

Shorts

Commissioners discuss COVID-19 impact on county

BY TERESA L. BENNS
SAGUACHE — During their first meeting broadcast using the Zoom application, Saguache County Commissioners discussed how the COVID-19 outbreak has affected various county departments and what measures are being taken to meet the challenges faced by the county.

The following highlights were taken from draft meeting minutes recorded by Saguache County Clerk's office staffer Dominique White.

Letters received in the mail San Luis Valley Health sent a letter stating that they cannot test requested employees for COVID-19 due to limited supplies. (Received March 23.)

Commissioners reports Jason Anderson

DOLA has established a recovery site to talk about the opportunities that businesses are going to have to recover. The Census in Colorado is running at about 44%. OEIOT loans are being opened for established businesses and on April 10, independent businesses can apply. Getting supplies throughout the nation has become a bidding process. Register what you need as a county, though the emergency coordinator, because, if the state does successfully acquire these things, there need to be a record of who needs it.

Tim Lovato

Was questioned about the number of cases in the Lazy KV and what the county was going to do to ensure they were quarantined and not going to propose a threat to the rest of the county. I contacted Lynette Grant and asked what Public Health will do to ensure that positive cases are abiding by Public Health orders. I was told Public Health is following up and calling on a daily basis.

Was contacted by Evan Samora from Saguache County Housing about the restrictions that are put in place at the housing complex. He recommended residents use face masks when using the laundry room. Evan also made a schedule for residents to minimize the exposure and number using the facility at a time.

Ken Anderson

A lot of meetings have been canceled due to everything going

Please see **IMPACT** on Page 7A

Man arrested for public health order violation

BY TERESA L. BENNS
SAGUACHE — A man suspected of trying to steal gas from the Moffat School bus barn was cited for third-degree trespassing and violating a public health order last week, according to a summons and complaint filed by Saguache County Sheriff's Office Cpl. Steven Hansen.

The public health order violation

was added as a charge on the advice of district attorney Robert Willett. A Saguache County Sheriff's Office representative said Tuesday there have been a number of gas thefts lately at the school.

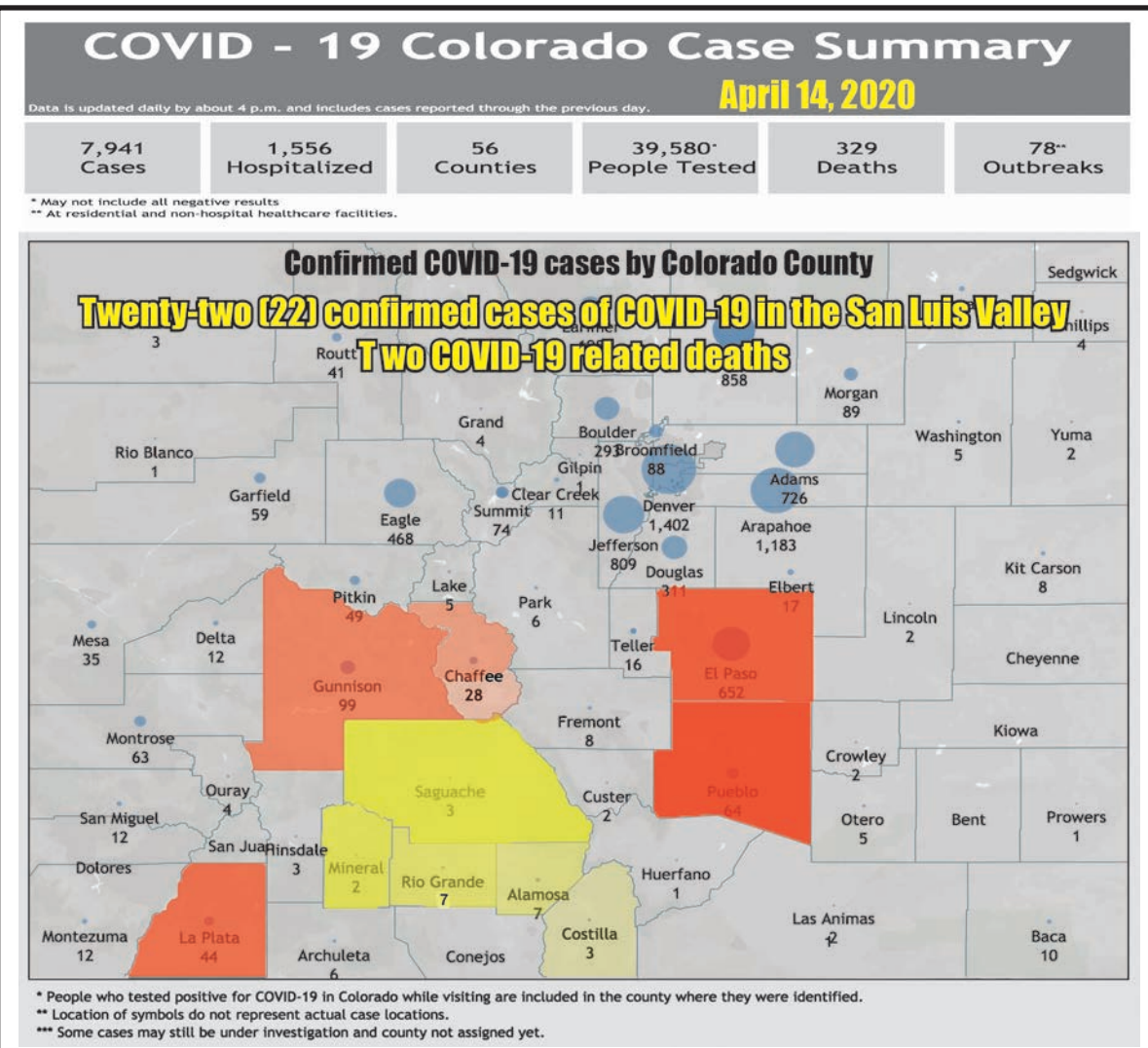
Xavier "Zeven" Garcia, 22, was

Gas thefts a problem at Moffat Schools

Office and was on scene when Hansen arrived to take his report.

Garcia had two plastic gas cans and a length of hose in his hands when approached by Harrison. Harrison said the attempt was caught on video but to date he has not filed a complaint or provided the video footage.

Garcia was read his Miranda rights, signed the summons and complaint and was released by Hansen.



SLV is a safe haven to COVID-19 is a misnomer

BY TREY SPAULDING
SAN LUIS VALLEY - On March 5 Colorado reported its first case of COVID-19. On March 24 San Luis Valley health officials announced the first 2 confirmed cases in the Valley. The first week of April Colorado Governor Polis announced in one of his daily

COVID-19 updates that due to limited tests and residents being asymptomatic to the virus but testing positive that there were most likely 10 times the confirmed number of COVID-19 cases in the state. April 14, 2020, there were 7,941 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Colorado which would put

the presumptive number of cases in the state at over 79,000 if the Governor's 10 multiplier is correct. Rio Grande County health officials reported two additional cases in the county on April 14. On the outside looking in, or on the inside looking out, it may

Please see **COVID-19** on Page 7A

County to consider second outdoor cremation site

BY TERESA L. BENNS
SAGUACHE COUNTY — After purchasing an idyllic parcel of property in Saguache County with pristine views, the new owner dreams of eventually building there and one day catching the heady fragrance of fresh pine floating down from the nearby mountains after a summer rain. But wait, after picking up the mail one day, a notice arrives announcing a neighbor adjacent to that dream property has submitted plans to the county to construct

an outdoor funeral pyre. And after doing a slow burn on the way back from the mailbox, the property owner sees his dreams going up in smoke, literally. This happened not long ago to a Saguache County property owner who wishes his/her name withheld. S/he reported that as an adjacent property owner, a relative had been notified of the proposed outdoor cremation site and the initial April 30 review of the neighbor's request to begin the project.

Please see **CREMATION** on Page 6A



Police chief publishes Center survey results

CENTER — About two months ago, Center Police Chief Dale Eugene Meek posted an anonymous survey for Center Town Residents to respond to. He says he created the survey "to see how the responses would be to a survey and get engagement from the community to identify public safety concerns."

The survey was kept anonymous to create an open, honest response pool. Meek commented he "had some fun creating this survey. It was simple but very informative to me."

Meek said he will discuss later why he likes the information produced in surveys and how this information will be used at a future Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Survey Results:

- Overall, how much do you like living in Center?
 - A great deal 16.67 percent
 - A lot 41.67 percent
 - A moderate amount 20.83 percent
 - A little 16.67 percent
 - Not at all 4.17 percent
- How well are the streets in Center maintained?
 - Extremely well 8.33 percent
 - Very well 12.5 percent
 - Somewhat well 50.0 percent
 - Not so well 20.83 percent
 - Not at all 8.33 percent
- How clean is your neighborhood?
 - Extremely clean 0 percent
 - Very Clean 16.67 percent
 - Somewhat clean 66.67 percent
 - Not so clean 8.33 percent
 - Not at all clean 8.33 percent

Please see **SURVEY** on Page 7A



OBITUARIES

William Kirby Ward, 91

BOISE IDAHO — Kirby Ward passed away April 6 at the Veterans Administration Facility in Boise, Idaho to be with his Lord and Savior. Born April 27, 1928, in McKinney, Texas, to Alexander and Rhoda Lee (Blackwell) Ward, Kirby was the eighth of 10 children. He was very fond of memories of growing up “on the farm” and all the adventures he had with his brothers and sisters. Most of the Ward family moved to Pueblo Colorado not long after the death of Alexander Ward to take advantage of better employment opportunities. Kirby graduated from Central High School where he was active in R.O.T.C. and on the Track team.

Soon after graduation Kirby joined the United States Marine Corps and later served in the Marine Air Corps. After completing his active duty Kirby returned to Pueblo, served in the Active Reserves, and married Maxine Zanetell. Kirby often commented how fortunate he was to have married the best wife anyone could have ever wished for. On the very day that Kirby and Maxine’s first child was born Kirby received notification his entire reserve unit was being recalled to active duty during the Korean War. He felt it was an honor to have served in the Marines and later had a baseball cap that proclaimed, “American by birth Marine by choice”.

After his service in the Marine Corps Kirby worked for the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, (the steel mill) in Pueblo and it was during this time he also attended college on the G.I. Bill and obtained a degree. Thus he left the steel mill where he had worked in the Tool and Die shop as a machinist and then later

went to work for the Star Journal and Pueblo Chieftain as an Adman. This change in profession led Kirby to work for a number of newspapers in Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, and California. Kirby advanced taking on his first role as a general manager/publisher for the Monte Vista Journal in 1965. During that time the Journal received numerous awards from the Colorado Press Association. He went on working as general manager for papers in Lakewood, Englewood, New Mexico, and then back to the Mountain Mail in Salida, Colorado, to finish out his newspaper career.

Kirby grew tired of moving around and later started his own business in Monte Vista known as Kirby Office Supply. After selling that business he was semi-retired going back to doing machinist work for the sawmill and area farmers.

Kirby was committed to his faith and was a long time member of The Church of Christ in Monte Vista. Ultimately Kirby and Maxine moved to Idaho due to the need for Kirby to go to a lower altitude but he remained a member of the Church of Christ in Meridian Idaho for the rest of his life.

Some residents of Monte Vista may remember Kirby for being active in Rotary Club and for serving on the town board. Kirby had many talents, he played guitar, was gifted at writing, was often sought out for his ability at public speaking, and was known for his wonderful humor. Kirby is survived by his wife Maxine Ward, brother Douglass and sister-in-law Mary Beth Ward of Buena Vista CO, his children: Zeke Ward of Creede CO, Debby Kay Fraker (Fabe) of



Meridian Idaho and Dallas Ward [Jo Ann] of South Fork CO. He is also survived by numerous nephews and nieces and a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren and even a few great, great grandchildren that reside throughout the country.

Because of the CCP pandemic, (Covid-19) no arrangements have been made by the family but when practical a memorial service will be announced.

Ronald E. Kessler, 76

MONTE VISTA — Monte Vista native, Ron Kessler, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, retired mechanic/rancher/trapper/farrier/author/publisher passed away on April 5, 2020, in his home. He was born Dec. 31, 1943, to Ernest & Lola (Brown) Kessler.

Ron is survived by his wife; Franis, son; Ron Jr. (Kris) and daughters; Debbie (Charlie) Harris & April (Duane) Harris, along with nine grandchildren & eight great-grandchildren. His brother; Larry (Glenda) Kessler and sister; Donna (Tim) Conville also survive him. Their parents & sister, Marleen, preceded him in death.

Cremation was chosen. A private family service will be held at a later date. Special thanks are extended



to Dr. DeHerrera and his staff for their extraordinary care. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Ronald’s memory, to Hospice Del Valle.

See more Obituaries on Page 8A

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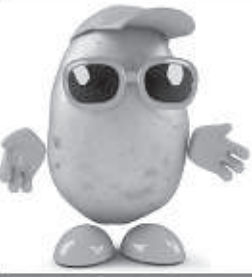


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OPINION & EDITORIAL

The world in black and white

As hard as it is to believe in these days of digital, hi-def photos, there once was a time when the world was only seen through the lenses of black and white cameras.

Even Ol' Dutch can recall television in black and white back in the days when I was a budding young photographer.

My father Fast Freddy somehow obtained a photo lab that was set up in my basement bedroom. Many a Saturday afternoon in my teenage years was spent in said lab developing and printing off endless pictures of random subjects.

Not only was this a fun experience whereby Ol' Dutch learned about chemicals but I learned about light and how to expose a negative to the special paper to produce a picture. I also learned quickly that certain cute girls who were in the stage of developing themselves could be coaxed into a dark environment to watch me develop film.

All in all, I got to make some great black and white prints.

I never made the jump to color prints as that was just in its infancy and cost real money of which I had none having spent it on developing girls instead of film. It was at this time that my money was going to the positives gained from hanging around girls and not with the negatives from some camera.

So that hobby went the way of many dreams that young men have when faced with the choice between a hobby or a girlfriend. The winners of that tug-a-war was the local Pizza Hut and movie theater.

Fast forward past the development of color TV, photos and movies and there was a resurgence in the simplistic allure of black and white photos in the art community. There is something striking about a picture in black and white and maybe it's just that it is different and like fashions, returns every few years.

Recently we have been faced with the dreaded corona and a lot of things have returned to days of yore. It's like slipping back into those black and white photos with people home schooling their children, making their own bread and cutting their own hair (#CoronaHaircut) as opposed to salon maintenance.

With any endeavor one must look at something called sustainability or the ability for something to be sustained at a certain level. And of late, with the social distancing restrictions in place now for over a month, we are seeing a return to a black and white world in ways we never imagined.

They say 60 is the new 40 and we really started to believe that with grandmas seen in tight leggings and



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

latherings of essential oil on their skin to look young again. Suddenly, though, Ol' Dutch is noticing that shades of black and white are creeping into the normally luxurious blonde hairdos on these same women.

A general panic is developing across this nation and if the scientists themselves do not find a cure for the dreaded disease Ol' Dutch thinks women will rise up and do it for them. And even though the old movies were in black and white and silent, these modern day beauties are not going to slide quietly back into the days of dingy gray crowns of glory on their heads.

Now Ol' Dutch has been talked into a lot of things by persons of the opposite sex including doing highlights on hair and coloring the same tresses so I do have some knowledge of the goings-ons of creatures of the female gender.

Which got me to thinking (darn it, quarantine has not improved Trixie's eye rolling affliction) that when this pandemic breaks, Ol' Dutch just might be able to turn the certain traffic jam at the local salons into a money making venture of his own.

Nothing draws women into a salon like a man doing hair and making nice. Ol' Dutch pretty well knows he can dye hair and maybe be nice long enough to collect on the efforts.

And having shooed a few horses, I might even be able to extend my services to the long abused piggies of these same ladies.

Wherever this day may find you, please know that Trixie and I think about each of you and wish you the very best. May God bless this nation once and keep us all safe until we meet again.

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.

Spiritual self-sufficiency during the COVID crisis

Many people are finding that while co-existing together physically is a challenge, especially when there are children now to educate at home, keeping the faith alive without being able to access their churches is much tougher.

There are loud cries on the internet and the nightly news of those forbidden to access their churches and this is understandable; no one wishes to see religion suppressed in any way, especially at a time when so many need that support the most.

But for this brief space in time at least, it might be profitable spiritually for those who associate their practice of faith primarily with fellowship to take a step back and examine their personal relationship with God. They might discover that depending primarily on Him and His providence in these distressing times is far more important than the direction of a pastor, priest, church elder or a Bible study group.

This is not to say that these other aids are not desirable normally, only that God sometimes sends us trials to force us to re-examine our lives and our relationship with Him, and this may be the opportunity we need to do that. Many have found over the years that for various reasons, whether it be distance from a church of choice, disunity and dissonance in various congregations, the impersonal atmosphere of a megachurch or disillusionment with their clergy that worshipping in their homes is a satisfying

option.

Home church is actually a well-recognized movement today among people of many faiths, as described in the 1997 book, *The Church Comes Home*, by Robert and Julia Banks. In the preface to their book, the Banks describe a "home church" as "a kind of extended Christian family that involves singles, marrieds and their children. It meets regularly to develop a communally shared Christian life, relate each other's faith to everyday life and to deepen each member's relationship with God."

According to the American pollster George Barna as quoted in *Christianity Today*, "as many as 30,000 house churches were established as of 2009, and it was estimated then that six to 12 million Americans attend them." Internet sources indicate this number has only increased over the years. House churches are mentioned several times in the Bible, in the book of Acts and the epistles of St. Paul.

While COVID-19 guidelines may temporarily limit home church to the family unit, this, like homeschooling, can be a perfect time to strengthen bonds of faith with children and loved ones. It can allow families to focus on those things that inspire hope, dispel fear and prepare for the sacrifices and challenges that may lie ahead.

Many internet and written resources are available, including sermon broadcasts, to help families establish a home church



My Two Cents
By TERESA BENNS

and adopt a worship plan suitable to their needs. Having worshipped in a home church myself for the past 35 years, I can personally testify to the fact that setting aside a place in the home for personal worship and being able to visit there regularly is a great comfort and an indispensable aid to true spirituality.

Hopefully, as testing becomes readily available, those carrying the virus and those who are already ill can be successfully treated and isolated and we can gradually return to normal as a nation. But until then, prayer is a more powerful weapon than we know, and Christ can be in the midst of those who love Him, even when only two or three are gathered in His name.

LETTER

Rio Grande Hospital Clinics have expanded our services to offer telemedicine

To the editor,
Rio Grande Hospital and Clinics wants to assure our patients and community that we are closely monitoring and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are doing our best to protect and serve you and our community. We are writing this letter to update you on what is happening at Rio Grande Hospital and the things you can do to prepare yourselves and your family.

The Rio Grande Hospital Clinics have expanded our services to offer telemedicine (telehealth) to limit the risks of inperson visits, especially for high-risk patients: this includes anyone over the age of 65 or those with underlying medical conditions including but not limited to asthma, COPD, heart disease, advanced kidney disease or diabetes.

COVID-19 planning may be different from what you are used to for several reasons:

Most people who get COVID-19 have mild to moderate symptoms and can be treated at home.

Those who do have a severe case are often older and sicker, and symptoms often progress rapidly.

Some people with COVID-19 may become so ill they need a breathing

machine for many weeks in the ICU. Even with this support, many people will not survive.

We hope by now you have heard all the ways you can protect yourself, but here is a reminder.

Practice physical distancing. Maintain a six-foot distance from other people and wear a mask when out in public.

Practice good hand hygiene. Don't touch your face with unwashed hands.

Reach out and support neighbors, friends, and family who may be more susceptible to this infection.

Stay informed of guidelines from the department of public health and government.

What you can do to plan ahead in case you do require hospitalization due to COVID-19:

Choose a Medical Decision maker (or "medical power of attorney")

This person will speak for you if you cannot speak for yourself. He/she will make sure your doctors know about the care you want

A good medical decision maker is someone who:

Knows you, your values and your wishes

You trust to follow your wishes and

what is best for you

Is available to talk to your doctor and care team by phone

Talk to your medical decision maker and let him/her know your wishes. This is the most important step. If you know what you want for your medical care, share this now.

This Conversation Project website can help: <http://theconversationproject.org>

Consider an Advance Directive—this allows you to write down what you want for your medical care

If you have an advance directive, find it, review it and share it

Consider making a telehealth appointment with your primary care provider to discuss your wishes for medical care. We are here to help.

We are here to support you. Please reach out to us at 719-657-2418 if you have any questions, would like more information or would like to schedule a telehealth visit or phone call.

If you or a loved one has concerns about potential coronavirus infection: fever, cough, shortness of breath or other flu-like symptoms, we ask that you please call our hotline at 719-657-4990.

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Texas attorney general challenges Gunnison County order

By TERESA L. BENNS
GUNNISON COUNTY — The neighboring county of Gunnison was slapped April 9 with a letter from Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton challenging the county's treatment of second homeowners as unconstitutional and discriminatory, although the letter does not threaten any legal action.

Many Texans own second homes in Gunnison County and in the county's fifth amended public health order have been instructed to return home during the COVID-19 virus crisis. Park County is considering similar measures.

Gunnison County has threatened non-resident homeowners with a \$5,000 fine and 18 months in jail if they attempt to visit their homes. This was relaxed on April 11 in the county's sixth amended public health order issued by the county. In it, nonresidents who have been in Gunnison County 14 days before the order may remain in the county as long as they comply with the other conditions of the order.

Currently the Colorado Department of Health and environment is reporting 99 COVID-19 cases in Gunnison County and three deaths. Among rural counties this is one of the higher numbers of cases reported in the state.

Those arriving in Gunnison County over the past two weeks are ordered to return home per the fifth public health order, unless they have received an exemption from Health and Human Services Director Joni Reynolds. Nonresidents who are not physically here also are prohibited from coming to Gunnison County.

A total of 199 requests for exemptions from second homeowners have currently been granted the Colorado Sun reported, allowing non-residents with second homes in the county to remain in their homes because they were already in-residence March 14.

In an April 13 letter posted to their website, commissioners, the mayor and former mayor of Crested Butte, the mayor of Gunnison and all three county

commissioners wrote: "This is not meant to be a rejection of you, your family or your positive contributions to Gunnison County. We have to acknowledge the limitations of our small critical care hospital [20 beds] with no ICU."

"Put simply, if we have a spike of COVID-19 patients in addition to 'normal' emergency calls, there is a real possibility our hospital will not meet the critical needs of an increased population. We are asking for the time needed to ensure we have the equipment, testing and capacity to address this public health crisis."

In his letter, the Gunnison County Times reported, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton says: "While I applaud several measures Gunnison County has taken to ensure the health and safety of its citizens, the banishment of nonresident Texas homeowners is entirely unconstitutional and unacceptable."

The letter goes on to say, "To unlawfully prevent Texas from inhabiting or enjoying property that they own, regardless of its location within the U.S., is a blatant violation of our Constitution."

Paxton argues that the Privileges and Immunities Clause of the U.S. Constitution guarantees a citizen of one state will be "treated as a welcome visitor rather than an unfriendly alien when temporarily present in another State."

Fourth amended Saguache County Health order issued

Saguache County has issued its fourth amended public health order, which strongly encourages visitors and non-residents to return to their homes but does not forbid them to enter the county.

All visitors to Saguache County are strongly advised to return home by the safest and quickest means available and non-resident homeowners are strongly encouraged to stay in their state of residence or to return to their state of origin until the order is lifted. Only those engaging in the businesses allowed in the initial order (health facilities, dentists, pharmacies, grocery stores,

automobile repair shops, auto parts stores, laundromats, discount department stores newspapers and radio stations and others) are exempt from the order but must still follow health guidelines.

All those affected by the order may request a judicial review of its terms.

Some residents and business owners have objected that the Saguache County order allows liquor and marijuana dispensaries, also other businesses questionably deemed "essential" to continue to operate, but no exemptions or provisions are made for churches. Recent fines issued to churchgoers in other states, even though only congregating in their cars in church parking lots, also have been challenged by church pastors and constitutional attorneys.

In Saguache County, only nine people may attend any given event and those over 60 are highly encouraged not to attend. Employees working in allowed necessary businesses are to be screened daily and sent home if symptomatic. Restaurants, bars, taverns and taprooms are closed except for delivery/takeout service. Day care centers, childcare centers, home childcare centers, community recreational centers, schools and libraries must remain closed.

Contact with those present is to be limited to 10 minutes at a time if distancing of 6 feet is maintained. Allowed businesses also are to follow Center for Disease Control guidelines for disinfecting their establishments.

Anyone who has traveled away from Saguache County for more than 24 hours as of March 13 and who resides in an apartment, dormitory or long-term hotel is to isolate and quarantine themselves from all persons for a period of two weeks under penalty of law.

Anyone who has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus is ordered under penalty of law to isolate and quarantine themselves from all other persons for a period of seven days from the onset of symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, fever) or 72 hours after all fever has disappeared.

Saguache Sheriff Office assists in stolen guns seizure

By TERESA L. BENNS

SAGUACHE COUNTY — According to a press release from the Saguache County Sheriff's Office, Saguache County deputies and law enforcement officials from two other counties executed a multijurisdictional warrant April 13 at a residence near the Lazy KV Estates.

Chaffee County Sheriff's Office, Buena Vista Police Department, Alamosa County Sheriff's Office and Alamosa Police Department assisted in the raid, which netted numerous rifles including a 50 caliber AR-10 and AR-15.

The weapons had been reported stolen out of Buena Vista and the investigation is ongoing.

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MOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

BY MOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT TRAVIS GAROUTTE

At Mountain Valley School, our mission is to provide a welcoming, safe, and inclusive community while building relationships and supporting lifelong learning. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and beginning on the day Mountain Valley School closed its doors to in-person learning, we have followed six principles, along with our mission, to guide every decision we make.

Mountain Valley School Guiding Principles:

We will continue to support each other as well as our students, families, and community.

We will continue to provide free and equitable learning opportunities for our students and families.

We will continue to provide nutritious breakfasts and lunches for our families.

We will continue to provide opportunities for our certified and

CREMATION

Continued from Page 1A

That review has now been postponed indefinitely.

In an email Tuesday, Interim Saguache County Land Use Director Amber Wilson confirmed that, "We do have an applicant that is requesting to do an open-air cremation site, but all of our Planning Commission meetings have been postponed until further notice." In commissioner meeting minutes, Wilson commented that Zoom meetings are being considered for the Planning Commission meetings.

For those not familiar with outdoor cremations, only one other place in the country is currently conducting them: The Crestone End of Life Project (CEOLP).

Wilson reports: "CEOLP has been approved with the county since 2007. They are allowed to have 24 cremations in a three consecutive-year period but not to exceed 12 cremations per year. We have not received any complaints on them and they have to go through the Colorado Department of Public Health and environment (CDPHE) for a burn permit."

"Since 2008, the group has facilitated 20 cremations at the permanent community cremation site just west of Crestone on property owned and generously made available by Steve Allen and Angelique Farrow of Dragon Mountain Temple" (<https://crestoneagle.com/crestone-end-of-life-project-in-the-end-there-is-only-love/>).

The Crestone End of Life Project (CEOLP) is a nonprofit organization run entirely by volunteers that supports and assists the implementation of family-arranged home funerals.

According to the CEOLP website, its Crestone operation is "the only completely legal non-denominational, nonprofit open-air cremation service in the country."

Cremation costs are \$425 but families

classified staff to participate in meaningful work that supports learning in our community.

As a school community, we will provide positive and loyal leadership through our teamwork, communication, flexibility, and problem-solving capabilities. Our actions will be seen by our parents, students, and community members. As educators, we are all community leaders, and we will make a difference in the culture of our community during this time. The expectation is that our leadership and the difference that we make will be positive and uplifting to our community.

- We will be flexible, kind, and solution oriented as we navigate these uncharted waters.

Stress can bring out the worst in people; however, it can also bring out the best in people. I have seen firsthand how the COVID-19 crisis has brought out the greatness of our school and community. I am proud of Mountain Valley School, and I am proud of our Saguache community.

can choose to give more. On-site volunteers counsel grieving families, help make home arrangements for the deceased before cremation and provide kindling for the hearth the day before the ceremony.

The website, in a disclaimer to its services, also notes that owing to Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) requirements CEOLP does not:

1. Transport the body of the deceased;
2. Provide refrigeration for the body of the deceased; or
3. Provide a location in which the body of the deceased can remain in repose.

Ethical and environmental concerns

A 2013 HuffPost article describes how cremation was introduced to America via the occult and is tied to belief in reincarnation. These religious and other concerns are among those expressed by residents generally when informed of a second cremation site pending in the area.

Odors from the site that could drift across adjoining property is just one of several other ethical concerns to consider. According to one internet article. J.D. Salinger, who helped liberate concentration camps in World War II, told his daughter, "You never really get the smell of burning flesh out of your nose entirely. No matter how long you live."

In a crematorium, there is usually no smell because the emissions are processed to destroy the smoke and vaporize the gases that would smell. Some crematories have a secondary afterburner to help burn the body completely. In outdoor cremations, the body usually takes three hours to burn completely, but can take much longer, depending on weather conditions.

The strength of the odors emitted or how long they might linger is unknown, especially given winds in the county

Have been extremely impressed with how quickly and positively our staff at Mountain Valley School responded to the needs of our students and families. With less than a day's preparation, every staff member jumped right in and found a way to provide remote learning opportunities as well as grab-and-go meals for our students. School secretary Patty Williams serves her community with a smile.

Mountain Valley Teachers quickly tackled a steep learning curve and adapted lessons for remote learning during the school closure. Reading, writing, and arithmetic are certainly important; however, during the COVID-19 school closure and stay at home orders, connections and relationships are essential. As humans, we are hard-wired for connection and thrive when safe relationships and a sense of belonging are present. Mountain Valley staff has prioritized relationships before rigor and love before lessons. In an attempt to stay connected to our students, our staff has

already logged over 1,000 calls and video conferences with students since the school closure.

Providing nutritious and healthy meals for our students during the school closure is also a priority at Mountain Valley. No child should ever go hungry. Our foodservice department had worked diligently to ensure that all kids ages 0-18 have wholesome breakfasts and lunches. Currently, we have two grab-and-go locations, Monday through Thursday from 10-11 am, one at Mountain Valley School and one at the KV Clubhouse. We also offer home meal delivery options for our families.

The Mountain Valley School transportation department has been busy during the school closure ensuring that all students have access to learning materials, nutritious meals, and adequate technology resources. Although our transportation team is no longer transporting students, they are making a huge difference by providing equitable access to academic and nutritional services. Meals are delivered daily while

educational content, computers, and supplies are delivered weekly.

The Ciello division of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative has partnered with Mountain Valley School to ensure that all students have equitable access to the internet and remote learning opportunities. During the COVID-19 epidemic, Ciello has waived installation fees, equipment fees, and contract length obligations for our families without connectivity. Mountain Valley School is matching this contribution by paying for internet service through the remainder of the school year. To date, we have been able to provide internet access for 15 families in our district who previously lacked adequate internet connectivity.

During the past few weeks, I have been amazed at the resilience, compassion, and kindness of our staff, students, and the Saguache community. In a time when it would be easy for our worst to come out, the greatness of our community is shining brightly. I have never been more thankful or proud to call Saguache my home.

being what they are. Even though crematories are said to eliminate these smells, many toxic agents are released into the air, such as mercury, nitrous oxide and sulphur dioxide, to name a few. Some residents who have objected to commercial crematoriums near their neighborhoods insist they can smell burning hair and flesh from time to time.

In addition, the idea they are living in such close proximity to death every day is very disquieting and even psychologically distressing to some people.

Pollutants generated by cremation

A Wordpress document claims that with an open-air cremation, a family receives all the ashes which include the huge pile of wood that is used for the pyre and the cremated remains of their loved one. The total can amount to 5 gallons of ash.

Fifty to 60 million trees are burned during cremations every year in India. "When you are burning those trees, you are emitting about 8 million tons

of carbon dioxide or greenhouse gas emissions," said Mokshda Green Cremation System director Anshul Garg.

A 2019 *National Geographic* article estimates Garg's green cremation system "saves more than 480,000 trees, averting about 60,000 metric tons of ash from rivers, and releasing 60,000 fewer metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions" (<https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/environment-and-conservation/2019/11/environmental-toll-cremating-dead>).

CNN reports that "Air pollution and deforestation are not the only environmental threats caused by cremation: They also generate large quantities of ash, which are later thrown into rivers, adding to the toxicity of their waters, according to Mokshda.

"It says its affordable, energy-efficient 'Green Cremation System' generates minimum air and water pollution, while taking into consideration the religious needs of Hindus. The wood-based system consists of a man-sized grate beneath a roof and a chimney, which

reduces heat loss. The wood is placed on the metal base, which enables better air circulation around the flames.

"Garg says the benefits are manifold: It takes up to two hours and 150-200 kilograms of wood to burn a body completely, while a traditional pyre takes six hours and burns 500-600 kilograms of wood. As a result, he says, the cost is reduced significantly, and emissions are cut by up to 60 percent." (See entire article at <https://www.cnn.com/2011/09/12/world/asia/india-funeral-pyres-emissions/index.html>).

The system proposed for the Saguache County cremation site, also the CEOLP system, is not a green design. This despite the environmental concerns of many in the Crestone/Moffat area. Some have compared the site being situated in a rural residential/agricultural area to the siting of marijuana retail businesses co-mingled in these same areas.

"It's just not co-sympatic with what we came here for," one resident commented. "Who wants that next door?"

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Catherine "Cece" pursued her graduate education at Walden University in Minneapolis. She strives to be caring and supportive to her patients and community. Her desire is to help people be the best they can be. In her free time, CeCe enjoys hiking with her dog, cooking, and watching a good movie!

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COVID-19

Continued from Page 1A

appear that the San Luis Valley is a safe haven from COVID-19. In the San Luis Valley we have 22 confirmed cases with two COVID-19 related fatalities. April 10 the San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership announced that only 155 people had been tested for the virus. Obviously, this is a very limited sample and only equates to one-third of 1 percent of the San Luis Valley population who have been tested. The perception that the San Luis Valley is a COVID-19 safe refuge is a misnomer. Statewide the testing percentage of the population is not much better and is at three-quarters of 1 percent.

In an effort to get a more accurate perspective of how many cases are in the valley, the San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership (SLVPH) conducted a symptom

self-reporting survey which Valley Publishing promoted in its papers and on social media. As of April 10, SLVPH reported that there were 242 respondents who reported symptoms consistent with COVID-19 since March 15. The SLVPH health officials caution that "this data are also incomplete because it is limited to those who have chosen to self-report, and because it is not backed up by actual testing. As frustrating as it may seem, there is no way for us to say with any accuracy exactly how many people in the San Luis Valley have the virus, exactly who they are, or exactly where they live."

Lately residents of the Valley are reporting seeing more and more out-of-state license plates passing through the Valley. In a 10 minute span at 9 a.m. April 14, at

the intersection of highways 285 and 160 in Monte Vista, nearly 20 percent of the cars passing through the intersection had out-of-state tags. Most likely most are going to their second homes for the summer. This is only going to exasperate the spread of the virus and does not concur with the stay-at-home order in place in all states except North Dakota.

Our local health care system cannot handle an influx of out-of-state residents who may be infected with COVID-19 and need medical or ICU care. Hospitals in Rio Grande County do not have ICU units. Traditionally the population of towns such as South Fork have winter populations of around 300 and summer populations of 3,000. At this time, we do not have the needed COVID-19 tests, medical facilities or first responders to handle

this dramatic increase in population.

Mineral County currently has a mandatory 14 day quarantine for anyone coming into the county who has been outside of the county for more than 24 hours. The public health director of Gunnison County, which borders Saguache County in the San Luis Valley and has the second highest infection rate per thousand in the state, also does not have ICU hospital rooms. Gunnison County recently issued an order that nonresidents, regardless of whether they own a residence in Gunnison County, are imposing unnecessary burdens on health care, public services, first responders, food supplies and other essential services. The order went on to state that visitors were "creating issues" with regard to enforcement of the stay-at-home order and that the

presence of nonresidents and visitors, including nonresident homeowners, would no longer be permitted in order to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Visitors cannot stay unless they are granted an exemption or waiver by the Public health director.

The most effective way to prevent COVID-19 is to follow the social distancing and to abide by stay-at-home orders to avoid contact with others as much as possible. If you have to go outside your house or are an essential worker and have to be around others, wear a mask. In addition to the public health orders from the state, there may be more restrictive orders in place within your county or state. Make sure that you understand the current public health orders for the state or county in which you live and may work.

IMPACT

Continued from Page 1A

on. The meal side of senior citizens has been closed and is just delivering, but the driver retired and they are looking for another one. There have been some requests for grab-and-go meals.

Social Services Director Linda Warsh

Warsh stated her employees are working staggered schedules and the ones that work in Center stay in Center and the ones who are in Saguache stay in Saguache. They are continuing with the commodities program and are not required to have signatures. Volunteers are also delivering to the more vulnerable, older people. Commissioner Lovato asked Warsh how the funds are holding up during this time. Warsh stated she has applied for multiple grants.

Saguache Public Health Director Lynette Grant

Saguache County Public Health is working with other local public health departments to make sure the correct messaging is being provided. They are moving away from focusing on the number of tests because there are not enough supplies, and the true numbers aren't really there. Twelve Saguache County residents have been tested.

A survey was made to try to get a more accurate number of cases. There is a marijuana grow that has had people sick and public health followed up because of complaints. Employees stated they are not following social distancing orders.

Interim Land Use Administrator Amber Wilson

Teajuana, LTD presented a modification of their conditional use permit with the county to add CBD infused products to their THC infused product line. Commissioners voted to postpone the decision until April

21 so a site visit could be scheduled.

Commissioners approved a variance request from Dayold, LLC / Huckleberry Farms, LLC to reduce the amount of their reclamation bond from \$10,000. Commissioners approved the variance.

Wilson reported that "the Land Use Office has been very busy within these last four months and it is only getting busier. It has been hectic with everything our office does with only two of us in here and usually it is a three-and-a-half-person office (three full-time people and one part time person."

She asked commissioners if she could advertise for a position for a Land Use Clerk, since this is well within the Land Use budget. The Board agreed that with the current COVID situation, it's not the right time.

Commissioners voted to suspend all planning commission meetings until May 1. Those with pending conditional use requests have the option to withdraw their request with full refund until the end of the moratorium.

County Administrator Wendi Maez and received for three level II multi-port EVSE (car-charging stations) in the amount of \$27,000 or 80 percent of the project cost, whichever is lower. The Colorado Energy Office is requesting formal acceptance of the award. The project will need to be completed by June 30. It is being discussed to extend the June 30 date to a later date due to COVID19. From discussion, there are companies that will be chosen to install the stations,

HEART of Saguache/KV has requested a reallocation of their Cinco De Mayo approved Youth and Senior Sales Tax Grant due to the Cinco De Mayo celebration being canceled for this year. They

are asking for the \$4,000 approved to be changed to be used toward COVID-19 relief to purchase food and necessary supplies to give out to the communities of Saguache and Lazy KV Estates. Commissioners approved the reallocation of the grant funds.

A policy for emergency meetings review is available for discussion and possible adoption.

Maez purchased a laptop, microphone and speakers for the commissioners virtual meeting requirement. The equipment will be tested and ready to work for the Tuesday meetings.

Two executive sessions were scheduled during the meeting for personnel issues and one for legal issues. The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

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JAMES M. MAXWELL, aka JAMES MALLORY MAXWELL	
Deceased	
COURT USE ONLY	
Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address): Ronald J. Williams Schroer & Williams Law Offices, PLLC 7045 Campus Drive, Suite 103 Colorado Springs, CO 80920 Phone Number: (719) 473-4355 E-mail: ron@schroerlaw.com FAX Number: (719) 380-0299 Atty. Reg. #: 44253	Case Number: 2020PR30004 Division C Courtroom
NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO §15-12-801, C.R.S.	
NOTICE TO CREDITORS	
Estate of JAMES M. MAXWELL, aka JAMES MALLORY MAXWELL , Deceased Case Number 2020PR30004 .	
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Jeremy C. Maxwell Person Giving Notice 6007 SW Karla Ct. Portland, OR 97239	
No. 1559 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, April 9, 16 and 23, 2020.	

SURVEY

Continued from Page 1A

4. How safe do you feel in Center?
 · Extremely safe 4.17 percent
 · Very safe 20.83 percent
 · Somewhat safe 54.17 percent
 · No so safe 12.5 percent
 · Not at all safe 8.33 percent

· Paper bulletins 20.83 percent
 · email list 8.3 percent
 · Facebook 75.0 percent
 · Snapchat 12.5 percent
 · Group Chat 8.33 percent
 · None of above 20.83 percent

5. How is crime in Center since Chief Meek took over the department six months ago?
 · Much better 26.09 percent
 · Better 43.48 percent
 · About the same 26.09 percent
 · Worse 4.35 percent
 · Much worse 0 percent

7. What do you like most about Center? Most respondents indicate they like Center's small size and the people who live here.

6. Do you use any of the following online communication tools to engage with fellow member of the Center Community? (Please select all that apply.)

8. What do you like least about Center? Most respondents indicate they dislike Center's drug problem, crime problem, a lack of social activities and a lack of housing.

Future surveys also will be posted and Meek invites Center residents to participate in them.

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OBITUARY



Eunice Catherine Barnes, 89

Eunice Catherine Barnes was born Sept. 8, 1930 in Lakeland, Florida to parents Zerney Burnes Barnes and Eunice Pipkin Barnes. As the youngest of four siblings, Zerney Barnes, Jr., Richard Barnes and Elizabeth Barnes (MacKinnon).

Eunice spent her early years among many friends and relatives. After graduating from Florida State University and beginning a lifetime career of elementary school teaching, she married Harold Douglas Harris, Jr. on Jan. 16, 1954, and became an Army wife. She cheerfully managed the many moves that followed. Eunice and Harold along with their three children, Doug, Charles and Katherine had the opportunity to live in Georgia, New Jersey, France, Montana and Florida. The family moved to Alamosa, Colorado in 1970 and Eunice and Harold put down permanent roots in the San Luis Valley. Eunice remained in contact with the many friends she met throughout her life. She and Harold visited many of them as they traveled across the country over the years. Eunice was an active P.E.O. member for over 65 years and was very much loved by her P.E.O. sisters. Music was very important in her life and she played both the piano and the organ. She also sang in the choir during her life as a member of every Methodist Church she attended. Eunice also accompanied, on the piano, many student's music performances throughout the years. Eunice was an avid bridge player and actually met Harold on a "blind date" for a bridge game. She was known for baking cookies and made thousands over her lifetime for children to enjoy painting. Her love of children was reflected by the many who considered her 'their' Grandma Harris.

Eunice was preceded in death by her husband Harold, son Doug and daughter-in-law Susan.

She is survived by her son Charlie (Debbie) Harris, daughter Kay Harris Risdahl and her grandchildren, Corey (Rachel) Harris, Holly (Tom Yanker) Harris, Katie Risdahl, Christi Risdahl, Tim (Sabrina) Biggs and Jay (Charity) Biggs.

Eunice was a much loved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Cremation was selected and a memorial service followed by interment at Homelake Cemetery will be held at a later time. To express condolences to the family, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com


Rogers Family Mortuary in Alamosa is in care of the arrangements.



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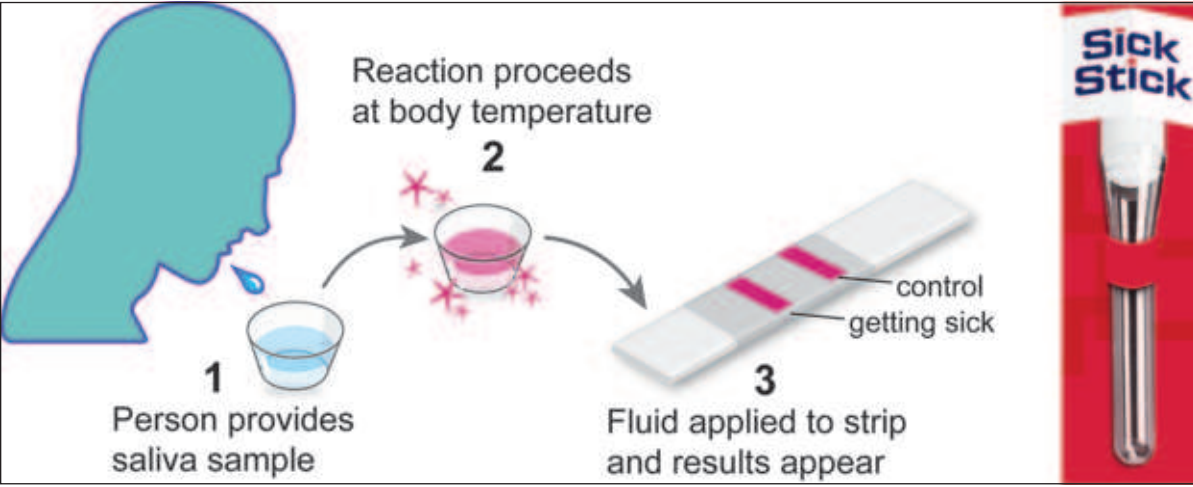
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Courtesy photo

CU Boulder researchers have developed an affordable, over-the-counter test that can detect signals of infection before symptoms arise. Their goal is to make it commercially available within six months.

CU Boulder scientists developed COVID-19 test that knows you're sick before you do

COLORADO — Imagine a test that could tell you if you were infected with COVID-19 before you had a single symptom, came at an affordable price without the need to go to a doctor, and returned results in minutes.

Those who tested positive could swiftly quarantine themselves, while those who tested negative could head to work or spend time with family without fear of spreading infection.

That's the vision behind a new University of Colorado-born technology that researchers are fast-tracking in hopes of not only helping to curb the current pandemic but also radically change the way we track disease in the future.

"With most infectious diseases, by the time you develop symptoms you have already been contagious for days and out and about spreading it to people," said Nicholas Meyerson,

a scientist in the department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology (MCDB) and CEO of Darwin Biosciences, a startup formed to commercialize the SickStick. "Our device acts at the earliest stage of infection. It knows you're sick before you do."

For a decade, Meyerson has been working with MCDB professor Sara Sawyer, a virologist at the BioFrontiers Institute, to understand the basic science underlying the body's early immune response to infection. While most labs and tests have focused on antibodies — proteins in the blood that signal a mounting defense against a bacteria or virus — Sawyer's lab has taken a different approach.

"Antibodies don't arise in your body until after the copy number of a pathogen has gotten very large," said Sawyer, noting that this can take days

or — in the case of coronavirus — more than two weeks. "They are the last chapter in the immunology textbook. We specialize in the first chapter — the smoke signals that infected cells send off to indicate a pathogen is present."

Disease 'smoke signals'

Those smoke signals, called nucleic acids, rise up in the cells within hours of exposure to a virus and can make their way into saliva. With this in mind, and a \$3 million grant from the Department of Defense in hand, Sawyer and Meyerson set out two years ago to develop a new kind of diagnostic test. Also involved are researchers from the BioFrontiers labs of associate professor Robin Dowell and professor Roy Parker, and Dr. Eric Poeschla at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

"There is a lot of utility in knowing
Please see TEST on Page 2

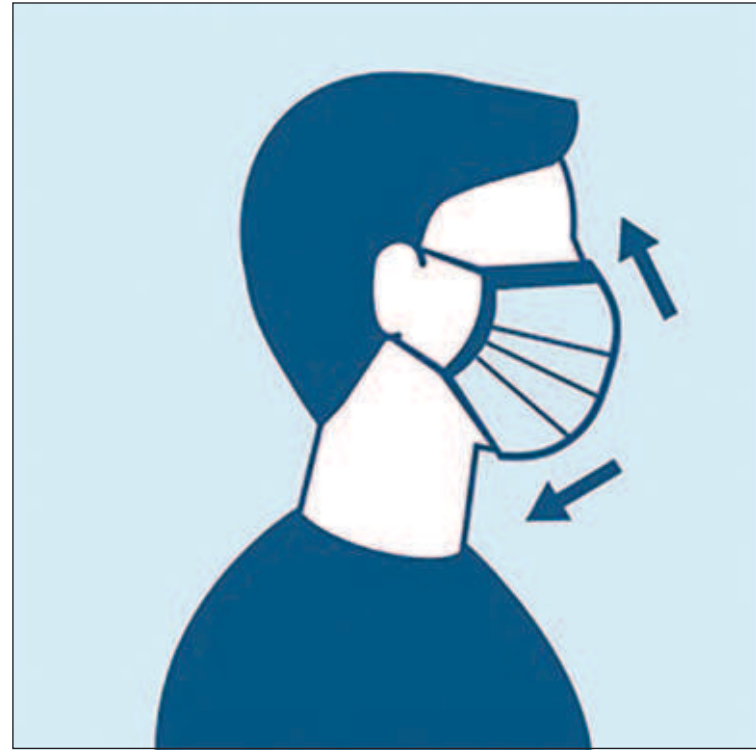
How to wear a cloth face covering

- Cloth face coverings should—
- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
 - be secured with ties or ear loops
 - include multiple layers of fabric
 - allow for breathing without restriction
 - be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

Coverings
CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings
Please see COVER on Page 3

Center for Disease Control (CDC) on Homemade Cloth Face



The lone pine

"So, how'd yer dad git that big dent on the door?" I asked Dave. Truth is, it was quite an accomplishment for one single dent to stand out from all the other wear and tear, deterioration and assorted damage that covered his 1983 Ford Ranger diesel pickup truck like elephant tracks on a styrofoam cooler.

"It's a long story," sighed Dave.

Dave went with his mom and dad to gather the last of the cows off their forest permit above Feather Falls in the Sierra Madres of southern California. Dad drove the old stock truck with racks made outta airport landing and pulled a portable Powder River loading chute with panels. Dave followed in the Ranger. It took 'em a while but they finally loaded 16 head of cows and calves. Then Dad spotted one ol' cow that had held back. She'd calved recently but the calf was nowhere in sight. They had spotted lion track in the vicinity. They searched till Mom, the family tracker, found the little calf under a bush.



They could feel the storm comin' and were relieved to get the last cow squeezed onto the load. They packed the loading chute and started down the mountain. Dave followed in the Ranger with the new calf in the cab beside him. Bear, the faithful cow dog, rode

in the back. Next thing he knew Dad waved him to a stop. There was a cow down in the stock truck. Dave pulled ahead, stopped on the steep mountain road and went back to help.

After several minutes of struggling with the down cow Dave climbed up to say they'd need to let some of the other cows out to give her some room. It was then he noticed the Ranger, complete with dog and calf, had disappeared! Dad was hot to catch his favorite truck when Dave pointed out that wherever it was goin', it was already there. The down cow could use some help right away.

They set up the portable chute, unloaded four cows, righted the down cow and Dave took off to find the Ranger. He met Bear comin' back up the road at a full gallop, tail between his legs. Around the first bend Dave could see the tip of the pickup over the side of a canyon. It had leaped off the edge and slid sideways into a lone pine. The next stop would have been 200 feet at the bottom. The

calf was standin' in the seat lookin' out the back window.

Well, everybody survived although the dog won't git back in the pickup and Dave continues to insist he left it in gear. And Dad... Dad still takes the hammer to the side panel now and then in an attempt to make the pine tree impression blend in with the other dents.

It's useless, though, like tryin' to make a mastodon blend in with a flotilla of Mallard ducks.

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

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TEST

Continued from Page 1

that people are getting sick before they go and infect others, yet there is currently only one tool for knowing that — the thermometer,” said Sawyer, noting that because some pathogens don’t prompt fever it’s an unreliable tool. “Our technology fills a void.”

The user spits in a receptacle, sticks in a strip that soaks up the contents and within minutes — much like with an at-home pregnancy test — a series of lines appear.

The original prototype was designed to be agnostic about the kind of infection present: one line for healthy; two lines for sickness brewing. The researchers envisioned it being used on military bases. In another scenario, seemingly healthy civilians who had been exposed to a virus could pluck a SickStick off the shelf at the local drugstore and test themselves.

Then, coronavirus happened, and Meyerson and Sawyer quickly pivoted.

They’ve been in the lab ever since, working to identify biomarkers that will enable them to add a third line to the test that would indicate whether the user has coronavirus.

“Even before coronavirus it wasn’t hard to convince people that this device could be useful,” said Meyerson, noting that while antibody tests help identify who is sick or recovered, they do little to prevent unknowing carriers from spreading disease. “Now, in this world we are living in, where people are social distancing and self-quarantining, it’s very clear that it’s the device we need.”

Under normal circumstances, the path from lab to commercial availability could be years.

But these circumstances are any-

thing but normal.

“We have a very ambitious goal of six months,” said Sawyer.

From lab to market

With patents already secured, they have several clinical trials in the works to confirm that the test is accurate in predicting respiratory infections in general and help them refine biomarkers to predict COVID-19 specifically.

This week, Darwin Biosciences won first place at the New Venture Challenge event, earning it an additional \$55,000 boost on top of a \$126,000 grant from Venture Partners, a CU Boulder office that also provides mentoring and support to researcher-led startups. In March, the company welcomed a new COO, Rick Whitcomb, a longtime biotech entrepreneur from Lyons.

“I would be remiss not to call out the amazing biotech support network that CU Boulder and this community has offered us,” said Sawyer. “We are just university scientists who discovered we had our hands on something that can really matter. It’s remarkable how far we’ve come so fast.”

The SickStick team is now working on an advanced prototype and exploring what it will take to get clearance from the Food and Drug Administration, which has sharply expedited its review process for diagnostic tests for COVID-19.

While their timeline may not help to address the current situation, if a second wave of COVID-19 hits next fall, they’re confident SickStick could help prevent it from taking hold. And when other epidemics emerge, we’ll be ready.

“Long-term,” said Meyerson, “this could transform how we think about diagnosing disease.”



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We are grateful for those who have our back in this important time. The list is long, but we want to thank our first responders and front-line workers.

Especially in critical times, newspapers have your back. COVID-19 is a national story that is impacting you at home and at work. Your local newspaper is keeping you informed with current events in your neighborhood and is bringing communities together in these challenging times.

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THE MONTE VISTA JOURNAL
Volume 119, Number 12
Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Gov. Polis extends stay at home order to April 26
Gov. Polis announced today that he is extending the stay-at-home order to April 26. The order requires that all non-essential businesses remain closed and that only essential services are permitted to operate.

Center police report
The Center Police Department reports a significant increase in calls related to COVID-19 concerns, including questions about safety protocols and requests for assistance.

COVID-19 Colorado Case Summary
A map showing the distribution of COVID-19 cases across Colorado counties, with a focus on the Center region.

Irrigation season doesn't wait
Farmers in the region are beginning their irrigation season, despite the ongoing pandemic, as the weather warms.

Monte Vista City Council appoints One-Cent oversight committee
The city council has appointed a committee to oversee the implementation of a one-cent sales tax increase.

Churches and Easter during COVID-19, drive up communion
Local churches are reporting a surge in communion as people seek spiritual support during these difficult times.

CENTER POST-DISPATCH
Volume 119, Number 12
Thursday, April 9, 2020

Towns of Center, Saguache election results
The towns of Center and Saguache have held their annual elections, with results showing a close race in several key positions.

Center police report
The Center Police Department reports a significant increase in calls related to COVID-19 concerns, including questions about safety protocols and requests for assistance.

COVID-19 Colorado Case Summary
A map showing the distribution of COVID-19 cases across Colorado counties, with a focus on the Center region.

SLV has first COVID-19 fatality, Gov. Polis extends stay at home order to April 26
SLV has reported its first COVID-19 fatality. Gov. Polis has extended the stay-at-home order to April 26.

Seniors ponder graduation options
Local seniors are weighing their options for graduation ceremonies, with many opting for virtual or postponed events.

THE SOUTH FORK TINES
Volume 119, Number 12
Thursday, April 9, 2020

South Fork announces preliminary results
The South Fork community has announced preliminary election results, showing a strong turnout and a clear winner in the local race.

COVID-19 Colorado Case Summary
A map showing the distribution of COVID-19 cases across Colorado counties, with a focus on the South Fork region.

SLV has first COVID-19 fatality, Gov. Polis extends stay at home order to April 26
SLV has reported its first COVID-19 fatality. Gov. Polis has extended the stay-at-home order to April 26.

Local restaurant offering a free lunch to those in need
A local restaurant is offering a free lunch to anyone in need, providing a much-needed service during these challenging times.

The Del Norte Prospector
Volume 146, Number 10
Del Norte, Colo. #1132
Thursday, April 9, 2020

Del Norte announces preliminary election results
The Del Norte community has announced preliminary election results, showing a strong turnout and a clear winner in the local race.

COVID-19 Colorado Case Summary
A map showing the distribution of COVID-19 cases across Colorado counties, with a focus on the Del Norte region.

SLV has first COVID-19 fatality, Gov. Polis extends stay at home order to April 26
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A local restaurant is offering a free lunch to anyone in need, providing a much-needed service during these challenging times.

Mineral County Miner
Volume 189 - 2018
Mineral, Colo. #1190
Thursday, April 9, 2020

Creede announces preliminary election results
The Creede community has announced preliminary election results, showing a strong turnout and a clear winner in the local race.

COVID-19 Colorado Case Summary
A map showing the distribution of COVID-19 cases across Colorado counties, with a focus on the Creede region.

SLV has first COVID-19 fatality, Gov. Polis extends stay at home order to April 26
SLV has reported its first COVID-19 fatality. Gov. Polis has extended the stay-at-home order to April 26.

Local restaurant offering a free lunch to those in need
A local restaurant is offering a free lunch to anyone in need, providing a much-needed service during these challenging times.

SLV Lifestyles
Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Mask your face for everyone's health
Wearing a face mask is a simple yet effective way to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We encourage everyone to wear a mask in public settings.

SBA, Treasury begin unprecedented mobilization effort to distribute small business funds
The Small Business Administration and Treasury Department have announced a major effort to provide financial support to small businesses affected by the pandemic.

His father's son
A touching story about a young boy who has inherited his father's passion for a particular hobby, highlighting the importance of family traditions.

Call today to subscribe (719) 852-3531 or email MonteVistaClass@gmail.com

Discover local trails and track closures on the COTREX app

COLORADO - Colorado Parks and Wildlife has launched a new trail closure tracking feature on the Colorado Trail Explorer (COTREX) app to enhance the outdoor recreation planning experience for our community. With help from our local, state, and federal partners COTREX is now monitoring trail-related COVID-19 closures across Colorado on a daily basis. For the first time, closures and alerts are now visually represented with symbols on the COTREX map when viewing details about a trail, trailhead or visitor center.

CPW understands how important outdoor recreation is to your physical and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, staying close to home and limiting travel for recreation is essential to prevent the spread of the virus in our

state. At this time, we encourage all Coloradans to stay close to your home and use local trails and parks for outdoor recreation. Limiting travel for recreation helps minimize the strain of visitors on small mountain communities and creates less burden for our search and rescue and emergency responders.

To find new trail opportunities in your community, use the free COTREX app on both web and mobile. COTREX is a valuable resource that allows users to discover more than 45,000 miles of public trails in Colorado. The trail filter allows you to customize your search based on location, recreational activity, vehicle type, or trail needs like wheelchair accessibility and dog-friendly trails. The app also gives you the ability to create and share custom routes that show distance,

elevation, steepness and navigation to the nearest trailhead.

COTREX plans to track closures related to trails, parks, open spaces, visitor centers and campgrounds. COTREX does not plan to report closures for public recreation facilities not associated with trails, such as playgrounds and recreation centers. While our goal is to update COTREX daily, please make sure to check with your local land manager for additional guidance on how and where to recreate responsibly.

CPW reminds Coloradans to practice trail safety etiquette while recreating outdoors and to visit parks responsibly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Stay at home if you are sick.
- Participate in the Colorado



Mask Project and wear a non-medical mask when you go outside to protect yourself and our community.

- Spread out on trails and follow social distancing guidelines.

- Avoid creating crowds around trailheads. Adjust your outdoor recreation plans and use COTREX to find another local trail option.
- Avoid dangerous outdoor activities that can result in a hospital visit.

For more information about Colorado's state parks and outdoor recreation, visit the CPW website.

Implementing safety practices for critical infrastructure workers

To ensure continuity of operations of essential functions, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) advises that critical infrastructure workers may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community.

A potential exposure means being a household contact or having close contact within 6 feet of an individual with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. The timeframe for having contact with an individual includes the period of time of 48 hours before the individual became symptomatic.

Critical Infrastructure workers who have had an exposure but remain asymptomatic should adhere to the following practices before and during their work shift:

Pre-Screen: Employers should measure the employee's temperature and assess symptoms before they starting work. Ideally, temperature checks should happen before the individual enters the facility.

Regular Monitoring: As long as the employee doesn't have a temperature or symptoms, they should self-monitor under the supervision of their employer's occupational health program.

Wear a Mask: The employee should wear a face mask at all times while in the workplace for 14 days

after last exposure. Employers can issue facemasks or can approve employees' supplied cloth face coverings in the event of shortages.

Social Distance: The employee should maintain 6 feet and practice social distancing as work duties permit in the workplace.

Disinfect and Clean workspaces: Clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment routinely.

If the employee becomes sick during the day, they should be sent home immediately. Surfaces in their workspace should be cleaned and disinfected. Information on persons who had contact with the ill employee during the time the employee had symptoms and two days before symptoms should be compiled. Others at the facility with close contact within 6 feet of the employee during this time would be considered exposed.

Employers should implement the recommendations in the Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 to help prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. Additional information about identifying critical infrastructure during COVID-19 can be found on the DHS CISA website external icon or the CDC's specific First Responder Guidance page.

COVER Continued from Page 1

fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for health care workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

Should cloth face coverings be washed or otherwise cleaned regularly? How regularly?

Yes. They should be routinely washed depending on the frequency of use.

How does one safely sterilize/clean a cloth face covering?

A washing machine should suffice in properly washing a face covering.

How does one safely remove a used cloth face covering?

Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.

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07 Help Wanted

The Upper Rio Grande (previously Del Norte) School District is seeking applications for a Jr/Sr High School Principal for the 2020/2021 school year. Applicants must hold a current Colorado Principal license. Previous experience as a Principal or Asst. Principal is preferred. Applications may be obtained online at www.dncsd.org. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Chris Burr, Superintendent, cburr@urtigers.co, 719-657-4040. (4/29)

"The Mineral County Board of County Commissioners is looking for interested parties to serve as the Mineral County Representative to the Board of Directors of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District. This is a 3 year term that will begin in April of 2020. If you are interested in the position please submit a letter of interest to the Mineral County Administrator, PO Box 70, Creede, CO 81130 or countyadmin@mincocolorado.com.

Rio Grande Savings & Loan is seeking a Mortgage and Consumer Loan Officer to join our team in the Monte Vista office. The Loan Officer is responsible for promotion of RGSLA products and services, including, but not limited to home purchase loans, home refinances, consumer loans, and home construction loans. Qualified candidates will have excellent written and verbal communication skills, superior customer service skills, and the ability to work independently, as well as cooperatively in a team environment. Prior lending experience or other

applicable experience is preferred, but not required. Salary commensurate with experience. RGSLA also offers a rich benefit program including a 401k match and a family health insurance plan, along with a stable and enriching work environment. For additional information please contact Denise Heersink @ 719-852-7048 or deniseh@rgsla.com. Applications available at www.rgsla.com/contact and can be submitted to kater@rgsla.com - deadline is April 15, 2020

Experienced/licensed nurse practitioner or physician assistant for busy outpatient pain clinic. Full or part time considered; compensation based on experience. Good benefits. Typical work schedule, Mon-Fri (off major holidays). Please send letter of interest and CV to peter.edis@hrrmc.net or contact Peter directly at 719-530-2212 for more information. (04/17)

WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge is looking to hire a Shop Foreman. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must possess a current Class-A CDL license with heavy semi-truck endorsement and a current medical certificate. Applicants should have a high school diploma or GED equivalent, along with extensive knowledge of vehicles, equipment and mechanical maintenance procedures. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening and criminal background check. Shop Foreman is a full-time salaried position – qualified candidates will be able to perform a variety of skilled and semi-skilled duties associated with the supervision of assigned road crew which include installing, repairing and maintaining Saguache County Road and Bridge's property within the Right-Of-Way. This position is expected to work during road emergencies so you

should be available to work nights, weekends and holidays when needed. Applications and a complete job description are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office 305 3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 – 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website – www.saguachecounty.net under the Road and Bridge Department tab. Please fill out and submit both applications: The Saguache County Application and the Drivers-Application. Completed applications can be hand delivered

or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge – at the address listed above, sent by email to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov or faxed to: 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until a qualified candidate is hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (4/16)

10 Apartments for Rent
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posit. **2 bedroom unfurnished,** same as above. \$750/month, \$750 deposit. (719)850-2738.(04/22)

12 House for Rent

Sweet remodeled 2 bedroom/1 bath home on corner lot in Del Norte near hiking/biking trail head, \$750/month. No Pets and credit qualified. Call 719-850-0750. (04/22)

17 Real Estate For Sale

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Colorado gas prices have fallen

Colorado gas prices have fallen 7.6 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$1.88/g April 13, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 2,158 stations. Gas prices in Colorado are \$39.7 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 82.1 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Colorado is priced at \$0.99/g April 13 while the most expensive is \$3.39/g, a difference of \$2.40/g. The lowest price in the state April 13 is \$0.99/g while the highest is \$3.39/g, a difference of \$2.40/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 7.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$1.83/g today. The national average is down 42.3 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 100.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

Historical gasoline prices in Colorado and the national average going back 10 years:

- April 13, 2019: \$2.71/g (U.S. Average: \$2.83/g)
- April 13, 2018: \$2.62/g (U.S. Average: \$2.70/g)
- April 13, 2017: \$2.32/g (U.S. Average: \$2.41/g)
- April 13, 2016: \$1.96/g (U.S. Average: \$2.08/g)
- April 13, 2015: \$2.24/g (U.S. Average: \$2.39/g)
- April 13, 2014: \$3.52/g (U.S. Average: \$3.64/g)
- April 13, 2013: \$3.56/g (U.S. Average: \$3.53/g)
- April 13, 2012: \$3.87/g (U.S. Average: \$3.89/g)
- April 13, 2011: \$3.57/g (U.S. Average: \$3.81/g)
- April 13, 2010: \$2.72/g (U.S. Average: \$2.84/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

Fort Collins- \$1.97/g, down 1.3 cents per gallon from last week's \$1.98/g.

Colorado Springs- \$1.77/g, down 6.0 cents per gallon from last week's \$1.83/g.

Denver- \$1.73/g, down 5.6 cents per gallon from last week's \$1.78/g.

"As expected, and for the seventh straight week, the national average moved considerably lower, as well as gas prices in every state as retail prices continue to play catch up to the dramatic decline in market prices in recent weeks. And good news for consumers- contrary to popular belief, an OPEC deal over the weekend to cut oil production will actually not have a near-term impact on gasoline prices- not even one bit," said Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"Establishing a floor on ultra-low oil prices will hopefully keep U.S. oil production online instead of bankrupting producers. The aim is exactly that- keep production online- which will keep prices affordable going forward, instead of ultra-low prices shutting in oil production, leading to a slingshot in gas prices years from now. Going back to gas prices, I expect prices to continue moderating for now, as gasoline demand appears to remain near 50-year lows."

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This is Newt, he is a large mix around 3 years old. He can be a little standoffish at times, but is friendly once he gets to know you. He jumps high, so he would need a tall fenced in area.

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

This is Karma, she is a pitbull mix around 2 years old. She is pretty friendly with people, but would probably need to be the only dog in the house.

This is Bangles, he is an Australian Cattle Dog, around 3 years old. He is very friendly but likes to bite at heels. We think he was a working dog, so it would be best if he was on a farm/ranch or had a big space to run around.

This is Dudley, he is a 2 year old border collie/pitbull mix. He is a bit shy, but super friendly with people and other dogs.

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USFS issues recreation closures and fire restrictions

COLORADO - Acting Regional Forester Jennifer Eberlien announced and signed an order to temporarily close developed recreation sites and an order to implement fire restrictions within the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Region to align with local, state and federal orders and guidelines to protect public health and safety. The region includes 24 national forests and grasslands across Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.

"While we know that going outside provides forest and grassland visitors needed space, exercise and satisfaction, we are taking the risks presented by COVID-19 seriously," said Eberlien. "We are providing some recreation opportunities where we can while protecting and keeping employees, the public and our communities safe from the virus, as well as protecting and keeping communities and natural and cultural resources safe from unwanted human-caused wildfires."

Recreation Closures

Developed recreation sites are temporarily closed while dispersed camping, hiking and river uses are allowed, although discouraged. Closed developed recreation sites include campgrounds, day-use areas, picnic

areas, and any other constructed facility amenities – such as potable water stations, fire rings/grills, picnic tables, restroom facilities with flush or vaulted toilets, and trashcans and trash collection services. Parking facilities, trails and trailheads remain open. Dispersed camping includes camping on a national forest or grassland where recreation facilities or services are not provided.

Forest and grassland visitors camping in dispersed recreation sites, hiking or embarking on river activities are encouraged to adhere to the following safety and responsibility guidelines.

- Stay close to home to keep other communities safe.
- Stay 6 feet apart from others.
- Avoid crowding in parking lots, trails, scenic overlooks and other areas.
- Take CDC precautions to prevent illnesses like COVID-19.
- Prepare for limited or no services, such as restroom facilities and garbage collection.
- Prepare to pack out trash and human waste.

Fire Restrictions

Effective immediately until rescinded, the following is prohibited:

1. Igniting, building, maintaining,

attending or using a fire, including charcoal grills and barbecues, coal and wood-burning stoves, and sheepherder's stoves.

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

The following persons are exempt from fire restrictions:

1. Persons with a Forest Permit, Form FS-7700-48, specifically exempting them from the effect of this Order in the areas listed above.
2. Any Federal, State or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty is exempt from Prohibitions.
3. Persons using pressurized liquid or gas devices (stoves, grills or lanterns) with shut-off valves in an area at least 3 feet from any flammable materials are exempt from Prohibition



4. Residents, owners or lessees within the areas listed above who are using a fire in a permanent dwelling with an effective and properly installed USDA- or SAE- approved spark arrester, are exempt from Prohibition #1.

Fire restrictions enhance public safety, protect natural and cultural resources and help prevent human-caused wildfires. Several criteria are used to determine when to implement fire restrictions, including fire activity levels, current and predicted weather, fuel moisture and the availability of emergency and firefighting resources. Additional restrictions may be required if conditions warrant. Entering upon closed areas or igniting, building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or smoking on national forests and grasslands is a violation of Federal law and may result in consequent fines and possible jail time. All offices are conducting business and providing virtual services. For specific forest and grassland information, please visit the region's forest and grassland directory.

Adams State amends spring 2020 grading policy to reflect COVID-19 challenges

ALAMOSA - Adams State University has amended its grading policy to allow undergraduate students to convert any of their spring semester 2020 grades to Pass/Fail after final grades have been submitted by faculty members. Passing grades will be awarded college credit, designated as a "P" on student transcripts; a failing grade will not be awarded college credit and will be designated as a "NC" or "No Credit" on transcripts.

"The purpose of this policy is to provide a non-punitive grading option for students whose performance in a course or courses may have been detrimentally impacted by the change to remote instruction, or other situations resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic," said Adams State vice president for Academic Affairs Kent Buchanan.

Once grades are posted by May 12, students will have three days, until May 15, to request a change to a grade. Students must contact the Adams State registrar's office to pro-

cess the change. Students should feel free to reach out to their academic advisor or the Adams State financial aid staff in advance to discuss any implications to changing a course grade to Pass/Fail.

"This option is really good to have available for our students and we believe it reflects our commitment to support our students," said Adams State President Cheryl D. Lovell. "The shift to Blackboard-only instruction was not planned at the beginning of this spring semester. With these adjustments we know it is important to display as much care and compassion to all for this very quick change in course delivery. Our speed in adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic is a true testament to our great and caring faculty and staff."

Adams State students are finishing the spring semester on the University's Blackboard online course management system. The spring semester ends with finals week May 4 through May 8.

RGNF to release final Environmental Impact Statement for Land Management Plan

MONTE VISTA - Rio Grande National Forest officials are releasing the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the revised land management plan, under the provisions of the 2012 planning rule. This final EIS will be published in the Federal Register Friday, April 10, for a 30-day review period. The 2020 Land Management Plan will be available for reference on the Forest website by April 10. The Record of Decision, which approves the final plan, will be signed at the end of the review period. The approved plan will provide guidance for managing 1.8 million acres of forest's resources for the next 10-15 years.

Every national forest is required by federal law to have a land management plan that is periodically revised with public involvement. The Rio Grande National Forest has worked with the public, area tribes and local,

state and federal agencies since 2014 to revise its plan. Public input shaped direction for recreation, aquatic resources, eligible wild and scenic rivers, a proposed wilderness addition and species of conservation concern.

"The culmination of years of public meetings and hard work from staff and partners is nearing its final stage," said Forest Supervisor Dan Dallas. "I look forward to reaching the final milestone in this long and valuable process."

The final EIS includes the analysis of the five alternatives considered, including the No Action alternative that continues existing land management direction, and four action alternatives.

The Rio Grande National Forest Land Management Plan, EIS and associated documents are available online at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=46078>.

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

H	O	P	S	E	M	P	I	R	E									
I	N	T	E	R	M	I	T	T	E	N	T							
S	C	A	T	H	E	D	O	B	O	I	S	T						
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T	O	R	I					P	I	T								
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FDA warns Genesis II Church of Health and Healing marketing dangerous Chlorine Dioxide products that claim to treat or prevent COVID-19

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued a warning letter to a seller that markets fraudulent and dangerous chlorine dioxide products known as “Miracle Mineral Solution” for prevention and treatment of “Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019” (COVID-19). The FDA has previously warned consumers not to purchase or drink chlorine dioxide products sold online as medical treatments, as the agency is not aware of any scientific evidence supporting their safety or effectiveness and they pose significant risks to patient health. The FDA is taking this action to protect Americans as part of its response to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

“Despite previous warnings, the FDA is concerned that we are still seeing chlorine dioxide products being sold with misleading claims that they are safe and effective for the treatment of diseases, now including COVID-19. The sale of these products can jeopardize a person’s health and delay proper medical treatment,” said FDA Commissioner Stephen M. Hahn, M.D. “We continue to take action and keep up our efforts to monitor for fraudulent treatments during this public health emergency and remind the public to seek medical help from their health care providers.”

The FDA issued a joint warning letter with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to the Genesis II Church of Health and Healing for selling chlorine dioxide products that it fraudulently claims can treat or prevent COVID-19 in adults and children. This is especially concerning since children are a vulnerable population that may be at greater risk for adverse reactions from consuming chlorine dioxide. The FDA and FTC requested that the company respond in 48 hours describing the specific steps it has taken to correct the violations. Companies that sell products with unapproved claims to prevent, treat or cure COVID-19 may be subject to enforcement action, including but not limited to seizure or injunction.

Chlorine dioxide products have not been shown to be safe and effective for any use, including COVID-19, but these products continue to be sold as a remedy for treating autism, cancer, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and flu, among other conditions, despite their harmful effects.

Websites selling chlorine dioxide products typically describe the product as a liquid that is 28% sodium chlorite in distilled water. Product directions instruct consumers to mix the sodium chlorite solution with citric acid – such as lemon or lime juice – or another acid – such as hydrochloric acid – before drinking. In many instances, the sodium chlorite is sold as part of a kit with a citric acid “activator.” When the acid is added, the mixture becomes chlorine dioxide, a powerful bleaching agent that has caused serious and potentially life-threatening side effects.

Life-threatening Adverse Events
The FDA has received reports of people experiencing serious adverse events after drinking chlorine dioxide products, including:

- Respiratory failure caused by a serious condition where the amount of oxygen carried through the blood stream is greatly reduced (methemoglobinemia);
- Changes in the electrical activity of the heart (QT prolongation), which may lead to potentially fatal abnormal heart rhythms;

- Life-threatening low blood pressure caused by dehydration;
- Acute liver failure;

- Low blood cell counts, due to the destruction of red blood cells faster than the body can make it (hemolytic anemia), which required a blood transfusion;
- Severe vomiting; and
- Severe diarrhea.

The FDA is not aware of any scientific evidence supporting the safety or effectiveness of “Miracle Mineral Solution” products, despite claims that the solution has antimicrobial, antiviral and antibacterial properties. The FDA encourages consumers to talk to a health

care professional about preventing and treating medical conditions or diseases.

The FDA is particularly concerned that products that fraudulently claim to cure, treat or prevent serious diseases like COVID-19 may cause consumers to delay or stop appropriate medical treatment, leading to serious and life-threatening harm.

Fraudulent Cure Claims
In addition to following up with companies that fail to make adequate corrections, the FDA will continue to monitor social media, online marketplaces and incoming complaints to help ensure that the companies do not continue to sell fraudulent products under a different company name or on another website. The FDA is closely monitoring for fraudulent products related to COVID-19 and has issued a number of warning letters since the start of the pandemic.

The FDA reminds consumers to be cautious of websites and stores selling products that claim to prevent, mitigate, treat, diagnose or cure COVID-19. Fraudulent COVID-19 products may come in many varieties, including dietary supplements and other foods, as well as products purporting to be drugs, medical devices or vaccines. Products that claim to cure, mitigate, treat, diagnose or prevent disease, but



Courtesy photo

An illustration of “Miracle” or “Master” Mineral Solution which the FDA says is being sold as a remedy for COVID-19. (FDA)

are not proven safe and effective for those purposes, defraud consumers of money and can place consumers at risk for serious harm. Using these products may lead to delays in getting proper diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 and other potentially serious diseases and conditions.

The FDA encourages health care

professionals and consumers to report adverse events or quality problems experienced with the use of COVID-19 products to the FDA’s MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting program.

The FDA, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, protects the public health by assuring the safety, effectiveness,

and security of human and veterinary drugs, vaccines and other biological products for human use, and medical devices. The agency also is responsible for the safety and security of our nation’s food supply, cosmetics, dietary supplements, products that give off electronic radiation, and for regulating tobacco products.



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