scull of Tenaha, Texas, passed away Wednesday, May 20, 2020, in Center, Texas.

Funeral service will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday, May 24, 2020, at First Baptist Church in Tenaha with Pastor John Whitworth and Brother Joe Bob Alexander officiating. Interment will be held at Woods Cemetery in Panola County.

Born Aug. 27, 1958, in New Orleans, Louisiana, Carolyn is the daughter of the late Raymond Haywood Henderson and Leatha Stanley Henderson. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from Sam Houston State University and a founding member of Zeta Tau Alpha of SHSU. Carolyn was a member of Tenaha Businessmen's Association, Child Welfare Board and Tenaha Beautification Community. She also served as Camp Grandma for Royal Family Kid's Camp. Carolyn was a member of First Baptist Church in Tenaha. She loved spending time with her kids and grandkids.

She is survived by her daughters, Sharon Hooker Macioce and husband Rob of Smithville and Shanon Hooker of Spring; grandchildren, Cody Wayne Barton and wife Jennifer of Tenaha, Jacob Wayne Killingsworth and wife Vanessa of Springtown, Matthew Macioce of San Antonio, and Sarah Elizabeth Ramon and husband Dalton of Tenaha; 6 great



grandchildren; sister, Linda Kellar and husband Bobby of Smithville; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She is joined in death by her husband, John Scull and is preceded in death by her husband, Ben Hooker; parents; and brother, Stan Henderson.

Pallbearers will be Jeff Weesner, Mitch Norton, Stephen Harrell, Ben Dial, Johnny Harrington and Brack Harrison. Honorary pallbearers will be Johnny Walker, Keith Martin, Royce Perry, Dave Harrell and Joe Hollis.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to First Baptist Church in Tenaha and Woods Cemetery Association.

Online condolences & tributes can be sent at [www.watsonandsonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.watsonandsonsfuneralhome.com)

## ALOMA MARIE NAIVAR, 78

After a 25 year battle with cancer, Aloma Marie Naivar died on Mother's Day, May 10, 2020. She was born prematurely April 27, 1942. She always said being a three-pound preemie got her plenty of attention that way. She came home from Taylor, Texas hospital where she was born to the family farm in Coupland, Texas in a shoebox and slept in a dresser drawer until better sleeping arrangements could be made. Aloma is an uncommon name. Her mother's name was Anne and she didn't want her daughter to have a common name like hers. While watching the 1941 romantic adventure film "Aloma of the South Seas" she decided on the name Aloma.

Aloma grew up small in stature but was a giant with kind, gentle and cheerful traits. She tended to have a type A+ personality in many loving ways. She was a very positive and fun-loving person, loved to cook, raise a garden, raise animals, butcher them for food and use every apricot on her many trees in one way or another. She was first in her family to attend college, attending Sacred Heart Dominican College in Houston, Texas, graduating with a BS in Nursing and became a Registered Nurse. A few months after



graduation she was married to her husband at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base Chapel, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Nov. 11, 1964, the same day as her parents and grandparents' wedding anniversaries. One of her sons would later be married on that anniversary also. Aloma worked at Kapiolani Gynecology and Maternity Hospital in Honolulu until her husband was discharged from the Navy in 1965.

Please see *NAIVAR* on Page 7A

## JOHN DALE SCULL, 73

John Dale Scull of Tenaha, TX, passed away Wednesday, May 20, 2020, in Center, Texas.

Funeral service will be held May 24 at 2 p.m., at First Baptist Church in Tenaha with Pastor John Whitworth and Bro. Joe Bob Alexander officiating. Interment will be held at Scull Family Cemetery in Tenaha.

John was born Feb. 19, 1947, in Corpus Christi, TX to Drue Dale Scull and Clay Esther Scull. He was a member and deacon at First Baptist Church in Tenaha and also served on the board of trustees at East Texas Baptist University for over 20 years.

He is survived by his two sons, John Drue Scull and wife Suzanne Scull of Tenaha and Terry Stephen Scull and wife Alison Scull of Center; one daughter, Dee Ann

Scull Starr and husband Greg Starr of Texarkana, TX; nine grandchildren, C.D. Scull and his wife Layne Scull of Longview, Alayna and Molly Scull of Tenaha, TX, Caroline, Sarah, and Laura Anne Scull of Center, TX, Daniel, Abi and Katie Starr of Texarkana, TX; two sisters, Priscilla Hill of Ft. Worth, TX and Jodie Wright and husband Mike of Friendswood, TX; 5 nieces and 1 nephew.

He is joined in death by his wife, Carolyn Hooker Scull and preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Erma Dee Scull.

Pallbearers will be Keith Martin, Frank Kilpatrick, David Anderson, Steve Roan, Carmelo Dominguez and Scott Moore. Honorary pallbearers will be FBC Deacons, Royce Perry, Jeff Weesner and Delmer Rochelle.



In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to First Baptist Church in Tenaha and East Texas Baptist University, 1 Tiger Drive, Marshall, TX 75670.

Online condolences & tributes can be sent at [www.watsonandsonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.watsonandsonsfuneralhome.com)

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# Center board's K-9 work session May 21

**By TERESA L. BENNS**  
**CENTER** — Center town trustees met May 12 via Zoom to discuss town business and plan a work session for further discussion of Police Chief Dale Meek's request that the town approve a K-9 unit for use in detecting drugs and also bombs.

Trustees at their April meeting had brought up objections to the plan and asked to bring additional questions to Meek at a future date. The town will hold the work session Thursday, May 21. Center town administrator Brian Lujan offered the following highlights from the meeting:

**Police report**  
 Chief Meek delivered the police report, telling trustees that now that the weather is warmer, he has seen a decrease in break-ins and burglaries. This also could be the result of better policing and neighborhood watch awareness though, he said.

**Public works**  
 Utility director David MeHaffie reported people have been asking about yellow grass in Community Park. MeHaffie said some sprinklers were not working properly and the grass should green up soon. The water meter project is back up and running and the town is asking those residents in areas where meters are being installed to pay attention to notices their water will be off for a while. Filling up bathtubs and containers with water will help get residents past the installation, Lujan said.

Municipal Court has been postponed until further notice owing to the COVID crisis. Nothing major

is on the docket, Lujan said.

**Utility shut-off order**  
 Lujan advised trustees that while the state has formally declared that no utilities currently will be shut off owing to financial difficulties caused for some families by COVID-19, this does not mean that any accumulated utility expenses will be forgiven. "This is a delay, not relief," Lujan said. "No funding is available to relieve utility expenses, and you are still obligated to pay your bill." He urged those who are having difficulty making payments to call and make arrangements with the town if they can prove they have been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Center averages 50-80 utility disconnects for non-payment each month, he noted.

**Center Dental Clinic**  
 Van Iwarden has been awarded the contract to do renovation construction on the Center Dental Clinic, to be located across the street from Center Schools. Construction began this week, Lujan said. The project is scheduled to be completed by October. Other details will need to be finalized after that date, and then Valleywide Health will set a time for the grand opening.

**La Sierra Bar**  
 Residents who initially relocated from Eagle County working to remodel a bar in Center were told last week they cannot stay in their camper on the bar site but must move it to a camping facility. Jones Oil offers camping spots. Lujan said the bar owners had not produced the proper paperwork needed to secure a variance for the camper, but the town would

reconsider the request for a variance once the right paperwork is completed.

**COVID update**  
 Town Hall remains closed, but the

drive-up window is open for those wishing to make payments. If town employees are exposed to the virus, they will be placed on a 14-day quarantine, Lujan said. "We are taking

all the necessary precautionary steps," Lujan said. He urged residents to visit the CDPHE website if they have any question about the virus at <https://covid19.colorado.gov>.

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Built in 1927, building has been pharmacy. Upper story of 470 s.f. was even a beauty salon!! A huge plus is a town lot across the alley North of the store. Treasured parking for employees and customers. Sale Price: \$285,000. **GREAT OPPORTUNITY!!!**

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 Karla Wiescamp

# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## For those who served and sacrificed

Monday was Memorial Day. It was a somber time for me, as I thought back to all of the men and women who gave their lives to both protect and preserve this great land of ours.

From the very beginning of our history as a nation, men and women have given of their fortunes and lives to keep us safe from tyranny at home and abroad. We owe a debt to them that can never be repaid and it's on Memorial Day that we honor those who sacrificed so unselfishly.

My great-grandfather was an officer in the First World War and his accounts of those days are both chilling and unbelievably sad. The pictures we have of him in trenches filled with bones and skulls of soldiers killed in past actions make me understand maybe just a little of what he lived through; it wasn't pretty.

For the soldiers who survived those horrific conditions and actions, they had to find enough peace inside to live out their lives which they did and do so honorably. No one can understand the terrors they have suffered nor the choices they were forced to make without having lived through it themselves.

My grandparents' generation were raised to respect those who had fallen and also their own dearly departed loved ones. That generation gathered in family units and took flowers out to the gravesites and the cemeteries would bloom with flowers of every imaginable color. And because of that token of remembrance it was called Decoration Day as they decorated the graves of those fallen in battle and also loved ones who had passed.

My grandparents were great gardeners as were many people of that era having had to grow their own food to eat or they would have starved for sure. There were no support systems or welfare to fall back on and so they took care of themselves and others.

Part of my grandmother's huge garden was devoted to peonies; a plant of beautiful blossoms and they were always ready to pick just about this time of the year. She would gather hundreds of them and have them in water basins for people to come by and get for decorating graves. She charged 0.25 cents a bunch and always said "poor people need flowers



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

to adorn graves, too. "They were good and caring people.

Today the rush to Memorial Day is about BBQ's, boating, camping and escaping the drudgery of work more than anything else and we seem to have forgotten those who made all that possible.

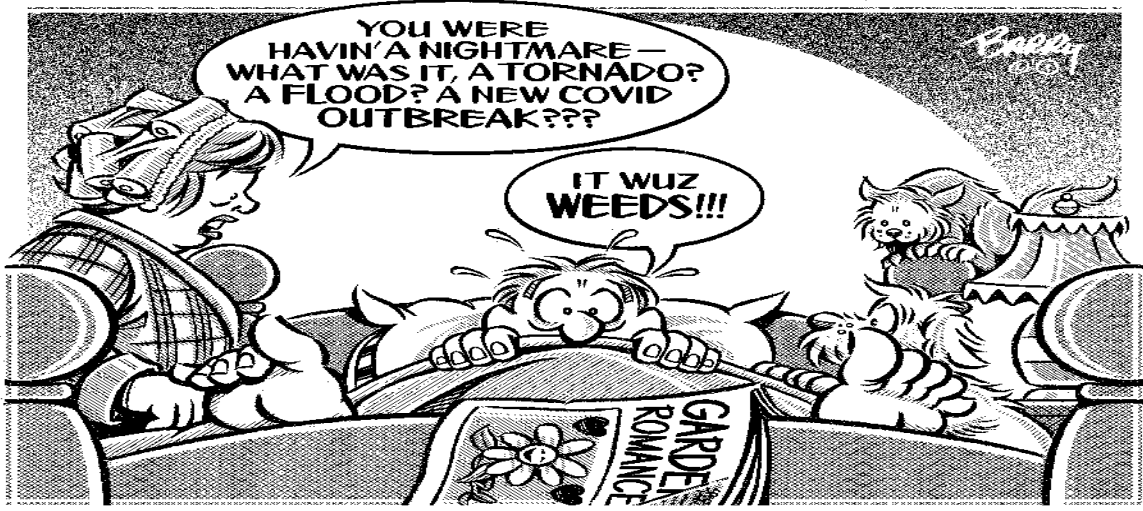
This year the solemnity of the day stopped me for a moment. Instead of the light banter usually found in this column I dedicate it to my grandfather and all of those who served so selflessly to protect us and provide for us a way to remain free. To those who were wounded and most of all to those that paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives, I bow and pray that God kept their souls in times of great turmoil, fear and pain.

May God bless you wherever you may be this week and may we always remember those that went before us paving the way for this great nation to succeed.

If you missed the chance to take a flag to a soldier's grave or flowers to a loved one's resting area, it is never too late to honor those who have gone before.

We owe all of them gratitude for building this life we have. God bless each and everyone one of them and God bless these United States of America.

*Kevin Kirkpatrick and his Yorkie, Cooper, fish, hunt, ATV or hike daily. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at www.troutrepublic.com or on Twitter at TroutRepublic*



## LETTERS

### Tom McCracken for County Commissioner

To the editor,  
For many years I worked at Green Earth Organic Farm for Tom and Lillian McCracken.

Tom ran the farm fed by surface water from Saguache Creek and Lillian ran the gardens and herbal product line. We produced beautiful purple organic potatoes, fava beans, spicy radishes, dark rich greens and nurturing herbal products.

We packed up at three in the morning to get the vegetables to Front Range restaurants, grocers and Farmers Markets. We delivered to many families, grocers and restaurants locally. The McCracken's farm in the San Isabel Creek drainage provides fresh produce to grocers, restaurants and families in Saguache

County. Everywhere they show up people are so grateful for the healthful, fresh, organic food.

Margins in farming are slim just like they are in Saguache County's budget; and Tom is skilled in business and management and in all the years he always made payroll and produced quality product while being a strong steward of the land.

I have observed as he has researched, showed up and participated in the political process. He pays attention to the challenges and needs of the community and speaks up with intelligent ideas and vision for the future - especially involving water issues.

I am a strong proponent of Tom McCracken for County Commissioner.

I have observed his hard-working, honest character. I admire him for his intelligent, sustainable and visionary ideas.

I want a commissioner who is in touch with Saguache County community needs.

He is concerned about the Center COVID outbreak.

He stands for sustainable development, knowledgeable water and land stewardship, responsiveness to the people and good management of Saguache County's budget, natural resources, economy and people.

A vote for Tom McCracken is a vote for your well-being and the well-being of Saguache County.

*Liza Marron  
Saguache*

### Democrat Cyriacks for County Commissioner

To the editor,  
After having known Ms. Cyriacks for 20-plus years, it is apparent that she is the intelligent, experienced woman needed for County Commissioner, District 1. Not only is she a successful businesswoman, she is also a commentator on Saguache County.

Areas of concern include, but are

not limited to:

- County budget matters
- Water protection
- Environmental concerns
- Proper economic growth
- Open, transparent governing
- There are folks who might disagree with her but would never doubt her integrity.

Please contact Ms. Cyriacks, Democrat, for questions surrounding her position on County issues. One will quickly realize she exercises due diligence on all matters. She can be reached at 719256-4140.

*Eleanor (Ellie) Mueller  
Crestone*

### Teacher thanks officials, community for COVID help

To the editor,  
I would like to thank the Town Board, Mayor Tony Garcia and Town Administrator Brian Lujan for voting last week to pass an ordinance for masks in Center. This was a first step in slowing down the virus so we can return to formal activities and August school sessions. I appreciate Tony, trustee Peggy (Martinez) and

Brian for listening and responding to citizens' concerns as well as mine.

Now, the work is providing masks. I would like to share my gratitude to Maria Villagomez for her help with finding people willing to make masks and those in need of masks. A special thank you goes out to Heidi Stevenson, Gloria Villagomez and Adele Alfson for making masks or

donating fabric.

The Saguache County Commissioners donated 400 disposable masks for distribution to our kids and their families in quarantine. I wanted to show my appreciation and recognize all of you. Thank you so very, very much.

*Susan Banning, Center Schools  
McKinney Vento Liaison*

### LETTERS POLICY

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

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

information will be returned to the sender or discarded.

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

Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.

# CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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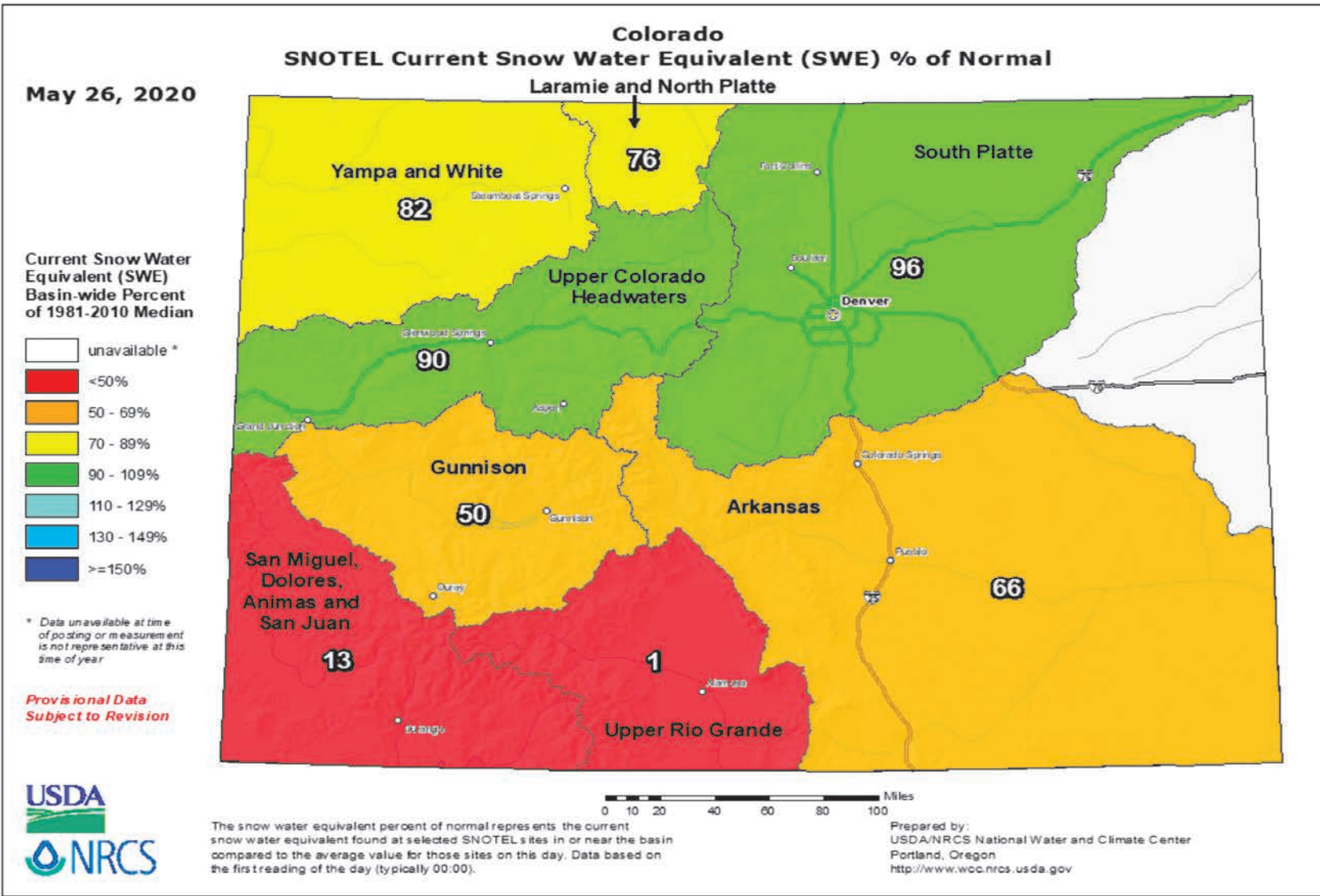
[www.centerpostdispatch.com](http://www.centerpostdispatch.com)

# Snowpack one percent of normal

## Rio Grande National Forest Fire Danger high

**SAN LUIS VALLEY -** Gregg Goodland with Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) stated, "The current Fire Danger rating is High. RGNF is under Stage 2 fire restrictions. High winds and extreme dry conditions make it far more difficult to control wildfires. If everyone uses a little extra caution when outside during these conditions, it goes a long way to reducing the human caused fires." The Stage 2 Order prohibits the following acts:

- Igniting, building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, including charcoal grills and barbecues, coal and wood burning stoves, and shepherd's stoves.
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, trailer or building.



## CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

**BY SAGUACHE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER TRISH GILBERT**

**Important Dates for the 2020 Primary Election**

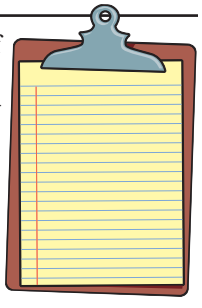
- May 21 - Logic and Accuracy Test (LAT) at 8:30 a.m. - until we finish.
- June 8 - June 12 - Ballots will be mailed to voters.
- June 8 - 24-hour outside ballot drop boxes will be open until 7 p.m. Election Day, June 30
- Saguache ballot drop box, located in the parking lot south of the Saguache County Courthouse at 501 4th St., Saguache, CO 81149
- Center Town Hall ballot drop box, located at 294 Worth St., Center, CO 81125
- Town of Crestone ballot drop box, located at the Saguache County Sheriff's Satellite Office, 182 E Galena Ave., Crestone, CO 81131
- June 15 - Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) opens for the Primary Election.
- June 30 Primary Election - Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**VSPC Hours of Operation:**

- Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Saturday, June 27, 7 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- Election Day, June 30, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

This would be a great time to register to vote or update your voter registration online at govotecolorado.gov. We are in the process of implementing changes to meet the Secretary of State's Office Emergency Rules for Conducting Elections During COVID-19.

Please vote the ballot you receive in the mail. If you feel you must come in person, you need to call 719-655-2512 to make an appointment. If you are 10 minutes late, or more, you must reschedule. If you have any questions please contact our office. THE-AWE-SOME-ONES! (Jane, Desiree, Ben, Dominique and Rebecca) are here to help.



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- | Supporting local businesses brings jobs to our area.
- | Getting to know local business owners helps strengthen our neighborhoods.

*Financial Advisor*

**Rob McConnell**  
Financial Advisor  
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# Stampede canceled for 2020

**MONTE VISTA**—In a letter emailed to sponsors the evening of Wednesday, May 20, the Ski-Hi Stampede Committee announced that they have canceled the 2020 event due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It is with a heavy heart that we are writing to inform you that we will not have Stampede this year,” wrote committee president Greg Metz. “As you are well aware, COVID-19 has stolen many of our freedoms and the decision to put on Stampede was never really ours to make.

“However, our committee deliberated long and hard and finally conceded to the fact that it can’t happen for 2020. Our hearts ache for all of the people in the rodeo and entertainment industries that are suffering the loss of business. We are also heartbroken in regard to the negative effect to our community.”



Committee member Karla Wilschau said 2021 will be the 99<sup>th</sup> Stampede with 2022 becoming the 100<sup>th</sup>.

# YOUR NIGHT SKY

## Hercules the Kneeler

**BY DARLENE DANKO**

If you found Coma Berences and Bootes, then you know how to look in the sky. On the other side of Bootes is Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown. If you look up in the east, it will be just below Bootes. Since Bootes is very high in the sky, Corona Borealis will also be high.

It’s a 7 star constellation that’s a half circle open to the left which will be NE. When you find it, you will always remember it since it’s a distinct formation of stars. June and July are the months for best viewing of it, so this is the time to look for it although it’s visible until October. Even though it’s small and relatively dim, it’s easily identifiable in a clear dark sky like ours.

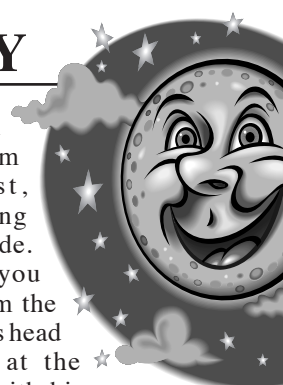
The size is a fist held up high. It has one really bright star Alphecca, which is the top of the right side of the middle stars which is a blue white star 60 times brighter than our sun and is 75 lightyears from us. It also contains more than 400 galaxies. Since they’re 1.5 billion lightyears away, none are brighter than magnitude 16. So you’ll need a strong telescope to view them. There are also double stars and variables, which periodically vary in brightness. So if you use binoculars or a telescope, you should find some interesting things.

Just below the Northern Crown is Hercules. He’s the fifth largest constellation in our sky. There is a square body in the center with his head and arms to the right, and his legs spread out to the left. When you

look at him from the east, he’s lying on his side. And if you look from the south, his head will be at the bottom with his legs up high. Unfortunately it’s not very bright, but since our sky is dark and clear, you should be able to find him.

Rasalgethi is his head star and is his brightest. The name is an old Arabic work meaning “head of the kneeler.” It has a unique red hue of a supergiant star. What’s common for red giant stars is their brightness frequently varies. It’s also called Alpha Herculis and is a double star system. The other star is actually brighter since it doesn’t change and is more visible due to that, but sometimes you can see both stars. They’re 380 lightyears away. If you look from the south and he’s got his head on the bottom, and it will be the lower center star. If he’s on his side, it will be the center right star.

His most distinctive feature is actually the Keystone, which is the group of 4 stars that make up his body. When he’s on his side, the upper center of his body contains the spectacular globular cluster M13. It contains a group of 300,000 closely packed stars that are 25,000 lightyears away. With binoculars they’ll be just a fuzzy ball, but a telescope will show you a lot more. So when you have a chance, go out and look at these constellations. Now that the sky stays lighter longer, you won’t see many stars until after 9 p.m.



# Del Norte Covered Wagon Days canceled

**DEL NORTE** - The Del Norte Covered Wagon Days Committee has announced that they are canceling this year’s event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Carl Hill, Chairman, said, “It was a hard decision to make but after learning that many of the

other events were being canceled, our board decided it was in the best interest of the community to cancel ours also.” Coupled with the fear of spreading the virus is the financial concerns. Covered Wagon Days relies heavily on the donations from

local businesses and individuals to put on this event every year. Hill commented, “that the businesses have been hit hard financially this year and we just don’t feel right asking them to donate to our event.” For more information call 657-2521.

# Alamosa Fireworks Show canceled

**ALAMOSA** - SLV Federal Bank CEO Duane Bussey announced the bank will not be sponsoring the July 4 fireworks show in Alamosa this summer.

“We are very disappointed we will not be able to bring this enjoyable holiday event to our community in 2020, said Bussey. We discussed the matter with the City of Alamosa staff and considered the State’s coronavirus guidelines for public events, as well as the current fire

restrictions, and decided there were too many unknowns to be able to deliver a safe and enjoyable show. We’ve appreciated the partnership we’ve had with the City of Alamosa over the last 23 years in sponsoring the show. We’re thankful for the dedicated work of our fireworks shoot team in making it happen. While there is still a chance we could have the shoot later in the year, realistically, we’re focused on 2021 and putting on a great show next year.”



# Colorado only state in U.S. with updated automatic voter registration system

**COLORADO** - Colorado’s Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) system, the only one of its kind currently being utilized in the country, is now operational across the state, streamlining the process for eligible Colorado voters to register at Department of Motor Vehicle offices. The new AVR system keeps Colorado on the vanguard of election access while also improving security by keeping voter rolls updated. The new system was passed into law by the Colorado legislature last year as part of a bill sponsored by State Senator Stephen Fenberg (District 18) and State Representative Daneya Esgar (District 46).

“Automatic Voter Registration is a keystone of the Democracy Package that I worked with the Colorado legislature to pass last year,” said Secretary of State Jena Griswold. “AVR expands access to our elections and helps maintain up-to-date voter rolls, which is important for a vote-by-mail system like ours.”

“Colorado has a proud tradition of leading the nation in voter access and participation,” said Senate Majority Leader Fenberg. “Automatic voter registration is yet another way to further strengthen our democracy by removing unnecessary hurdles for citizens casting a vote. I am proud of this momentous achievement and sincerely hope other states follow Colorado’s example and remove oppressive voting barriers that work to silence already marginalized groups of people.”

“Here in Colorado, we’re working to make sure that all of our citizens have access to voting,” said Rep. Esgar. “Automatic voter registration increases participation in our

democracy and helps Coloradans vote. I’m proud Colorado continues to lead the country in ballot security and access.”

Under SB19-235, the new system approved by the General Assembly, eligible voters who provide proof of citizenship will automatically be registered to vote any time they apply for or renew their driver’s license. All eligible voters will then be sent a letter informing them they will be registered and offering the option to decline the registration or affiliate with a political party. This process would add only eligible voters who do not opt out of the registration.

Colorado is currently the only state in the nation with a voter registration system that is truly automatic, in that it does not require eligible voters to indicate that they wish to be registered.

Under the previous system, voters were asked if they wanted to register when they updated their driver’s license. AVR greatly streamlines that interaction with the DMV and reduces the possibility of human error.

AVR not only ensures voter rolls are more accurate, which means voters get their ballots at the correct address and the counties save postage from fewer ballots mailed to wrong addresses, the rolls are more secure because data are transferred electronically, reducing the potential for human error. Additionally, it provides more convenient options to citizens by reducing the number of trips to government agencies, particularly for working people with multiple jobs or rural residents who may not live close to government offices.

For more information, please visit [www.sos.state.co.us](http://www.sos.state.co.us).



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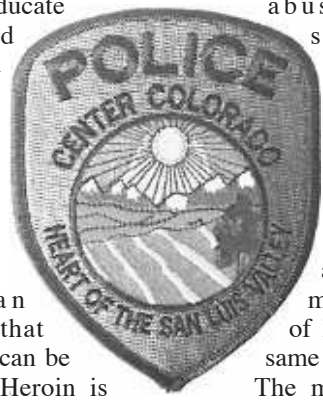
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MKT-P0108

# Center Police Chief educates public on heroin

**CENTER** — Center police Chief Dale Meek has issued his second article on drug usage to educate Center's Neighborhood Watch and Business Coalition. Meek's previous article dealt with methamphetamine use and the article that follows addresses heroin use.



Heroin is an addictive narcotic that occurs naturally and can be made synthetically. Heroin is converted to morphine in the brain, and the morphine molecules then produce pain-relieving and euphoric effects in users by binding to opioid receptors in the brain and spinal cord. People who use heroin typically report feeling a surge of a pleasurable sensation — a "rush." The intensity of the rush is a function of how much drug is taken and how rapidly the drug enters the brain and binds to the

opioid receptors. The powerful euphoric "high" abusers feel when snorting, smoking or injecting it often leads to repeated and habitual use of this drug. However, the body rapidly adapts to the overstimulation of opioid receptors, and over time, abusers must take greater doses of heroin to achieve the same "high."

The most common use of heroin in the Center area is injecting. This leads to users possessing syringes, small butane or high output lighters, small pieces of cotton, aluminum foil, spoons or other metallic items to "cook" the heroin so it can be transformed from a solid to a liquid.

With heroin, the rush is usually accompanied by a warm flushing of the skin, dry mouth, and a heavy

feeling in the extremities. Nausea, vomiting, and severe itching may also occur. After the initial effects, users usually will be drowsy for several hours; mental function is clouded; heart function slows; and breathing is also severely slowed, sometimes enough to be life-threatening.

**Visible Signs:** • Flushed skin • Small pupils • Watery eyes • Runny Nose • Itching skin • Drowsy or Relaxed • Track marks or multiple needle injection spots on the body

**Heroin Overdose Signs:**  
A severe reaction to heroin use will require medical attention, as will a heroin overdose. Toxicity levels of heroin may be related to the purity of the heroin or the presence of poisonous additions such as fentanyl. Whether due to toxicity or purity, the following are common signs associated with a heroin overdose: • Bluish lips and/or nails • Disorientation • Shallow breathing or difficulty breathing • Delirium • Pinpoint pupils • Muscle spasticity • Low blood pressure •

Drowsiness • Weak pulse • Coma  
Finally, after a period of chronic use, most users will pass into a state of physical dependence, in which the body has become so accustomed to the drug that the addict will become physically ill if he or she stops taking the drug suddenly. Individuals who

are around those who abuse heroin may notice items of value go missing. Typical users are unable to work a steady job to finance their habit. The person abusing heroin may apologize or deny the theft or other illegal activities as a way of protecting the heroin use.

## SAGUACHE SHERIFF REPORT

The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the week of May 11-18, 2020



- Arrests**
- June Martinez, 31, Buena Vista, third-degree assault, resisting arrest
  - Julia Sierra, 25, Crestone, DUI/D, DUS
  - Garrett Lyons, 21, Spring Hill, Tenn., fugitive of justice
  - Janet Leon-Villagomez, 21, Center, failure to appear

- Joshua Naranjo, 28, Monte Vista, two counts of failure to appear

## State files lawsuit defending streams, wetlands

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

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

"The federal government's new definition of 'waters of the United States' violates the Clean Water Act, contravenes controlling U.S. Supreme Court precedent, and ignores sound science," Weiser said. "This illegal action shirks the federal government's responsibility to implement this law and thrusts on Colorado the responsibility of protecting water quality with limited warning and with no support

to do so. We are bringing this lawsuit to stop this new rule and reckless action from taking effect."

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

"We need to challenge this action to avoid a bigger problem for our economy at a time when our state is already hurting from COVID-19. Some flood control, stormwater erosion, transportation, and other important projects may not be able to move forward because the new rule takes away the permitting path needed to ensure environmental protection and project development. That's a problem that we need to fix," said John Putnam, Environmental Programs Director, Colorado department of public health and Environment.

The new 2020 rule does not include

many ephemeral streams or wetlands without a surface connection. The lawsuit states that the new, narrower definition of the types of water protected under the Clean Water Act eliminates federal jurisdiction over a significant number of Colorado's tributaries, adjacent waters, and wetlands that affect downstream waters, without providing any rational basis for the rule. This leaves Colorado's snowmelt streams and wetlands vulnerable to pollution, which would negatively impact our state's agriculture and outdoor recreation economy.

Through the lawsuit, Colorado is asking the court to maintain the definition in place since the 1980s and to stop the new, unlawful rule from going into effect. In so doing, Colorado is following up on its comment to the agencies, which praised earlier 2008 guidance as legally sound and grounded in science. Maintaining the status quo will also protect important agriculture exemptions, respect state authority to administer water rights, and provide the appropriate level of federal partnership.

## CENTER

Continued from Page 1A

virus. Town officials complained that they are having difficulty in enforcing the quarantine for those who have tested positive for COVID-19.

To help increase awareness, the town will have banners made to put in high-traffic areas of the community and CDOT side-of-road alert signs will be placed on Highways 285 and 112 entering into the town to warn visitors of the outbreak.

Chief of Police Dale Meek and the Center fire chief will team up to have an officer and firefighter drive around and deliver a brief message to community residents over the public address system. Officials also are looking at possible public service

announcements on the radio to inform people COVID-19 has infected the area, and to take all precautions to protect themselves and their families as well as all members of the community.

### Mask order

Following the sharp rise in Saguache County COVID-19 cases and the death of a Center man from the virus, Center Town Board enacted an emergency order last week requiring all citizens entering any businesses in town to wear protective masks at all times.

Masks also must be worn in other public indoor or outdoor spaces where persons are unable to maintain safe social distancing (six or more

feet separation) from others not living in their own household. Local seamstresses are working to provide masks for Center residents.

All business establishment employees must also wear face coverings during working hours.

The order will remain in place until June 30 unless lifted or extended, Town Administrator Brian Lujan said Wednesday. All those who have tested positive for COVID-19 or any individuals who have been advised by medical personnel to self-quarantine must not leave their homes until cleared by their health care provider.

Center parks also are closed to the public.

## NAIVAR

Continued from Page 2A

Aloma and her husband moved to Los Alamos in 1965 where her first two sons were born. With Aloma's encouragement, the family moved to Austin, Texas where a son and daughter were born and her husband earned a degree. They permanently returned to Los Alamos, NM in 1973. Aloma worked in the Operating Room at Los Alamos Medical Center until 1984 when she went to work at Los Alamos National Laboratory. In 1995 she learned that she had a rare cancer and a 2 percent chance of surviving for six months. Her group collected money to fund a cruise for her and her husband. Instead, she

went to visit Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and UCLA Medical Center for advice on her cancer. She survived for another 25 wonderful memory-making years. Aloma was a devout Catholic who lived her faith. She was also a model of how to be outgoing and welcoming of all people. She will be greatly missed.

She was preceded in death by her parents Alfred H and Anne Eiben, her daughter Julianne, siblings James, Alfred B, Calista and Gilbert.

Aloma is survived by her loving husband of 55 years, Franklin, sons Chris, Mark, Steve and granddaughter Laura.

A Funeral Liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at 10 a.m. from the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. A recording of those services is located in the 'mementos' section on Aloma's memorial webpage. Burial of her precious cremated remains will take place at a later date at Guaje Pines Cemetery, Los Alamos, NM.

You are invited to share your stories, pictures, and condolences with Aloma's family at: www.riverafamilyfuneralhome.com Rivera Family Funerals & Cremations of Los Alamos, 1627 A Central Ave., Los Alamos, NM 87544 (505) 663-6880

## POLIS

Continued from Page 1A

restaurants will be able to open for in-person dining at 50 percent capacity of the indoor posted occupancy code limit, but they cannot exceed 50 people, whichever is less. They are also encouraged to provide as much outdoor services as possible. Bars will remain closed. Establishments that do not serve food will be evaluated in June.

Children's day camps and youth sports camps will open Monday, June 1, 2020. Residential overnight camps will be closed in June. Decisions for July and August overnight camps will be made in mid-June. Children's residential camps that choose to operate as day camps must work with the Colorado Department of Human Services and their local public health agency (LPHA) for approval. Day camps, including mobile, youth sports camps and outdoor camps, must operate with restrictions and strong precautionary measures, as specified in the guidance.

"I know this has been a very different school year than many students were expecting, and thanks to the success of our social distancing efforts so far, Colorado children will be able to enjoy day camps and youth sports camps

this summer in as safe a manner as possible. The risk, though less, is still very real, and it's up to families to make the best decisions that work for them. We also appreciate the critical role that day camps, along with daycare which has already been operating in as safe a manner as reasonably possible, play in supporting working parents," Gov. Polis said.

Effective May 25, 2020, private campsites are open. If a host county would like to keep campsites closed, county commissioners should consult with their local public health agency, and then notify the Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and CDPHE in writing. Campgrounds in the State Park system are already open. "Our outdoors are part of who we are as Coloradans, and our campgrounds provide more people with the opportunity to safely enjoy Colorado's natural beauty at a safe distance from others," said Governor Polis.

Executive Order D2020-049, which closed ski resorts has expired. Ski resorts may work to secure approval from their local authorities in order to open.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Education of the Center Consolidated School Joint District Number 26 for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 and has been filed in the Office of the Superintendent located at 550 South Sylvester Avenue, Center, CO 81125 where it is available for public inspection. This budget is also available on the District's Website at: www.center.k12.co.us within the Financial Transparency module. Such proposed budget will be considered for adoption at a Regular or Special meeting of the Board of Education of said District on or before June 30, 2020.

Any person paying taxes in said District may at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget may file or register his/her objections hereto.

*Kimberlee A. Duran*  
Kimberlee A. Duran, Board Secretary/Treasurer

No. 1562 published in the Center Post-Dispatch, Thursday, May 28, 2020.

### NOTICE OF CANCELLATION AND CERTIFIED STATEMENT OF RESULTS

§1-13.5-513(6), 32-1-104, 1-11-103(3) C.R.S.  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Center Conservation District, Saguache County, Colorado, that at the close of business on the sixty-third day before the election, there were not more candidates for director than offices to be filled, including candidates filing affidavits of intent to be write-in candidates; therefore, the election to be held on May 5, 2020 is hereby canceled pursuant to section 1-13.5-513(6) C.R.S.  
The following candidates are hereby declared elected:

Danny Neufeld	_____	May 2020	until May, 2023
(Name)		(3 year term)	
Brian Neufeld	_____	May 2020	until May, 2023
(Name)		(3 year term)	
<i>(Signature)</i>			
(Signature of the Designated Election Official)			
Nikka Christensen			
(DEC's Printed Name)			
Contact Person for the District:	Nikka Christensen		
Telephone Number of the District:	719754-3400		
Address of the District:	0048 West County Road 10 North		
District Facsimile Number:	N/A		
District Email:	Centercd1@gmail.com		

No. 1561 published in the Center Post-Dispatch, Thursday, May 28, 2020.

# Man injured in accidental shooting

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

Meek described the incident as an accidental shooting that took place at the Tierra Nueva apartment complex. No victim or suspect information will be released at this time as the investigation is ongoing. The incident happened as a subject was putting away his .22 rifle after officers believed he had consumed a few beers. The subject accidentally shot one round off which traveled through the wall and struck the neighbor in the arm. The neighbor was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries but this incident, while serious, could have been much worse.

“I believe in the right to own and possess firearms, but this is an incident that could have been prevented with proper gun safety,” Meek commented. He cautioned the public to never handle firearms



while drinking alcoholic beverages or when intoxicated as this causes errors in judgement and handling of weapons. Someone’s actions handling a weapon while under the influence can be described as reckless conduct and is subject to criminal charges, he cautioned.

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

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

# Hall sentenced for class 4 felony second-degree assault-strangulation

**DEL NORTE** — Ralph Wayne Hall III pleaded guilty to a class 4 felony second-degree assault-strangulation as an act of domestic violence May 20. Second-degree assault involves either serious bodily injury or the use of a deadly weapon.

He was sentenced to a 12 year Department of Corrections sentence which can be suspended upon his successful compliance during his incarceration in community corrections. Hall was sentenced to four years of community corrections and will also have to complete 50 hours of community service.

The sentence included many more conditions including treatment for Hall for domestic violence, mental health care, anger management, EMDR, CPT, MRT or TBI/PTSD.

Hall was arrested in August of 2019. According to a media release by the Monte Vista Police Department, Hall was arrested for domestic



violence, assault (strangulation), obstruction of telephone services, false imprisonment, sexual assault, and attempted first degree murder stemming from an incident at 316 ½ Dennis Street in Monte Vista.

Hall also faces the possible revocation of his felony probation in Arizona.

# LA GARITA

**Continued from Page 1A**

the same view as the geologists in that the energies came from geomagnetic forces. Rather, they believed the good feelings were brought by unknown forces.

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

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

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

Frank White.

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

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

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# Lifestyles

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File photo

## Ski-Hi Stampede canceled for 2020

MONTE VISTA— In a letter emailed to sponsors the evening of Wednesday, May 20, the Ski-Hi Stampede Committee announced that they have canceled the 2020 event due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It is with a heavy heart that we are writing to inform you that we will not have Stampede this year,” wrote committee president Greg Metz. “As you are well aware, COVID-19 has stolen many of our freedoms and the decision to put on Stampede was

never really ours to make. “However, our committee deliberated long and hard and finally conceded to the fact that it can’t happen for 2020. Our hearts ache for all of the people in the rodeo and entertainment industries that are suffering the loss of business. We are also heartbroken in regard to the negative effect to our community.”

Committee member Karla Wilschau said 2021 will be the 99<sup>th</sup> Stampede with 2022 becoming the 100<sup>th</sup>.

## Local Grant provides support to businesses for utility and internet costs

ALAMOSA – Businesses in the San Luis Valley are eligible to receive financial support for utility costs under a new grant program launched by the San Luis Valley Council of Governments. “SLVCOG is grateful to the efforts of Travis Stoker, our VISTA volunteer, in applying and receiving these funds that will be distributed to help offset utility costs of San Luis Valley businesses who’s cash flows have been disrupted by the pandemic,” said Kevin Wilkins, executive director of SLVCOG. “We have observed that utility costs, especially municipal utilities and communication were not being addressed by other programs and that this was a gap the SLVCOG, with support of the Colorado COVID Relief Fund, could try fill to aid in keeping people employed.”

Called the San Luis Valley Business Utility Support Fund, the program will provide direct financial support to businesses to help with their most recent utility expenses. Up to \$500 in combined gas, electric, sewer, water or communication (internet, telephone) cost can be covered by the fund. Businesses may apply online at [www.slvdrg.org](http://www.slvdrg.org). The application is simple, requesting only basic information about the business and a copy of their most recent utility bills.

The San Luis Valley Business Utility Support Fund is made possible by a grant of \$25,000 funding

from the Colorado COVID Relief Fund. The utility support program will accept applications until the fund is spent.

Led by an executive committee in coordination with the Governor’s Office, the Colorado COVID Relief Fund was developed to raise and coordinate allocation of funds based on COVID-19 prevention, impact and recovery needs of

community-based organizations in Colorado. The fund is organized to ensure that the most acute community needs across the state are being addressed and that community voice is reflected in all funding decisions made over time.

For more information about the SLV Business Utility Support Fund, contact Travis Stoker at [tstoker@slvdrg.org](mailto:tstoker@slvdrg.org).



Courtesy photo

## Team roping handicap

The sport (passion, or affliction) of team roping experienced a terrific boom in popularity years ago with the creation of an association called United States Team Roping Championships (USTRC). It established a classification system based on the roper’s skill. It is comparable to the handicapping system used in golf. The result is that ropers are able to compete with others of ‘equal ability’ therefore increasing their chances of winning. As a roper improves, his USTRC number increases.

Classifications begin at #1 which is defined as True Beginner. These ropers have trouble controlling the rope and their horse at the same time. Inexperienced riders with little or no roping experience. And it runs up to #9 which is defined as National Finals Rodeo quality ropers.

I joined USTRC and applied for a number. After reading the classification description, I realized they didn’t go far enough. There are some handicaps, quirks and flaws that deserve



special numbers. I suggested these additions:

- #3/8 – One who can rope the dummy standing on a barrel, behind his back, between his legs, from the front seat and blindfolded, but couldn’t rope a live elk in an eight foot stock tank if his life depended on it.
- #.0025 – Ropers who have been at it several

years yet seem to have no aptitude for the sport. Still don’t grasp basic concepts like nodding for the steer.

#.5 – Those cowboys condemned to always ride green, spooky, maladjusted “in training” horses. Although they might be fairly good ropers, it never shows between the pitching, squeals and cheers from the crowd.

#2 ¾ - Consistently poor ropers but so creative at inventing excuses that they deserve some credit. “Did you see how close that was? I had ‘em both, I saw. Then the loop must have snagged on a gum wrapper and it broke my concentration just as my horse switched leads, and in this humidity...blah...blah...blah...”

#1/4 – Left-handers who rope right-handed. Easily spotted by the slight hesitations, looks of confusion and facial tics.

#1/8 – Left-handers who rope left-handed. Heelers who spend their life trying to get in position.

#4F – Usually mature ropers who suffer rotor cuff injuries, bursitis, tennis elbow, carpal

tunnel syndrome or other maladies that result in unusual roping styles. Such as one swing, wince and toss it like they’re trying to get a booger off their finger.

# 10+ - Poorly dressed cowboys, ridin’ scruffy horses needin’ a mane roachin’ and tail pullin’, carrying a rope that looks like it spent the winter holdin’ down tarps, bummin’ Copenhagen and wanting to sleep in yer trailer, who can use a rope better than most of us can write our name.

*Baxter Black, former large animal veterinarian and irregular commentator on National Public Radio, is America’s best-selling cowboy poet. He is a frequent performer at national stock shows and rodeos as well as in many smaller local events. He is author of several books, including Cactus Tracks, Croutons on a Cow Pie, Hey, Cowboy, Wanna Get Lucky? and Dunny and the Duck. Baxter Black can be contacted via e-mail at: [vikki@baxterblack.com](mailto:vikki@baxterblack.com)*

# Great Sand Dunes to begin phased reopening June 3

MOSCA – Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve will increase recreational access through a phased approach following guidance from the White House, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and state and local public health authorities. A phased approach will allow the park to adhere to all guidance, reduce risks to visitors and staff, and promote safe recreational opportunities. Great Sand Dunes continues to follow the State of Colorado “Safer at Home” guidance and to work with county and local officials as these changes are implemented. Great Sand Dunes is in Alamosa and Saguache counties.

This summer’s operation will look different. The park has implemented many strategies to ensure that visitors can still enjoy the park while also minimizing potential risks.

Beginning June 3, Great Sand Dunes will implement Phase 1 and reopen access to:

- Main park road
- Dunes parking area and dune field
- Medano Pass Primitive Road (if road conditions allow), including established campsites on a first-come, first-served basis

All trails: Mosca Pass, Montville Nature, Sand Sheet Loop, Wellington

Ditch, Dunes Overlook, Sand Ramp, Medano Lake, and Music Pass

All picnic areas: Mosca Creek, Sand Pit, and Castle Creek

Entrance Station, including the collection of fees if authorized

With public health in mind, the following facilities or areas remain closed until further notice:

- Visitor Center
- South Ramada group picnic site in the Mosca Creek Picnic Area
- Pinon Flats Campground

Overnight backcountry access in the National Park, including the dune field and sites along the Sand Ramp Trail

While the visitor center remains closed, park rangers will provide information outside at the visitor center.

Great Sand Dunes plans to reopen the Pinon Flats Campground and begin issuing backcountry permits for both the Park and Preserve in mid-June as part of Phase 2; however, Phase 2 is contingent upon successful implementation of Phase 1, sufficient staff capacity and supplies, and current local and state guidance.

“We are excited to welcome visitors back to the park and support our local communities,” said Park Superintendent Pamela Rice. “As the public returns to the park, we ask that



MedanoCreek

Photo courtesy NPS-PatrickMyers

they practice social distancing and follow national and state guidance to keep park staff, local residents and the general public safe.”

Alamosa County Public Health Director Della Cox-Vieira stated, “I have confidence in the plan for reopening the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. The Park has done a great job balancing the public health needs of

their visitors and staff as they increase public access to the national treasure in our backyard. I remind all visitors to practice social distancing, frequent hand washing, and face covering in the common areas of the Park.”

Upon re-opening, business practices will be put into place to ensure the safety of visitors and staff when interacting at the entrance station,

campground, visitor center and public restroom facilities. When recreating, we encourage the public to follow local area health orders, practice Leave No Trace principles, avoid crowding, practice proper hand washing, avoid high-risk outdoor activities, and wear cloth face masks in crowded areas, especially around the visitor center and restroom facilities.

## Colorado only state in U.S. with updated automatic voter registration system

COLORADO - Colorado’s Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) system, the only one of its kind currently being utilized in the country, is now operational across the state, streamlining the process for eligible Colorado voters to register at Department of Motor Vehicle offices. The new AVR system keeps Colorado on the vanguard of election access while also improving security by keeping voter rolls updated. The new system was passed into law by the Colorado legislature last year as part of a bill sponsored by State Senator Stephen Fenberg (District 18) and State Representative Daneya Esgar (District 46). “Automatic Voter Registration is a keystone of the Democracy Package that I worked with the Colorado legislature to pass last year,” said Secretary of State Jena Griswold. “AVR expands access to our elections and helps maintain up-to-date voter rolls, which is important for a vote-by-mail system like ours.”

“Colorado has a proud tradition of leading the nation in voter access and participation,” said Senate Majority

Leader Fenberg. “Automatic voter registration is yet another way to further strengthen our democracy by removing unnecessary hurdles for citizens casting a vote. I am proud of this momentous achievement and sincerely hope other states follow Colorado’s example and remove oppressive voting barriers that work to silence already marginalized groups of people.”

“Here in Colorado, we’re working to make sure that all of our citizens have access to voting,” said Rep. Esgar. “Automatic voter registration increases participation in our democracy and helps Coloradans vote. I’m proud Colorado continues to lead the country in ballot security and access.”

Under SB19-235, the new system approved by the General Assembly, eligible voters who provide proof of citizenship will automatically be registered to vote any time they apply for or renew their driver’s license. All eligible voters will then be sent a letter informing them they will be registered and offering the option to decline the registration or affiliate with a political party. This process would add only eligible voters

who do not opt out of the registration.

Colorado is currently the only state in the nation with a voter registration system that is truly automatic, in that it does not require eligible voters to indicate that they wish to be registered.

Under the previous system, voters were asked if they wanted to register when they updated their driver’s license. AVR greatly streamlines that interaction with the DMV and reduces the possibility of human error.

AVR not only ensures voter rolls are more accurate, which means voters get their ballots at the correct address and the counties save postage from fewer



ballots mailed to wrong addresses, the rolls are more secure because data are transferred electronically, reducing the potential for human error. Additionally, it provides more convenient options to citizens by reducing the number of

trips to government agencies, particularly for working people with multiple jobs or rural residents who may not live close to government offices.

For more information, please visit [www.sos.state.co.us](http://www.sos.state.co.us).

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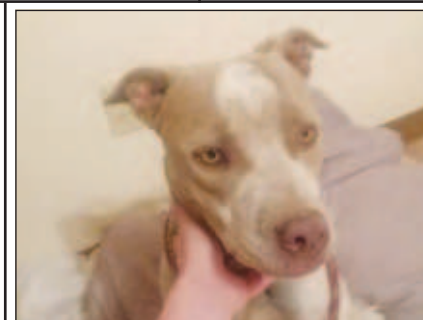
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This is Joey, he is a male pitbull mix around 2 years old. He is friendly with people and has a lot of energy, he would need to be the only dog in the house.



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This is Misty, she is a female pitbull around 2 years old. She is very friendly and sweet with people, she is very playful.

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# Epidemiologist answers COVID-19 questions

By TERESA L. BENNS

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — Former Saguache Public Health Director Ginger Stringer, now working with the state as an epidemiologist studying COVID-19, answered various questions last week regarding the COVID-19 crisis and its outcome.

Since receiving her response to this question, the county has seen an explosion of cases, appearing to come mainly from Center, pushing the number of actual cases 37. According to one unconfirmed report, these numbers could rise given the arrival of seasonal workers in the Center area who must reside in housing units where it is not always possible to observe social distancing or cleanliness guidelines.

The following questions and answers reflect some of the concerns of Valley residents regarding the ongoing pandemic.

**Q1. We have a low case count in Saguache County still and in the Valley overall. Do you believe that is because we really don't have that many cases or is it due to under-reporting and lack of testing?**

**A1.** Until recently, testing capacity statewide was limited as the testing methodologies were validated and testing materials were secured and distributed. When you add to that, given our location, that it's not easy for many Saguache County residents to access care there are likely cases that have not been tested and reported. People who have mild illness or are asymptomatic are less likely to seek care, even when it's readily available. We also know from flu seasons, that southern and western counties of the state tend to peak after the metro Denver area, so it's possible that disease will increase in the valley later than what we see in the metro area.

**Q2. What should Valley counties do to ramp up the testing and who should they test? Just those with symptoms? (Currently the practice at Saguache County Public Health)**

**A2.** CDPHE and the UCC are encouraging all counties to develop and implement plans for community testing. As PCR testing becomes more widely available, we are encouraging anyone with symptoms, even mild symptoms to get tested. In addition,

testing people without symptoms is appropriate for close contacts of cases or for outbreak response to help control transmission.

**Q3. Is it smarter to test and quarantine those who test positive versus quarantining the elderly and at-risk people who are healthy? Or should we do both?**

**A3.** Testing and isolation of people who are ill and quarantining their close contacts are important parts of our strategy for containing the pandemic. Because older people and those with underlying conditions are at higher risk for severe disease, they should continue to practice social distancing, hand hygiene, and other measures to avoid exposure so that they stay healthy.

**Q4. Are there things people should know about this virus that aren't generally known that would help prevent spread/infection?**

**A4.** Since this is a new virus, we are learning more about it every day. In the beginning, for example, we had no idea what a broad spectrum of symptoms the virus can cause or that it could be spread by people with little or no symptoms. One of the things we've updated recently based on new information is the length of time someone should isolate themselves when they are ill. Early on, we recommended isolation for seven (7) days after symptoms start. As we learned more about how long someone can be infectious, that isolation period has been increased to 10 days.

**Q5. Do you believe the Kawasaki-related illness they are now seeing in children is COVID-connected and should the children presenting with these symptoms be tested?**

**A5.** Colorado made providers aware of this potential emerging syndrome on May 5 and requested that they report suspected cases to public health but have not received reports as of yet. We are not aware of the exact number of cases nationally and would recommend reporters contact Children's Hospital Colorado for more information.

**Q6. How can anyone be certain about cause of death reports, especially among the elderly, when there can be no autopsies? Aren't they just**

*shooting in the dark here?*

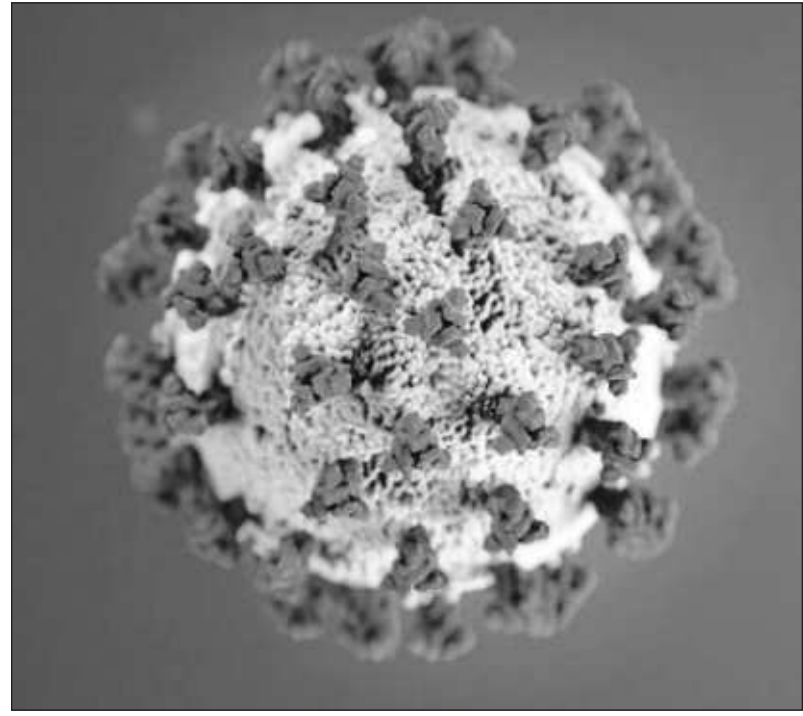
**A6.** Neither a positive test nor an autopsy is necessary for COVID-19 to be listed on a death certificate. We ask the medical certifier — either a physician or coroner — to follow the CDC's Guidance for Certifying Deaths Due to Coronavirus Disease 2019. This guidance instructs certifiers to "use their best clinical judgment in determining if a COVID-19 infection was likely" when test results are not available. That clinical judgment would mainly involve looking at the person's symptoms and any close contact with someone who did have a positive test for COVID-19.

**Q7. Without autopsies, how can we know the various at-risk categories these people are classified in (diabetic/obese, heart, lung, kidney disease, chemo patient, AIDs/HIV, those involved in substance abuse, etc.) Wouldn't this be important for future projections?**

**A7.** Autopsies generally are not performed to learn a patient's medical history — providers usually have this information already. We are working on two projects that will hopefully give us a better understanding of this soon — a CDC project and a review COVID-19 patients' hospital charts that will give us a better understanding of relationships between preexisting conditions and COVID-19 in Colorado.

**Q8. Does susceptibility seem to have any indicators other than the above in Q. 7? (Some reports indicate Native Americans, Afro-Americans are more susceptible.)**

**A8.** People of color are disproportionately likely to be exposed to the virus in low-paying "essential"



jobs; are more likely to have limited access to affordable healthcare, childcare, and transportation; are more likely to live in neighborhoods with high air pollution rates; and are more likely to face unsanitary conditions in prisons, jails, and detention centers. Due to these types of inequities, people of color face chronic disease health disparities, leaving them with a higher risk of dying due to COVID-19.

**Q9. What additional measures could be taken in nursing homes to prevent infection and spread of the virus?**

**A9.** The Colorado Unified Command Center (UCC) has launched a Residential Care Task Force to reduce the spread of illness and number of deaths in these settings. The COVID-19 Residential Care Task Force has already completed

or begun implementing a number of actions to immediately mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 illness in all high-density environments serving older adults and people with disabilities. These actions focus on five main areas: testing, enforcement and education, increased access to personal protective equipment, isolation plans, and staffing improvements.

**Q10. Do you believe there will be a resurgence of the virus in the fall?**

**A10.** It is hard to predict what the future transmission of this virus looks like. Until we have a widely available vaccine, we anticipate that this virus will be with us for a while. Since the pandemic began as we were beginning to see a decrease in influenza this spring, it's hard to anticipate what infection rates will look like in the fall when both viruses are circulating.

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

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

**The Saguache County Land Use Office is accepting applications for a full time Saguache County Code Enforcement Officer.** Applicants must have a valid Colorado Divers License, must pass a criminal background check as well as a pre-employment drug test. Applications will be accepted through June 5, 2020 or until filled. Applications and job descriptions may be found on [www.saguachecounty.net](http://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](http://www.saguachecounty.net). Applications will be accepted through June 5, 2020 or until filled. Applications may be found on [www.saguachecounty.net](http://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)

**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@tricontyseniors.com](mailto:mary@tricontyseniors.com). (5/27)

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

**Del Norte High School is seeking a qualified Boys' Basketball Head Coach for next season.** If interested, please email Richie Madrid, Del

Norte High School Athletic Director at [rmadrid@urtigers.co](mailto:rmadrid@urtigers.co) or call him at 719-850-3623.(6-9)

**Grande Meats seeks a FT/PT, Customer Service Associate Must have strong telephone skills, and knowledgeable in computers.** We use UPSWorldShip, QuickBooks and Microsoft programs. Bilingual is a plus. Will do invoicing, customer service, retail clerking, inventory control, and other duties. Must work weekends on rotating schedule 10-hour 4 day/week schedule. Salary commensurate with skills. Send detailed resume with compensation history to Personnel Dept, Box 10, Del Norte. CO 81132 (5/27)

**Grande Meats seeks FT shipping clerk. Computer and telephone skills a plus, bilingual a**

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

**10 Apartments for Rent Del Norte furnished one bedroom one bath.** Very nice, adults only, non-smokers, no pets. Utilities and dish included. \$650/month, \$650 deposit. (719)850-2738.(05/20)

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

**15,500 Square Ft 4-bedroom, 2-full-bath Large Deck with 8ft Walls. Twin Peaks Back Yard. Matching Barn 3-acres NW of Del Norte 13 Miles off of County Road 15 Will Sell Turnkey 8,400 elevation 360 Degree Mtn Views.** 719-298-0779. Call No Later than 4:00PM. 150K (6/3)

**Saguache County; Ranch; 88.25 acres in two parcels,** fenced and cross fenced. 3 artesian adjudicated wells. 1,624 sq ft. modular, hot tub room, 600 sq ft attached carport. New insulated shop with concrete floor. Heated hobby building and study building. New tractor shed. Two sets of corrals. \$595,000. (719)256-4789 evenings (05/27)

**PERFECT SMALL FARM: 59 acres with center pivot, new**

Looking for Something

# UNIQUE?

Keep an eye on the Classifieds.

Every week, browse a fresh selection of items for sale locally, from classic cars to estate jewelry, vintage furniture, antiques, collectibles and the latest garage sale listings.

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**WANTED**

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 Free, no-risk, cash offer. Contact us with the details:  
 Call: 720-988-5617  
 Write: Minerals, PO BOX 3668, Littleton, CO 80161  
 Email: [opportunity@ccmresourcesinc.com](mailto:opportunity@ccmresourcesinc.com)

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**COLORADO PRESS ASSOCIATION NETWORK**

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

# Valley Wide

# Classifieds

**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. (05/27)

**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 (06/09)

**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 (05/27)

**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. (06/09)

**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. (05/27 TFN)

**Saguache County; Ranch; 88.25 acres in two parcels, fenced and cross fenced. 3 artesian adjudicated wells. 1,624 sq. ft. modular, hot tub room, 600 sq. ft attached carport. New insulated shop with concrete floor. Heated hobby building and study building. New tractor shed. Two sets of corrals. \$595,000. (719)256-4789 evenings (05/27)**

**23 Lawn and Garden Sprinkler repair.** Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (05/31 TFN)

**24 Garage Sales Yard Sale! May 28, 29, & 30th 5967 County Road 12 South Alamosa, CO. (5/27)**

**36 Miscellaneous Wanted: Metal Staircase 20ft or longer and Polycarbonate Greenhouse Panels Call 719-937-7935. (6-3)**

**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. **Healdworks, Inc. - Your Total Storage Solution!** 719-850-0346 (05/27 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) (05/20)

**39 Sporting Goods Packing and Outfitting Guide business with 4 permits: Miners Creek in Creede, La Garita Mountains, Pinos Creek and San Francisco Creek in Rio Grande County with all inventory.** Very Profitable business. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc 719-873-1700 (5/13)

**Cannondale Mountain Bike - Cannondale Rush 29 1 Mountain Bike.** Like new. Black, ridden less than 50 miles. 23" large frame. \$1,125. 208-309-2122 (TFN)

**42 Feed & Seed Monida Oats \$15 per hundred,** cleaned, from certified seed. (719)580-2509 (05/27)

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

**Premium alfalfa and alfalfa/grass, small bales, in shed \$7 (719)580-2509. (05/27)**

**ALFALFA -GRASS HORSE HAY:** Green 3x3x8 bales, ~800#, \$190/ton or \$85 per bale OBO, outside stacks, 719-657-0942 (6/3)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 PJ Trailer 6'x12' 7000# Axles 4'Sides Dump 719-580-2696.** Good Condition. (6-3)

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

**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 (10/30)

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

**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 (5/27)

**Rocky Mtn High Enterprises In Creede, Over 35 Years of Painting Experience Interior and Exterior Satisfaction Guaranteed,** References Available Call Herb At 719-588-1731. (5/20)

**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. (05/31 TFN)

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



**ATTENTION ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS**

## Lunches will be served May 25th to 29th

Buses will deliver on the same routes.  
Pickup available at the Boys and Girls Club of the SLV.

These lunches will be provided through a partnership with:




Alamosa VOICES

## Save Now On Home Security

Monitored by ADT® the #1 home security company in the U.S.



**ADT® 24/7 Monitored Home Security**

- 24/7 monitoring provides peace of mind
- Yard sign and window decals help deter crime
- Quickly connect to emergency response
- May qualify for a homeowners insurance discount

**GREAT LOW PRICE**

**MONITORING \$27<sup>99</sup> PER MONTH**

**FREE SECURITY SYSTEM**  
New customers only. Early termination fee applies. Installation starts at \$99 with 36 monitoring agreement. See all offer details below.

**FREE VISA® GIFT CARD**  
From Protect Your Home —\$100 Value

**FREE WIRELESS REMOTE CONTROL**  
—\$139 Value

**FREE 7 WIRELESS DOOR/WINDOW SENSORS** —\$695 VALUE!

**FREE OUTDOOR CAMERA**  
When you upgrade to ADT Pulse® + Video —\$299 VALUE!

See all offer details below.

### LIMITED TIME OFFER—CALL TODAY!

# 1-719-628-5729

Ask about same-day installation! Reply By July 18, 2020



Authorized Premier Provider



**Protect Your Home**

GIFT CARD: \$100 Visa Gift Card fulfilled by Protect Your Home through third-party provider, Mpell, upon installation of a security system and execution of monitoring contract. \$4.95 shipping and handling fee, gift cards can take up to 8 weeks to arrive after following the Mpell redemption process. **BASIC SYSTEM:** \$99 Installation. 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$1,007.64). 24-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$671.76) for California. Offer applies to homeowners only. Basic system requires landline phone. Offer valid for new ADT Authorized Premier Provider customers only and not on purchases from ADT LLC. Cannot be combined with any other offer. The \$27.99 Offer does not include Quality Service Plan (QSP), ADT's Extended Limited Warranty, ADT Pulse: ADT Pulse Interactive Solutions Services ("ADT Pulse"), which help you manage your home environment and family lifestyle, require the purchase and/or activation of an ADT alarm system with monitored burglary service and a compatible computer, cell phone or PDA with Internet and email access. These ADT Pulse services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Pulse equipment. All ADT Pulse services are not available with the various levels of ADT Pulse. All ADT Pulse services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the ADT Pulse features you desire. **ADT PULSE + VIDEO:** ADT Pulse + Video installation is an additional \$299. 36-month monitoring contract required from ADT Pulse + Video: \$59.99 per month, (\$2,159.64), including Quality Service Plan (QSP). Doorbell camera may not be available in all areas. **GENERAL:** For all offers, the form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account, satisfactory credit history is required and termination fee applies. Certain packages require approved landline phone. Local permit fees may be required. Certain restrictions may apply. Additional monitoring fees required for some services. For example, Burglary, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert monitoring requires purchase and/or activation of an ADT security system with monitored Burglary, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert devices and are an additional charge. Additional equipment may be purchased for an additional charge. Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. Prices subject to change. Prices may vary by market. Some insurance companies offer discounts on Homeowner's Insurance. Please consult your insurance company. Photos are for illustrative purposes only and may not reflect the exact product/service actually provided. **Licenses:** AL-21-001104, AR-CMPY.0001725 AZ-ROC217517, CA-AC06320, CT-ELC.0193944-L5, DC-EMS902653, DC-602516000016, DE-07-212, FL-EC13003427, EC13003401, GA-LVA205395, IA-AS-0206, ID-ELE-SJ-39131, IL-127.001042, IN-C.P.D. Reg. No. - 19-08088, City of Indianapolis: LAC-000156, KY-City of Louisville: 483, LA-F1914, LA-F1915, LA-F1082, MA-1355C, MD-107-1626, ME-LMS0017382, MI-3601205773, MN-TS01807, MO-City of St. Louis: CC#354, St. Louis County: 100194, MS-15007958, MT-PSP-ELS-LIC-247, NC-25310-SP-FA/LV, NC-1622-CSA, NE-14451, NJ Burglar Alarm Lic. # -NJ-34BF00021800, NM-353366, NV-0068518, City of Las Vegas: 3000008296, NY-Licensed by the N.Y.S. Department of State UID#12000317691, NYS #12000286451, OH-53891446, City of Cincinnati: AC86, OK-AC1048, OR-170997, Pennsylvania Home Improvement Contractor Registration Number: PA022999, RI-3582, RI-7508, SC-BA5630, SD- 1025-7001-ET, TN-1520, TX-B13734, ACR-3492, UT-6422596-6501, VA-115120, VT-ES-2382(7C), WA-602588694/ECPROTEYH934RS, WI-City of Milwaukee: PAS-0002966, WV-WV042433, WY-LV-G-21499, 3750 Priority Way South Dr. Indianapolis, IN 46240 ©2017 DEFENDERS, Inc. dba Protect Your Home

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# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

## SELLER FINANCING AVAILABLE

**PRICE REDUCED**

**ON TOP OF THE WORLD!**  
If you are looking for views- look no further. This stunning 14.64 acres borders National Forest on 2 sides and is in a gated community with a fulltime ranch manager. This community boasts a stocked fishing pond with a huge pavilion and warming hut. Just 17 miles from world class skiing at Wolf Creek, Just minutes from gold medal fishing in the Rio Grande River and just minutes from Championship Golf at the Rio Grande Club. It's time to build your dream home in Colorado's best kept secret. MLS#761164 **PRICE REDUCED \$99,000**



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

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



**Legends Premier Properties**  
Klay Gosar, Broker 810 First Ave. • Monte Vista  
480-789-3159 (cell) • 719-852-0450 www.legendspremierproperties.com

**Beautiful Home on 35 Acres SW of Monte Vista!**



4 bedroom • 3 bath • 2,492 sq. ft. • **\$385,000**  
Remodeled-built spacious home ready for your family!  
Enjoy 360 degree mountain views on an 1,800 sq. ft. deck  
3-car garage and many more amenities!  
515 Mountain View Blvd. • Monte Vista  
MLS# 766729  
Porter Realty, 503 Main St. Alamosa  
(719)589-5897 • mp@porterrealty.com

## SELLER FINANCING AVAILABLE

**PRICE REDUCED \$27,500**

Beautiful lot on the golf course in South fork. Just minutes from Gold medal fishing and World class skiing. Priced to move! Call today.



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

**THIS BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO** near the Rio Grande National Forest. The property has a large creek running through it. This property offers a mountain rich and abundant with wildlife like elk, deer, grouse, and even an occasion bear. The creek is plentiful with trout and browns, virtually a park for the family. The nearby area has easy access to hiking, atvs, mountain bike trails, hunting and world class rock climbing. The property is 45 minutes from Wolf Creek Ski area. The house is very inviting and will call you back often! Coffee house style kitchen with custom Alder kitchen cabinets and stainless steel sink and dishwasher. Large master bedroom with amazing view from your bed! The other bedroom is large and has its own bathroom which is perfect for guests. The dining room is very spacious with a warm and communal feel - great for sharing meals. There is sun room with huge windows and a wood stove. The main bathroom is tiled with Italian stone and double headed walk in shower. There is nothing to be done to this property. Everything down to the baseboards and paint in like new, including windows, flooring, and lights. Everything was designed to be low maintenance. This property is like new condition and a very rare find! Don't pass this opportunity up! \$599,000 Call Klay Gosar, 480-789-3159 MLS #766342



**Legends Premier Properties**  
Klay Gosar, Broker 810 First Ave. • Monte Vista  
480-789-3159 (cell) • 719-852-0450 www.legendspremierproperties.com

**Fantastic Home on 40 Acres with Water!**



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

## PRICE REDUCTION

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



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

**Prime Commercial Location!** Many options for this 2.7 Acre Property! Formerly the Frontier Pawn Shop. There is a retail shop space that is 7000 sq.ft. with 3000 sq.ft. storage, and additional 6237 sq.ft. metal building out back. Additional office space 2000 sq.ft. with 4 rooms and 1.5 baths and storage that could be another business location. Upstairs is a over sized apartment 3000 sq.ft. 4 bedroom 2 bath. This property is zoned commercial and situated on a High Traffic US Highway 160 3/4 Miles West of Growing Alamosa! Don't pass up this opportunity! Additional Commercial acreage available, 18.81 acres for \$250,000 can be included. **\$650,000** Call Tracy Gosar, 850-1815 MLS #758895



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

**Secluded Cabin Getaway!**



2 bedroom • 1 bath • 720 sq. ft. • **\$179,000**  
This cabin has new a new roof, new plumbing, electrical and more, plus a full acre of property for privacy, only yards away from world class fly-fishing on the Conejos River. Two enclosed porches for relaxing with your family and taking in the sunshine!  
MLS# 769112  
Porter Realty, 503 Main St. Alamosa  
(719)589-5897 • mp@porterrealty.com

**List your home or land before the selling season is behind you!**



Want to know what your property might sell for?  
**Call for your free market analysis!**  
**Call Kazie at 719-850-2827**



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

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY JUST WEST OF ALAMOSA!** This 18+ Acre Parcel is a great opportunity to own commercial property with plenty of different options! Great for a business, storage units, RV storage spaces, Etc. With high visibility and traffic on US Highway 160, just West of Alamosa! It lies along the north side of US 160. This location has power and natural gas. **\$250,000** Call Tracy Gosar, 850-1815 MLS #767205



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

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



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

**Opportunity is here with this great established business!**



**Noah's Arff Dog Boarding and Cattery!**  
This successful business is conveniently located between Monte Vista and Alamosa, on County Rd 3 East. 40 acres total, and a 2450 sq ft metal shop building. In the building is the kennel area for the dogs, the cattery room, grooming room, and offices. Established clientele, and almost everything included with this turnkey business! You don't want to pass up this deal! Call Today!! **\$339,000** Call Tracy Gosar, 850-1815 MLS #767530



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

## Saguache County

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

Single Family	April			Year to Date		
	2019	2020	Percent Change from Previous Year	Thru 04-2019	Thru 04-2020	Percent Change from Previous Year
<b>Key Metrics</b>						
New Listings	19	12	- 36.8%	50	41	- 18.0%
Sold Listings	8	7	- 12.5%	28	31	+ 10.7%
Median Sales Price*	\$165,000	\$196,000	+ 18.8%	\$176,750	\$217,000	+ 22.8%
Average Sales Price*	\$167,688	\$195,414	+ 16.5%	\$190,812	\$233,400	+ 22.3%
Percent of List Price Received*	96.9%	97.9%	+ 1.0%	95.3%	96.3%	+ 1.0%
Days on Market Until Sale	48	153	+ 218.8%	107	175	+ 63.6%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	78	60	- 23.1%	--	--	--
Months Supply of Inventory	10.2	7.6	- 25.5%	--	--	--

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

**Contact Chelsea or Trey for advertising information today!**  
**719-852-3531 or MonteVistaAds@gmail.com**

# Mining Museum construction nears end

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

**CREEDE-** The Creede Underground Mining Museum has been under construction for the last several weeks and the new awning and entrance is almost complete, which is just in time for the busy summer season. The entrance to the museum was in disrepair for some time and thanks to the help of county and grant funding, the project was finally able to get off the ground.

The Creede Underground Mining Museum has been part of Creede's history since 1990 and has since played an integral part of the community, not only as the town's Mining Museum, but as the underground community center as well.

According to the museum's history, "Creede, as it is today, evolved from a history rich in mining and scenic surroundings. Silver was discovered here in 1889. Mining was the area's main industry through the years until 1985, when the Homestake Mining Company closed down the Bulldog Mine. The concept for an underground mine began with Bob Louth in 1976, when he proposed building an underground fire station. This project was so well accepted that in 1990 local citizens decided to build a Mining Museum and Com-

munity Center. Three Creede miners began breaking rock in November 1990. By 1992, the mining portion of the Museum was completed and most of the displays were in place. While the Museum and Community Center have never been used for the commercial production of silver, the spaces were 'mined' from solid rock and are an authentic example of the methods and techniques used in the 'boom' days of the silver rush in Creede, Colorado."

Museum Manager Wendy Leggitt stated that the outside re-build is funded by grants, Mineral County, Mining Museum and generous donations. "We would like to give a big shoutout thank you to all the people who donated. MES Mining, for the work they completed and to Mineral County Road and Bridge for all their in-kind help. We are open now and have safety protocol in place. Masks or face coverings are required, social distancing and hand sanitizer is available."

The project is being redone in phases. The first phase was the new entrance into the gift shop. Phase two was the removal of the roof and cribbing and put up the wire and rock bolts to secure the rock. Phase three will be the rebuild of the awning



which will take place in September. "Our hope is to have it all completed by the end of September."

The project was started because the cribbing outside the gift shop

collapsed. The remainder of the support cribbing was removed because it was beginning to collapse. So for safety reasons it had to come down. The outside of the building

will be a refreshing sight when finished as the museum is a huge part of the historical significance that makes Creede such a special place to visit.

## Creede Farmers Market announces schedule

**CREEDE-** The Creede Farmer's and Artisan Market is looking forward to its fifth season. Every Friday in downtown Creede, right near the post office and San Juan Sports, you can find a variety of local vendors offering a myriad of amazing creations.

Creede Farmers Market 2020 Season Calendar:

- May 22, 29
- June 5, 12, 19, 26
- July 3, 5 (SUN), 10, 17, 24, 31
- Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28
- Sept. 4, 11, 18

Come out to join us Friday's, and one Sunday in July, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. for the burgeoning farmers and local artisan market. Also if you create, make or grow something booth space is available for a day or for the season.

The Creede Farmers Market

can be found on Facebook (please search for CreedeFarmersMarket) or also on their website: <http://www.creedefarmersmarket.com/>.

They can be reached at [creedefarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:creedefarmersmarket@gmail.com)

Right now, the Creede Farmer's and Artisan Market is taking orders for summer CSA baskets. 13 weeks of fresh vegetables starting in mid-June. A surprise gift is included with each weekly box. See their website or Facebook page for complete details.

The Creede Farmers Market wants the San Luis Valley to know that they are always looking for more vendors as well. Booth space is very reasonable. Please contact them for further details.

And last but not least... Enjoy your summer in 2020!



## Creede Elks Lodge award scholarships to students

The Creede Elks Lodge #506 Scholarship Chairman, Henry Hosselkus reported that we have awarded six onetime Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00.

The following seniors will receive the Scholarship: Nava Thompson, Grace Whitehorn, Kala White, Avery Jo Wetherill, Michael Fillippi and Sadi Allen. Congratulation to all Senior's!

We usually present the Scholarship at Graduation, but as we all know this is a different time. The seniors can contact Henry Hosselkus at 719-658-2322 or email [hhosselkus@centurylink.net](mailto:hhosselkus@centurylink.net) when they enroll in college.



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# SUDOKU

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

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Level: Advanced

### Here's How It Works:

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

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

### Solution to last week's puzzle

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2020

# Kids Kreate an Ad



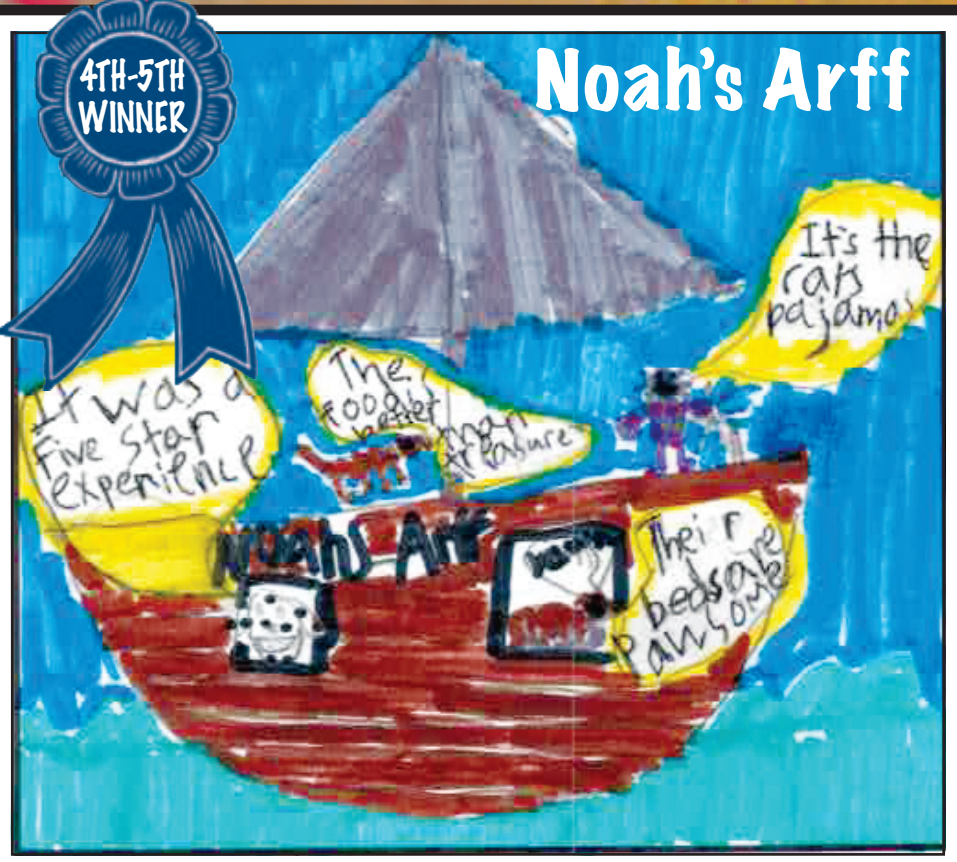
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852-3531



Vanessa Blocker - Moffat



Maiya Lyn Dolecki, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Bill Metz Elementary



Parker Mitchell, 4<sup>th</sup> - Sargent Elementary



Garrett Mason, 4<sup>th</sup> - Sargent Elementary



# Alamosa Fireworks Show canceled

ALAMOSA - SLV Federal Bank CEO Duane Bussey announced the bank will not be sponsoring the July 4 fireworks show in Alamosa this summer.

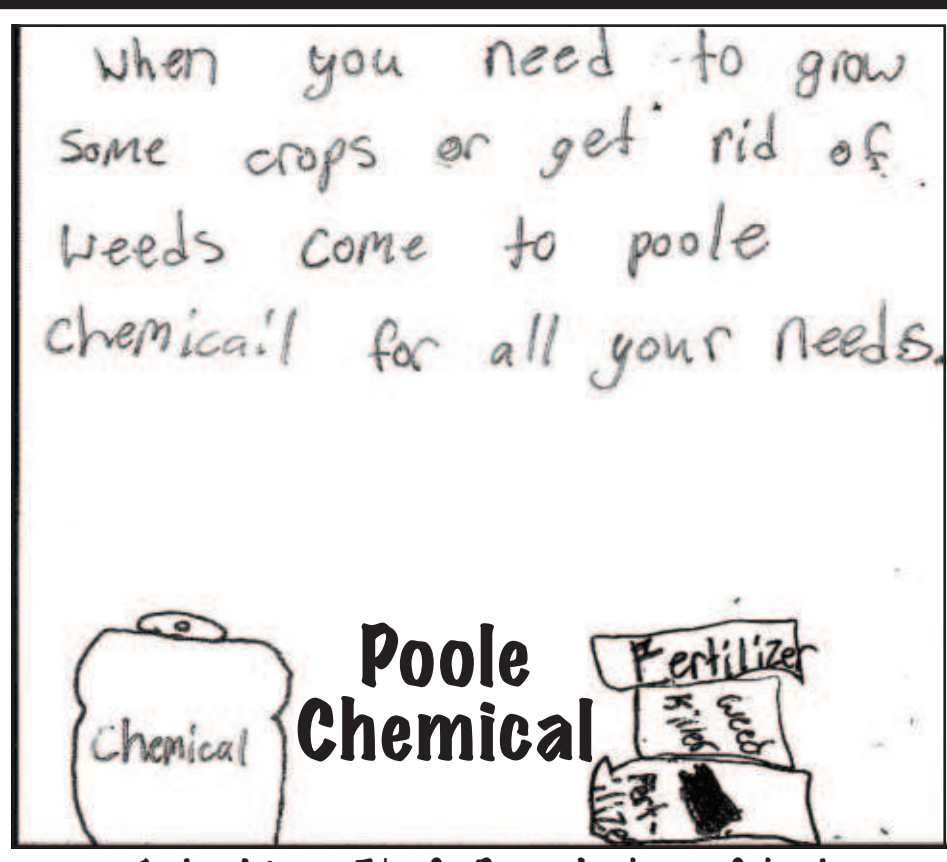
"We are very disappointed we will not be able to bring this enjoyable holiday event to our community in 2020, said Bussey. We discussed the matter with the City of Alamosa staff and considered the State's coronavirus guidelines for public events, as well as the current fire restrictions, and decided there were too many unknowns to be able to deliver a safe and enjoyable show. We've appreciated the partnership we've had with the City of Alamosa over the last 23 years in sponsoring the show. We're thankful for the dedicated work of our fireworks shoot team in making it happen. While there is still a chance we could have the shoot later in the year, realistically, we're focused on 2021 and putting on a great show next year."



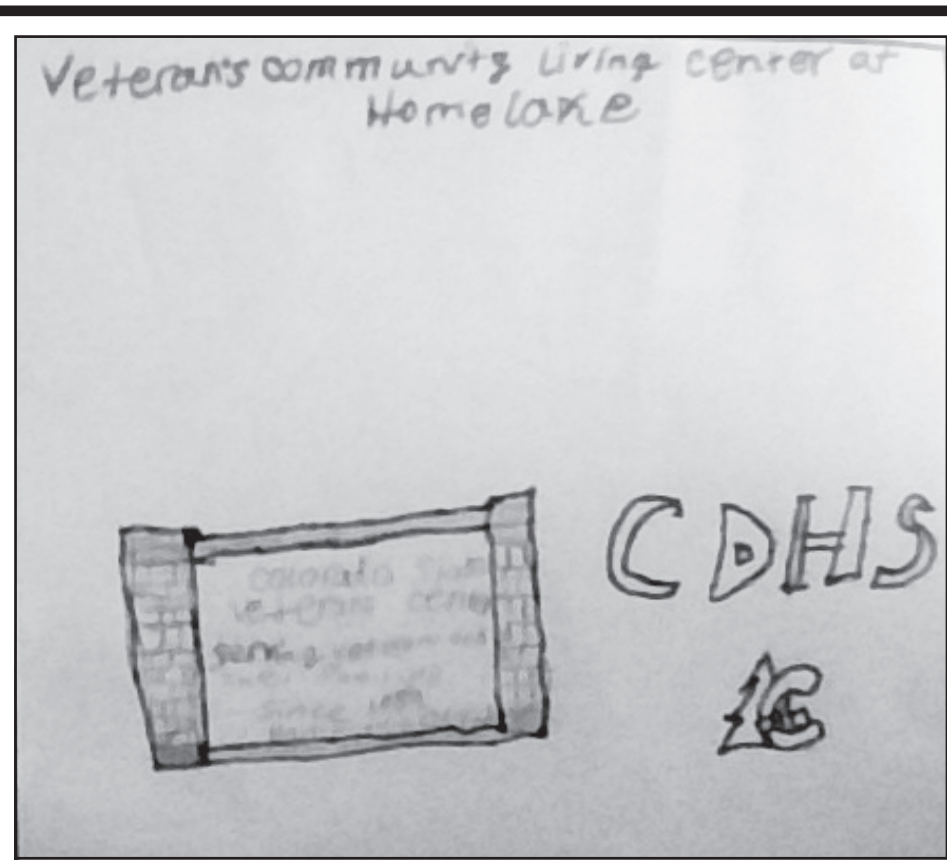
# 2020 Kids Kreate an Ad



Birdee Temple, 4<sup>th</sup> - Sargent Elementary



Taylor Adams, 5<sup>th</sup> - St. Peters Lutheran School



Kaylee Voss, 4<sup>th</sup> - Sargent Elementary



Paisley Vandiver, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Sargent Elementary

# RGNF issues Stage 2 fire restrictions

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** - The Rio Grande National Forest began initiating Stage 2 fire restrictions May 20. The low snowpack and warm temperatures have created unusually dry conditions for this time of year within the San Luis Valley.

**Stage 2 fire restrictions prohibit:**

1. Igniting, building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, including fires in developed recreation sites (campgrounds and picnic areas), charcoal grills and barbecues, coal and wood burning stoves, and sheepherder's stoves.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, trailer or building.
3. Blasting, welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame.
4. Operating or using any internal combustion engine without an effective and properly installed USDA- or Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE)- approved spark arrestor.
5. Operating a chain saw without an effective and properly installed USDA- or SAE- approved spark arrestor, a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher (with a minimum of 8 oz. capacity and rating of 2A) kept with the operator and a round point shovel with an overall length of at least 35 inches readily available for use.
6. Using an explosive. This includes but is not limited to fuses, blasting caps, fireworks, rockets, exploding targets, tracers and incendiary ammunition.



7. Possessing or using a motor vehicle off established roads, motorized trails or established parking areas, except when parking in an area

devoid of vegetation within 10 feet of the vehicle. As a reminder, the use of explosives and incendiary devices,

including fireworks, are prohibited year-round on all federal lands. For more information, contact the Rio Grande National Forest at (719)

480-3364. Please also follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/USFSRGNF](http://www.facebook.com/USFSRGNF) and Twitter [twitter.com/RioGrandeUSFS](https://twitter.com/RioGrandeUSFS).

# Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease in Costilla County

**COSTILLA COUNTY** - Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Serotype 2 is a highly contagious and fatal disease of domestic rabbits and wild rabbits. This is a foreign animal disease (FAD) and is of high concern at the state and federal levels. The recent involvement of wild cottontails and hares is of particular concern. Cases of RHD virus have been found in cottontails and hares in Costilla County.

infected rabbits, their meat or their fur, or materials coming in contact with them. Scavengers and birds may play an important role in indirect transmission of the RHD virus. **Prevention:** A vaccine for RHDV2 is not currently available in Colorado. Rabbit owners should practice good biosecurity measures to protect their animals from this

disease, such as washing your hands before and after working with rabbits and not sharing equipment with other owners. Rabbit owners should also avoid contact with wild or feral rabbits. RHDV2 is not infectious to people or domestic animals other than rabbits. However, multiple dead or sick rabbits can also be a sign of tularemia or plague, diseases that can cause serious illness in

people. Do not handle or consume sick or dead wildlife, and do not allow pets to contact or consume wildlife carcasses. **Reporting of rabbit illnesses or deaths:** **Owners:** Rabbit owners who have questions about the disease should contact their veterinarian. **Domestic:** Veterinarians and

owners must report suspected RHDV2 cases in domestic rabbits to the State Veterinarian's Office at 303-869-9130. Disease investigations will be completed by a Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician. **Wildlife:** To report suspect cases (sick or dead wild rabbits, hares or pika), contact your local Colorado Parks and Wildlife office.

**Clinical signs:** Often the only signs of the disease are sudden death and possibly blood stained noses caused by internal bleeding. Infected rabbits may also develop a fever, be hesitant to eat, or show respiratory or nervous signs. Many of the rabbits confirmed with RHDV2 recently in Arizona and New Mexico have shown no clinical signs or gross pathology other than sudden death.

**Transmission:** RHDV2 can be spread through contact with



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# Rio Grande Hospital Recognized in Top 20 Critical Access Hospitals in the Nation

**DEL NORTE** - The Top 20 Critical Access Hospitals, including Rio Grande Hospital (RGH), scored best among critical access hospitals as determined by The Chartis Center for Rural Health CCRH for overall performance and quality. The rankings were recently announced by the National Rural Health Association (NRHA). NRHA is a nonprofit organization working to improve the health and well-being of rural Americans and providing leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education and research. NRHA membership is made up of 21,000 diverse individuals and organizations, all of whom share the common bond of an interest in rural health. Forty "best practice" designations were also given to facilities that have achieved success in one of two key areas of performance, based on Index results: 1.) quality: a rating of hospital performance based on the percentile rank across rural-relevant process of care measures, and 2.) patient perspective: a rating of hospital performance based on the percentile rank across all 10 HCAHPS domains. "NRHA is committed to ensuring our members have the best information to manage their hospitals," says Brock Slabach, NRHA membership services senior vice president. "We're pleased to recognize the accomplishments of these rural hospitals."

To receive the honor of one of the top 20 Critical Access Hospital (CAH), you needed to achieve success in overall performance. In the



United States, there are more than 1,300 CAHs, with 32 in Colorado. Rio Grande Hospital (RGH) was the only hospital in Colorado to receive

such a high honor.

"We are often told that we are like family; we strive to deliver quality care and services to our community –

that's our mission! They can depend on us." said Eve Timberlake, Development & Communications Officer at RGH, "This honor a testament to

that. We are proud of our physicians, providers, staff, and board for consistently helping us to achieve such accolades."

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# Fishers Peak to become state's 42nd state park

**TRINIDAD** – More than a year after entering a partnership to acquire a 19,200-acre ranch that includes the towering landmark known as Fishers Peak, Colorado Parks and Wildlife has completed the purchase, clearing the way for creation of the state's 42nd state park.

The acquisition is especially significant as Coloradans prepare to celebrate Colorado Public Lands Day Saturday, May 16.

"The state's acquisition of Fishers Peak is an exciting milestone for Colorado outdoor recreationists, wildlife watchers, hunters and residents and businesses of Southern Colorado," Governor Jared Polis said. "The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that Coloradans highly value their open spaces and outdoor recreation opportunities. Colorado was one of the few states to keep our state parks open during this entire crisis because recreating at a safe space outdoors is a healthy part of our lifestyles. Adding Fishers Peak as our next state park will increase opportunities to explore a unique and stunning part of Colorado."

"I look forward to celebrating Colorado Public Lands Day this weekend and, in the months to come, opening Fishers Peak to the public with our important partners and local elected officials."

In February 2019, CPW partnered with the City of Trinidad, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) to purchase the mostly undeveloped property, prized for its variety of habitat, wildlife and the linkage it provides between grasslands to the east with foothills and mountains to the west.

The property includes the 9,633-foot summit of Fishers Peak, an iconic outcropping of ancient horizontal lava flows atop Raton Mesa, which has served as a landmark for Native Americans, a beacon for pioneers moving west and a waypoint along the historic Santa Fe Trail connecting the Eastern U.S. to New Mexico and the Southwest.

The Fishers Peak property also is valued for the wildlife it shelters, including native species like elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, mountain lion and black bear. And it preserves important migration corridors between their populations in the mountains and those on the prairies.

On April 2, the partners signed over ownership of the property to CPW. With the deed in hand, CPW leadership and the partners immediately ramped up master-planning efforts to create a new state park that will protect the natural treasures and wildlife found there while welcoming visitors, including hunters, campers, hikers, mountain bikers, wildlife watchers, rock climbers and other outdoor enthusiasts.

"We are grateful to our partners for all their work securing the property for future generations of Coloradans and visitors," said Brett Ackerman, CPW Southeast Region Manager. "Great teamwork has gotten us to this point. We at CPW look forward to completing the master-planning process and meeting the governor's goal of opening Colorado's next state park."

"We are pleased to finalize this sale of the property to CPW in these trying times," said Carlos Fernandez, Colorado State Director for The Nature Conservancy. "Over the past weeks, it's become even more clear how im-



Photo courtesy of Colorado Parks and Wildlife by Bill Vogrin

## The 9,633-foot summit of Fishers Peak looms over Trinidad.

portant access to nature is to all people, providing solace, hope and community. I'm proud of the Conservancy's efforts with partners to steward this project from the beginning to where we are now, one step closer to Colorado's next state park."

"It's become more evident than ever that access to the outdoors is an important part of everyone's physical and mental well-being," said Jim Peterson, The Trust for Public Land's Colorado state director. "This new state park will give the people of Colorado an exceptional place to get outside to heal and connect with nature, their community and each other."

"GOCO is a proud partner in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said GOCO Executive Director Chris Castilian, whose agency provided the bulk

of the funding, \$17.25 million, toward the acquisition. "It's been our honor to be a proponent and primary funder of this amazing project to date, and we look forward to supporting our partners at CPW to bring a vision for this state park to fruition."

"The City of Trinidad strongly supports Colorado Parks and Wildlife's acquisition of the Fishers Peak property and the partnership that made this new state park a reality for our city and Las Animas County," said Trinidad Mayor Phil Rico.

For now, the property remains closed to public access. But CPW intends a phased approach to opening that will allow limited public access to the property while the master-planning process proceeds and a full state park is developed.

The public can follow the park's progress and get updates on participating in the planning process at cpw.state.co.us.

In 2016, Colorado became the first state to establish a holiday for our public lands. Colorado Public Lands Day focuses on how our public lands are central to the state's economy and our quality of life.

The COVID-19 crisis has impacted Colorado's outdoor recreation economy and we all must adapt and celebrate public lands while remaining socially distant. As a result, Colorado Public Lands Day activities this year will highlight art, film, educational webinars and community conversations to offer a variety of ways that Coloradans can meaningfully connect with one another as well as our precious lands and waters.

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