

Shorts



One dead in Poncha Pass crash

SAGUACHE COUNTY — According to the Colorado State Patrol Monday, a two-vehicle collision March 8 on Poncha Pass resulted in a fatality after a 2016 Nissan Frontier collided with a 2015 Lexus RX350. The front seat passenger in the Nissan was pronounced dead on the scene.

A juvenile male in the Lexus also sustained serious injuries and was flown out to a medical center specializing in child care. The juvenile's injuries are not expected to be life-threatening.

The accident investigation continues, but it is believed that traveling too fast for existing road conditions was a contributing factor to the accident. The name of the deceased party is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Sylvia Bernstein, Colorado Coalition Coordinator for the Yes on National Popular Vote

ALAMOSA — The San Luis Valley League of Women Voters will co-sponsor the following event along with the ASU Women in Higher Education Thursday, March 12, 7 p.m. at Adams State University, McDaniel Hall, room 101.

Come join us in viewing *Winner Takes All*. This film explains how the Electoral College came to be, its impact on U.S. legislative policy, and current efforts to make presidential elections better represent the will of the people. The film will be followed by a presentation by Sylvia Bernstein, Colorado Coalition Coordinator for the *Yes on National Popular Vote* campaign, on the impact of the National Popular Vote legislation on Colorado. For further information, call Jan Oen, 719-480-4771.



Sylvia Bernstein

Lethal dose: What causes addiction and some preventive measures, Pt. III

By TERESA L. BENNS

CENTENNIAL — Dr. Hunter Kennedy has been warning the public about the coming epidemic of fentanyl abuse in this series over the past two weeks and the consequences for both individuals and communities if measures are not taken to treat and prevent substance abuse.

In this final installment, Kennedy addresses the hidden causes of drug and alcohol addiction in general and ways to prevent substance abuse in the future.

Kennedy is the executive director

of Footprints to Recovery in Colorado (<https://footprintstorecovery.com/addiction-treatment-locations/colorado/>), an addiction treatment facility. Kennedy holds a doctorate in psychology, a master's degree in counseling, a bachelor's degree in psychology and an associate degree in business. His recovery center is located in Centennial.

During a phone interview Feb. 20, Kennedy explained the underlying issues fueling addiction to drugs including fentanyl and why it is

important to isolate these causes in order to successfully treat addiction.

He identifies two main contributing factors to the abuse of drugs and alcohol. Among the patients he treats, he says, "Sixty percent have trauma or underlying mental health issues. Most of the addicts I see are trying to numb out, they suffer from depression and anxiety. Almost every addict experiences this at some time."

In an interview with KDVR Fox news earlier this year, Kennedy defined trauma as "anything that rocks you to the

core," resulting in obsessive thoughts, nightmares, flashbacks, anxiety and/or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). "[Addicts] have to acknowledge there's a problem, reach out and talk about solutions," Kennedy explained. "If you don't deal with the core issues, you go back tolethawhere you were."

He sees another potential cause of addiction looming for today's generation, noting that children today are "raised in isolation and are overprotected by parents who fight all their battles for

Please see **LETHAL** on Page 3A



Photo by Teresa L. Bennis

Mayor candidates James L. Sanchez, Pedro (Tino) Segura, Anthony (Tony) Garcia, Jaime Hurtado and Delsa G. Chavez answer questions about their candidacy.

Mayor candidates answer voter questions

By TERESA L. BENNS

CENTER — Candidates running for the Center mayor's position went

before Center community members Thursday to answer questions about how they will perform their duties

over the next four years and what their goals will be.

Please see **MAYOR** on Page 3A



Courtesy photo

Center trustee candidates Archie Gallegos, Nivek T. Beiriger, Annette Martinez, David Ramon, Nick Shaffer, Peggy Martinez, Herman (Dicky) Sisneros and Leslie Duran Shelley answered questions regarding their candidacy.

Center trustee candidates answer questions

By TERESA L. BENNS

CENTER — Candidates running for Center trustee positions next month

met Wednesday, March 4, to answer questions from the public concerning where they stand on the issues facing

the town of Center over the next two to four years.

Please see **FORUM** on Page 5A

Public Health coronavirus FAQ

SAN LUIS VALLEY - Coronavirus has been dominating the news in Colorado and around the world. The San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership has been receiving questions from the local community.

San Luis Valley. However, this is a rapidly evolving situation, and what we're seeing in other areas advises us that once spread is detected in a community, cases can increase quickly. Given that, our recommendations may alter.

What is the current status of COVID-19 in the San Luis Valley?

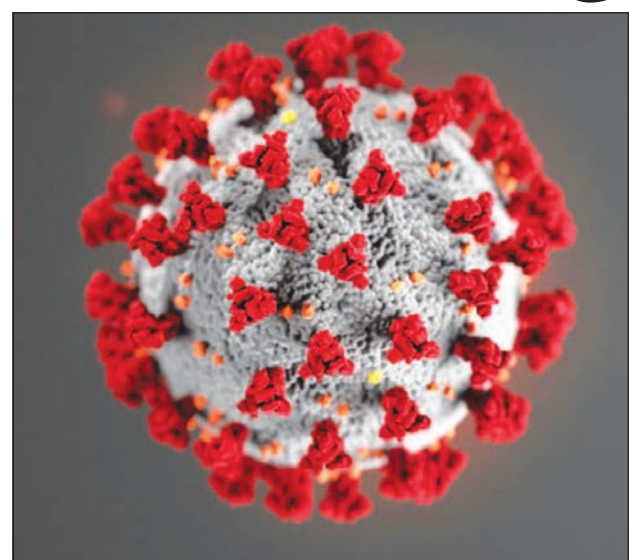
Colorado began seeing presumptive cases of COVID-19 this past week. A presumptive case means that a test has been processed and determined for COVID-19 by the lab at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), but that a confirmation of the test result has not yet been made by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As of right now, there are no presumptive cases in the

What can I do to help prevent the spread of disease?

Stay informed and take simple preventive actions.

Practice good hygiene. Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water; in the absence of soap and water, use hand-sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol; cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash; avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands

Please see **FAQ** on Page 2A



Courtesy photo



FAQ

Continued from Page 1A

Stay home if you're sick; keep your children home if they are sick.

Can pets spread COVID-19?

CDC does not have any evidence to suggest that animals or animals imported from affected geographic areas pose a risk for spreading COVID-19 in the United States.

Is there a vaccine that can stop COVID-19 from spreading?

COVID-19 is such a new virus that a vaccine has not yet been developed. The influenza virus is not designed to fight COVID-19. However, public health does encourage people to get a flu vaccine each year to fight influenza, which can also be a dangerous disease.

What is my County Public Health Agency doing to prepare?

For many years Local Public Health agencies have devoted time and energy to planning and practicing to respond to potential widespread disease outbreaks. In the short time since COVID-19 was identified as a potential threat, local agencies have been in frequent communication with CDPHE and with local partners in the health care community in order to prepare for this particular disease outbreak.

Is the Valley prepared for possible spread of the virus?

A community's resilience depends in large part on individuals and families doing their part. There

is no evidence of community spread in Colorado at this time, but this is a good time to be calm and get prepared. FEMA guidance for pre-pandemic COVID-19 preparedness is available on Ready.gov. Helpful information about getting your household ready for coronavirus is available on CDC's website. The CDC.gov coronavirus 2019 website also has more specific guidance for schools, businesses and communities, as well as for people at higher risk and special populations.

What if I have other questions?

More online information is available on SLV Health's FAQ page as well as CDPHE's coronavirus web page.

People who have general questions about coronavirus disease 2019, can call COHELP at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911 or email them at COHELP@RMPDC.org, for answers in English and Spanish.

Alamosa County Public Health, Della Cox-Vieira RN, MPH, Director
8900 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101
Office: 719-589-6639 Fax: 719-

589-1103 Cell: 719-429-4832
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19023 HWY 285, P. O. Box 78, La Jara, CO 81140
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Silver Thread Public Health

District (Mineral and Hinsdale Counties), Tara Hardy MS, Director
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CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

Potential election-related system vulnerabilities

BY SAGUACHE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER TRISH GILBERT ProPublica

ProPublica will be publishing an article concerning potential election-related system vulnerabilities they found after performing a Rapid7 scan across the United States. Multiple counties in the State of Colorado were sent reports highlighting various services that were accessible from the internet. It should be noted this does not mean the services highlighted have vulnerabilities, but some may.

Counties are currently reviewing the report to see if any of their systems have known vulnerabilities. Voters in Colorado should have confidence in their election system and keep the following in mind:

Colorado voters should have confidence that their cast ballot will be counted and reported accurately.

The systems listed in the report include general systems, such as county websites that may not be

directly related to election systems. Voting and vote tabulations systems in Colorado are not connected to the internet and were not scanned by Rapid7. The voting systems themselves are not referenced or included in ProPublica's report.

Elections systems are designed with multiple layers of defenses to ensure their integrity.

The Secretary of State and Colorado's 64 County Clerk and Recorders continually work with our respective cybersecurity professionals to identify and mitigate risks and vulnerabilities and will work together in reviewing the ProPublica data to determine whether additional remediation measures are appropriate.

Our focus is running a secure and accurate election.

Colorado's voting model is centered on paper ballots, robust security measures and risk-limiting audits, to ensure the integrity of our election outcomes.

SAGUACHE SHERIFF REPORT

The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the week of March 2-9, 2020.

- Arrests
Victor Jaramillo, 38, Center, two counts of contempt of court.
Josanna Gonzales, 31, Center, second-degree burglary.
Justin Gonzales, 27, Center, contempt of court.
Tod Duchin, 61, Murder/attempted murder in the second-

degree, menacing, prohibited use of a weapon, assault in the third degree, domestic violence, criminal attempt.

- Citations
Jean Thompson, 27, Dallas, Georgia, speeding 39 in a 35 MPH zone.
Luis Lujan-Almendariz, 31, Denver, speeding 44 in a 35 MPH zone.
Kade Glover, 19, Cortez, speeding 78 in a 65 MPH zone.



File your taxes for free and claim cash-back tax credits

If your household income was less than \$56,000 in 2019, you are eligible for FREE, trustworthy tax help from an IRS-certified preparer.

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LETHAL

Continued from Page 1A

them.” When everything is done for them, he added, “They never develop social or coping skills,” and when they grow older and face the world, “They have nothing to work with.”

“When kids can’t cope, they commit suicide or resort to drugs,” he continued. “This is where all this is leading to,” and the results are already reflected in the high rate of suicides among teens in Colorado.

Kennedy says the only solution to the problem he can offer is to educate early. During the Feb. 20 interview, he related his experiences with his own children. His daughters attended a high school

in Houston, Texas populated mainly by teens from wealthy families, a high school that was riddled with severe drug problems.

They often accompanied him in his work and he would allow 18-25 year-old-female addicts to “openly talk to my daughters, tell them what they did and what happened, the choices they made.” Kennedy says that after that, his daughters never had a problem with drugs.

During graduate school, he conducted a study on how to modify and change risky behavior. He brought in a 24-year-old woman who had experienced

addiction problems to address 135 freshmen girls. Before the talk, the girls filled out questionnaires regarding risky behavior.

When the former addict spoke, she described waking up in an orange jumpsuit and not even remembering why she was in jail. She also gave other harrowing examples of what it is like to

live a life of addiction.

After the talk, students hearing her story were retested and their attitudes about how OK it is to use drugs and alcohol had changed. Kennedy saw a reduction in the likelihood of resorting to substance abuse by over 45 percent. His study was later presented in the Journal of Awareness.

“The age of first use is getting younger and younger,” Kennedy concluded. “What we did at 16 kids are doing at a much younger age.” The only solution is awareness, he said, and early treatment before the problem becomes too serious to address. Counselors at Kennedy’s treatment center, Footprints to Recovery, can be reached at 855-628-2899.

MAYOR

Continued from Page 1A

Candidates running for mayor include James L. Sanchez, Pedro (Tino) Segura, Anthony (Tony) Garcia, Jaime Hurtado and Delsa G. Chavez. Sanchez and Hurtado currently serve as Center town trustees. Segura is a former trustee and Garcia is a member of the Center Sanitation Board.

Once again, County Treasurer and Center resident Connie Trujillo opened the forum with questions for the candidates:

1. Why are you running for the mayor’s position?

• Segura: “The mayor makes sure the town runs smoothly. He is a leader, but not as powerful as the elected members. He sees that everything is addressed, produces a good environment, is the welcoming committee and sees that people’s needs are met. There are a lot of issues that need to be addressed.”

• Sanchez: After explaining he is a former Center postmaster and school board member, Sanchez said: “I want to continue my role as a leader in the town of Center. The mayor is in charge of the board and gets public input, follows up with people. We are in the process of making decisions that will affect people. I want to have an open-door policy and will get back to them.”

• Garcia: “I’ve been here 58 years and worked for the Ford garage for 25 years. Now I am the transportation director for Center Schools. I know there are concerns, but we have to listen and get along. We need to develop tourism and address our water issues. It’s time for you guys to let us run it.”

• Chavez: “I work for Adams State University and have been here for 30 years. There are people in this town who need help. I am not sure what all a mayor does, but I am willing to learn. I can get grants, help make the town better, and get people involved.”

• Hurtado: “I am employed with the City of Monte Vista and have a background in law enforcement. You are our future. If we don’t prepare, we will face the consequences. I want to be part of the town moving forward. I know where we are headed — we have a bright future here.”

2. What are the top two things you want to see happen if you are elected mayor?

• Hurtado: “A place where kids can go to be safe. Like a recreation center and the annexation for housing opportunities.”

• Chavez: “Grants for the town and someplace where kids can go.”

• Garcia: “Getting more of the community involved and a recreation center, places to eat, a motel.”

• Sanchez: “Work on the new water rates and more transparency.”

• Segura: “Public relations and getting involved with the community. Better relations with the staff and the police department.”

3. What are your expectations for the board?

• Garcia: “Treat board members with respect, see what needs to be done.”

• Chavez: Agreed with Garcia
• Hurtado: “Understand our mission and how we can move forward together.”

• Segura: “Teamwork, teamwork and work on beautifying Center.”

• Sanchez: “Welcome new members and educate them on the way the town works. Encourage candidates to attend meetings as spectators.”

Local business owner Kim Duran asked candidates how they would involve community members and get them to attend board meetings.

• Hurtado: Get out there and talk to people. Some people can’t come but you can always call people.”

• Chavez: “Inform people about what’s going on and answer their questions.”

• Garcia: “We can ask them to come with us and encourage them to voice their opinions.”

• Sanchez: “By word-of-mouth. Let people know the town is doing good, moving forward.”

• Segura: “Provide a welcoming environment and listen to them.”

Current mayor Herman Sisneros then asked candidates if they were for or against the 2 percent sales tax increase on the ballot this election.

• Hurtado: “I’m for it — I see where our funds go. We’ve worked hard to get where we are and it will help us.”

• Chavez: “I’m for it — it’s better for the town.”

• Garcia: “When we have growth, we have to have the money.”

• Sanchez: “I’m for it. The general fund is losing money and the police department would benefit. There has been no increase since 1983.”

• Segura: “It’s a no brainer — we need it.”

Trustee Archie Gallegos then asked the mayoral candidates how they would get local students involved in the meetings.

• Garcia: “I would work with the school board members and see if people would like to help make changes.”

• Sanchez: “I would start with government classes — let kids know how it works at the town level.”

• Segura: “When I was here there was conflict with the school. We have to put out a positive image for these little ones.”

• Chavez: “Ask for student opinions and ideas.”

• Hurtado: “Get with the school board, come up with a plan. In Monte Vista students take notes [at meetings] for government classes.”

Addressing Segura, Trustee Adeline Sanchez said there are things the town needs to work out with the schools but reminded attendees the town does have intergovernmental agreements with the school and Sanitation Board. She also commented that the town contributed much labor to the building of the new school and contributes to the recreation program, after-school program and also supplements the school’s utilities.

Trustee Bill McClure thanked the candidates and told them those not elected were still welcome to participate in town government.



The Colorado LEAP program is a federally funded state-supervised, county-administered system and is designed to assist with your winter heating costs. The LEAP Program eligibility period runs from November 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020

Eligibility Requirements, you may be eligible for LEAP assistance if:

1. You are a U.S. Citizen and a resident of Colorado
2. You pay heating fuel costs directly to an energy provider or pay the cost of heating your dwelling with your rent, or in addition to rent in a non-subsidized dwelling
3. Your gross monthly household income is within the guidelines set annually (see below). “Household” means the people who reside with you within your dwelling at which you reside and apply for assistance and for whom you, as applicant, are financially responsible for. The maximum gross monthly income is based on 60% of the State Median Income level as listed in the table below.

Household Size	Monthly Gross Income 60% of State Median Income Level
1	\$2,371
2	\$3,101
3	\$3,831
4	\$4,561
5	\$5,290
6	\$6,021
7	\$6,157
8	\$6,294
Each additional person	\$137

LEAP is designed to help eligible households with winter home heating costs.

LEAP is not intended to pay the entire cost of home heating.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Free hotel breakfast

Recently Miss Trixie and Ol' Dutch took a trip down to visit our southern neighbors in Mexico. And while we didn't venture very far into any murderous, cartel-infested areas, we did get to experience some foreign culture, food and cheap trinkets.

Since it was a short trip down and back, we opted to stay in a hotel near the beach and got to enjoy all the things those places provide to weary travelers.

You know, such things as unlimited hot water and real shampoo. This wasn't the crunchy, harsh body wash that Ol' Dutch normally uses but was rich and foamy. It reminded me of Cooper's oatmeal flea and tick shampoo that I sometimes pick up by mistake but has kept me flea free for 10 long years, as well.

The hotel room was huge and the bathroom so big you could have started and raised an entire family in there. Miss Trixie got lost in the Jacuzzi tub several times and I had to throw her a life ring to save her from the sharks circling her lifeless body.

The first morning found Ol' Dutch tired and cranky and suffering from the Cornea Virus. You know the one men often get that gives them a crappy outlook on life?

Ol' Dutch finally stumbled out of bed and Miss Trixie met me with heaping plates of culinary deliciousness from the breakfast bar. There were cinnamon rolls and muffins, cherry-filled pastries and waffles plus real caffeine-loaded coffee.

As nice as that might seem to you all that Miss Trixie would be so kind to fix me breakfast, the sight of all that once hot food sitting cold on a plate took me back in time to breakfast at my Grandmother's house.

She would rise early and make us all breakfast and it always included cold blackened toast, cold eggs and cold bacon. I think living through The Depression made it hard for those people to ever waste anything so the black was scraped off the toast and we ate it anyway.

So here stood Trixie with a plate full of delicious and tasty coldness and I almost sat down to eat it without complaint but then again, what fun would it be to lose my man card so



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

early in the trip?

For you see, there is nothing I enjoy more in a morning at a hotel than making those waffles in those flip-flop machines. If you have never done that you are missing out on a real treat.

The waffle machine makes a perfectly brown and toasty waffle the shape of Texas or some other oddity plus syrup, butter and jellies are provided for your eating pleasure.

I don't eat those waffles, mind you, I just love to make them. A small piece off the corner may find its way to my belly but I am not a fan.

Some spring break kids also came in for the free breakfast and must have been Bernie voters as they were not staying at the hotel but only heard there was free stuff.

Later that first day we got to see hundreds of white haired old people carting bags full of Tamiflu and Viagra across the border from Mexico purchased from the legal drug lords in the pharmacies there. Even Ol' Dutch was able to score on some pain gel for \$1.95 saving about \$600 over what it cost me here in the good old U.S. of A.

I am not sure but I think I saw Miss Trixie applying that pain medicine to her backside trying to alleviate the pain that Ol' Dutch often causes her. Viva la Mexico!

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

LETTER

It's correct about my department going over budget by \$413,631

To the editor,
Just to be clear, Teresa Benns' article in the Center Post-Dispatch Jan. 9 of this year (County Administrator plans to "move forward") is correct about my department going over budget by \$413,631. This I blame on the administrator (Glen Simpson) who should have made the requested amendments to the Road and Bridge Department's budget before the end of 2018.

I would to enlighten the readers of the paper with a real picture about this department's audited finances at the end of 2018. The picture looks like this:

2018 Original Budget:
Total Revenues – \$3,092,404
Total Expenditures – \$3,100,204
Variance – (\$7,800)
Fund Balance -- \$2,880,369
2018 Actual Budget: Revenues – \$3,552,157
Expenditures – \$3,513,835
Variance – \$38,322
Fund Balance – \$3,389,575
2018 Original Beginning Fund Balance – \$2,880,369
Actual Beginning Fund Balance – \$3,389,575
Variance – \$509,206

original budget (\$7,800) and add the variance of the actual budget \$38,322 plus the variance in the original beginning fund balance compared to the actual beginning fund balance \$509,206 you will see that \$555,328 was added to the 2018 year-end Fund Balance.

I hope that you can understand the numbers and my concern that readers may question the finances at the Road and Bridge Department and have a negative view of the management here.

Randal Arredondo
Saguache County Road and Bridge Supervisor

So if you take the variance of the

LETTERS POLICY

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

All letters must be signed by the author and include a phone number and address where the author can be reached (these

are not for publication). Letters forwarded from other organizations or sent to staff and not for print must be designated as such. Letters over 300 words and without contact information will be returned to the sender or discarded.

We will accept one letter per person, per subject, per four issues. We reserve

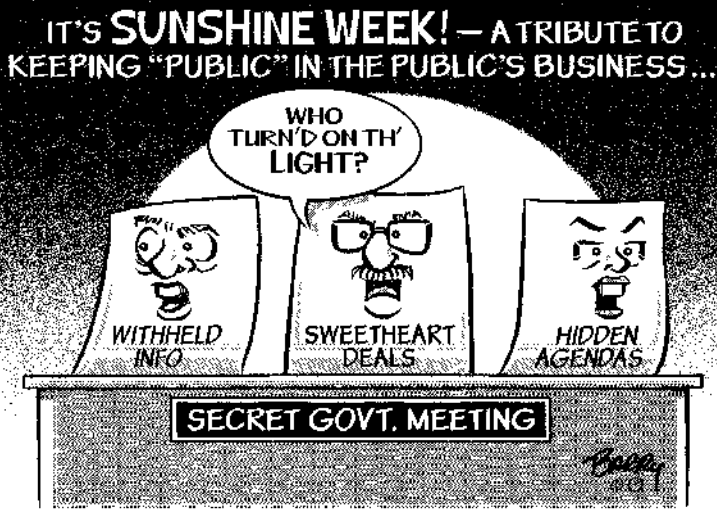
the right to reject letters for reasons we believe are appropriate. Please send letters to Letter to the Editor c/o Valley Publishing, PO Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or e-mail to montevistanews@gmail.com (Attention: Letter to the Editor). Deadline for letters is 5 p.m. Friday.



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Greg is a San Luis Valley native. He has been a physical therapist for 23 years, working in acute care, long term care and home health. Greg enjoys providing care to rural communities, and it's important to him to be able to help his patients regain function and quality of life. He is married and has 3 children and 8 grandchildren.

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CENTER POST - DISPATCH

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Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144

Main office, Want ads and Subscriptions: (719) 852-3531
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FORUM

Continued from Page 1A

About 15 community members attended the forum. There are three trustee positions up for election and eight candidates are running for those three positions. They are: Archie Gallegos, Nivek T. Beiriger, Annette Martinez, David Ramon, Nick Shaffer, Peggy Martinez, Herman (Dicky) Sisneros and Leslie Duran Shelley. Gallegos is running for a second term as trustee, Sisneros is currently the mayor of Center and Martinez is a former trustee. The Center election is set for April 12. County treasurer and Center resident Connie Trujillo posed questions to the candidates:

1. Why are you running for the trustee position?

• Martinez: "I believe our current board has done a good job with projects and would like to see them completed." Martinez said she hopes to see the storefronts on Worth Street updated and would like to see harm reduction centers for drug addiction opened in the town.

• Gallegos: Gallegos agreed with Martinez and said he would also like to serve on the board to "be here for Center police officers" and help them "protect the community."

• Sisneros: "I want to continue improving the town, I helped re-establish the Christmas parade and Fourth of July celebration and finished the park. The town has improved a lot." Sisneros also said he would like to continue to help the town annex the Consaul property.

• Ramon: "I would like to address the drug and alcohol problem."

• Shelley: "I would like to help out our neighbors more, see people more involved. I grew up here and have seen changes for the better."

• Martinez: "I want to be a part of the progress the town board has made and be a part of what is happening, not a complainer. I'm going to try to bring the community together."

• Bieriger: "I'd like to build the town up to what it used to be, address the crime problems and drugs, and help our officers."

• Schaeffer: "We have a great police department and I would like to see a canine unit. We have a bad problem with drugs here — kids grow up, get into drugs and they need help. This needs to be a priority for the town."

2. What will you do to encourage people to help pass the sales tax?

• Schaeffer: "People don't understand it and it's hard to convince them. The town needs it and I would like to better explain it."

• Bieriger: "I will visit with people and explain it. Taxes haven't been raised since the 1980s."

• Shelley: "At first I was against it, but I talked to people and it will go for the town, make it better."

• Ramon: "Make yourself available to people and talk to them, make them comfortable."

• Sisneros: "You're paying double (in Alamosa) but you can't give your town a 2 percent tax raise? This is for your community."

• Gallegos: "I've been talking to a lot of people, changing their thoughts."

• Martinez: "If the sales tax is approved, it will come back to the townspeople in improvements."

3. What do you know about budgets, what is your financial background?

• Martinez: "I have been on the board before and have done workshops, so I have some knowledge."

• Gallegos: "I would like to see the budget lower, do some things for the town."

• Sisneros: "I have 30 years' experience in retail and know how to read our budget."

• Ramon: "Don't know much, but willing to learn."

• Shelley: "I budget my own bills, have some bank experience."

• Bieriger: "I do my personal household budget but could figure it out."

• Schaeffer: "As a plumber, I do have experience in how to make things fit into people's budgets."

Center trustee Adeline Sanchez invited Center residents to "Come to our workshops and help build up Center." Center trustee Bill McClure told those attending that the Consaul property the town is currently trying to annex was purchased for its big wells and it has made Center "better waterwise than any other town. Center has no way to grow

other than north."

Town Administrator Brian Lujan commented that property taxes and sales taxes are not enough to subsidize the town. This year, he observed, the town's budget decreased from \$1.58 million to under

\$1 million. "If you want to continue this progress you have to increase the sales tax," he said.

Lujan agreed that downtown Center is a priority, "But we can't house people in those buildings. Downtown Inc. wants to

brighten things up, but people need places to live." He said the town needs to figure out how to zone the Consaul property so they can build affordable housing such as duplexes and townhouses.

Mayor pro tem Mary McClure

noted that the planning sessions for the property are open to discussion with the community. Bill McClure thanked the candidates for coming and Trustee Jaime Hurtado said he was glad to see the community was involved.

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COOPERTIRES

Basketball continues postseason on the road

There are still seven valley teams alive in playoff basketball brackets. Alamosa boys, Centauri boys and girls in 3A. Del Norte girls, Sanford boys and girls in 2A. And Sangre de Cristo girls in 1A.

As with the past few seasons, the playoffs will take place in three different cities. 3A will travel to Denver University (DU). DU will be the home of the remaining 14 games in both the boys and girls brackets. Alamosa boys cleared their first two games in the state tournament to qualify for the Great 8. There Alamosa will face a familiar opponent in Faith Christian. The Moose defeated the Eagles earlier this season at the Glenwood Springs Invitational 56-53. Alamosa takes on Faith Christian on Thursday at 1:15 p.m.

Centauri's boys and girls both cleared their home quadrants. The boys will take on the defending state champions in Manual. Manual boasts the No. 1 scorer in 3A basketball in Jaden Stoffell. Falcons meet the Thunderbolts at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday. The Centauri girls will also play on Thursday. The Lady Falcons will take on University at 4 p.m.

The valley's 2A teams will head to the other end of the state for state

tournament play in Budweiser Event Center in Loveland, Colorado.

Del Norte maintained momentum against Peyton with a buzzer-beating 3-pointer at the half from Kendra Parra. The Tigers kept the heat on to take the win and advance to the state tournament. Del Norte is seeded fourth in the tournament and will be the home team on the scoreboard to No. 5 Wray at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday morning. Sanford ran away from Burlington on Saturday to punch their ticket to state. Sanford will take the No. 4 seed to the boys squad from Wray's 5 seed at 10:15 a.m. The final 2A team from the valley at state will be Sanford's girls. The Sanford ladies will take on third-seeded Rye. The Thunderbolts are the only undefeated team in the bracket. Sanford vs. Rye will tipoff at 11:45 a.m.

Both Sangre de Cristo teams played in district tournament championships on Saturday. The Sangre girls were able to best DeBeque 51-33. The boys could not get past Ouray and fell 61-52. The lady Thunderbirds will take on third-seeded South Baca as their first competition in the 1A State tournament. Sangre and South Baca are slated for an 8:45 a.m. start.



The Del Norte girls basketball team poses with their regional champion plaque.



McKenna Bagwell (20) shoots in front of Alamosa's Terese Chavez (2) during their meeting on Saturday.



Sanford's Clay Canty (22) loads up a shot against Burlington.



Centauri's McKay Russell (30) drops in a lay-up during the Falcon's victory over Manitou Springs.

Photos by Stephen Jiron and Vibrant Valley

San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2019-2020

Girls

Friday Class 2A

Del Norte 46.....	Mancos 21
Ignacio 51.....	Sargent 29
Rye 63.....	Center 19
Sanford 67.....	Hayden 61 OT

Class 3A

Centauri 59.....	Kent Denver 44
Alamosa 60.....	Riverdale Ridge 39

Saturday Class 1A

Sangre de Cristo 51.....	De Beque 33
--------------------------	-------------

Class 2A

Del Norte 60.....	Peyton 48
Sanford 46.....	Heritage Christian 37

Class 3A

Centauri 43.....	Alamosa 15
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Boys

Friday Class 2A

Sanford 49.....	Telluride 30
Limon 79.....	Del Norte 45
Holly 70.....	Center 51

Class 3A

Centauri 65.....	Salida 51
Alamosa 59.....	Lamar 46

Saturday Class 1A

Ouray 61.....	Sangre de Cristo 52
---------------	---------------------

Class 2A

Sanford 56.....	Burlington 38
-----------------	---------------

Class 3A

Alamosa 46.....	DSST-Byers 41
Centauri 68.....	Manitou Springs 53

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All first round games will be played on Thursday, March 12

Sangre de Cristo Girls vs. South Baca, 8:45 a.m.
 Del Norte Girls vs. Wray, 8:45 a.m.
 Sanford Boys vs. Wray, 10:15 a.m.
 Sanford Girls vs. Rye, 11:45 a.m.

Alamosa Boys vs. Faith Christian, 1:15 p.m.
 Centauri Girls vs. University, 4 p.m.
 Centauri Boys vs. Manual, 5:30 p.m.



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Regional Results

Girls 1A Basketball Results
Friday, March 6, 2020
 Kim/Branson 41 v Kiowa 26
 Lone Star, 45 v. Front Range Baptist 31
 Springfield 38 v. Kit Carson 29
 Merino 58, Haxtun 40
 Eads 42 v. Elbert 26
 Flatirons Academy 48 v. Stratton/Liberty 46

Saturday, March 7, 2020
 Cotopaxi 41 v. Dove Creek 32
 McClave 32 v. Kim/Branson 24
 Fleming 52 v. Lone Star 45
 Shining Mountain 39 v. Flatirons Academy 28
Sangre de Cristo 51 v. De Beque 33
 Briggsdale 61 v. Merino 35
 Springfield 59 v. Genoa-Hugo/Karval 41
 SB(Co-op) 54 v. Eads 18

Girls 2A Basketball Results
Friday, March 6, 2020
Del Norte 46 v. Mancos 21
 Hotchkiss 60 v. Sedgwick County 51
 Simla 44 v. Gilpin County 33
 Peyton 62 v. Swink 34
 Holly 48 v. Colorado Springs School 44
 Heritage Christian 67 v. Byers 29
 Meeker 50 v. Telluride 10
 Holyoke 42 v. Lotus School for Excellence 8

Ignacio 51 v. Sargent 29
Rye 63 v. Center 19
Sanford 67 v. Hayden 61
 Wray 50 v. Calhan 23
 Limon 81 v. Loveland Classical 12
 Dawson School 47 v. Yuma 32
 Rocky Ford 54 v. West Grand 25
 Soroco 48 v. Denver Christian 33

Saturday, March 7, 2020
 Rye 52 v. Dawson School 26
 Wray 57 v. Meeker 55
 Holly 47 v. Simla 35
Del Norte 60 v. Peyton 48
 Holyoke 41 v. Soroco 32
 Limon 79 v. Hotchkiss 39
 Ignacio 43 v. Rocky Ford 28
Sanford 46 v. Heritage Christian 37

Girls 3A Basketball Results
Friday, March 6, 2020
 Faith Christian 48 v. Middle Park 32

Alamosa 60 v. Riverdale Ridge 39
 Platte Valley 25 v. Roaring Fork 20
 Jefferson Academy 52 v. Moffat County 50
 Lutheran 67 v. Coal Ridge 28
 Cedaredge 32 v. Skyview Academy 14
 The Academy 64 v. Sterling 46
 Pagosa Springs 57 v. Colorado Springs Christian 17
Centauri 59 v. Kent Denver 44
 The Vanguard School 51 v. Liberty Common 46
 Delta 68 v. Buena Vista 30
 University 54 v. La Junta 40
 Brush 62 v. Grand Valley 61
 St. Mary's 72 v. Eagle Ridge Academy 19
 Eaton 63 v. Trinidad 40
 Manitou Springs 52 v. Estes Park 38

Saturday, March 7, 2020
 The Vanguard School 47 v. Faith Christian 35
 St. Mary's 80 v. Jefferson Academy 33
 University 41 v. Cedaredge 31
 Eaton 42 v. Lutheran 36
 Pagosa Springs 41 v. Manitou Springs 16
 Brush 62 v. The Academy 57
 Delta 58 v. Platte Valley 53
Centauri 43 v. Alamosa 15

Boys Basketball Regional Results
Boys 1A Results
Friday, March 6, 2020
 Kim/Branson 55 v. Granada 54
 Denver Jewish Day 45 v. Idalia 29
 Longmont Christian 50 v. Haxtun 31
 Cheraw 46 v. Genoa-Hugo/Karval 37
 Merino 59 v. Stratton/Liberty 46
 SB(CO-OP) 59 v. Pikes Peak Christian 57

Saturday, March 7, 2020
 De Beque 58 v. Primero 57
 Evangelical Christian 56 v. Kim/Branson 49
Ouray 61 v. Sangre de Cristo 52
 Merino 57 v. Denver Waldorf 52
 Walsh 58 v. Cheraw 51
 Kit Carson 63 v. SB (CO-OP) 43
 Mile High Academy 67 v. Longmont Christian 51

Briggsdale 57 v. Denver Jewish Day 50

Boys Class 2A Results
Friday, March 6, 2020
 Peyton 61 v. Plateau Valley 29
Sanford 49 v. Telluride 30
 Highland 92 v. Calhan 43
 Fowler 59 v. West Grand 36
Limon 79 v. Del Norte 45
 Yuma 63 v. Meeker 45
 Mancos 70 v. Hoehne 56
 Wray 90 v. Thomas MacLaren School 56
 Denver Christian 60 v. Holyoke 44
 Burlington 53 v. Heritage Christian 49
 Vail Mountain 50 v. Clear Creek 47

Holly 70 v. Center 51
 Crested Butte 61 v. Dayspring Christian Academy 52
 Ignacio 72 v. Dolores Huerta Prep. 67
 Sedgwick County 44 v. Crowley County 30
 Dawson School 55 v. Vail Christian 48

Saturday March 7, 2020
 Ignacio 58 v. Mancos 50
 Highland 65 v. Holly 63
 Wray 46 v. Sedgwick County 28
 Yuma 67 v. Vail Mountain 35
 Peyton 44 v. Denver Christian 40
Sanford 56 v. Burlington 38
 Fowler 56 v. Crested Butte 46
 Limon 80 v. Dawson School 50

Boys Class 3A Results
Friday, March 6, 2020
 Fort Lupton 61 v. DSST: Montview 60
 Lutheran 83 v. Pagosa Springs 62
 Manitou Springs 55 v. Jefferson Academy 39
 Faith Christian 66 v. Colorado Springs Christian 45
 Manual 94 v. Ridge View Academy 66
 DSST: Green Valley Ranch 59 v. Coal Ridge 51
 DSST: Byers 51 v. Aspen 36
 Gunnison 52 v. Colorado Academy 49
 The Vanguard School 63 v. Strasburg 34
 Eaton 87 v. Middle Park 55
 Resurrection Christian 89 v. Riverdale Ridge 38
 Sterling 64 v. Kent Denver 36

Alamosa 59 v. Lamar 46
Centauri 65 v. Salida 51
 St. Mary's 67 v. Englewood 58
 University 72 v. Bishop Machebeuf 52

Saturday, March 7, 2020
 Lutheran 75 v. Fort Lupton 55
 Sterling 57 v. Gunnison 41
 The Vanguard School 64 v. University 44
 Resurrection Christian 59 v. DSST: Green Valley Ranch 40
Alamosa 46 v. DSST: Byers 41
 Manual 72 v. Eaton 65
 Faith Christian 57 v. St. Mary's 37
Centauri 68 v. Manitou Springs 53
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Trinchera Blanca Foundation supports Valley Conservation strategy

SAGUACHE COUNTY – The Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) is pleased to announce a generous grant from the Trinchera Blanca Foundation to help make additional conservation in Colorado’s San Luis Valley (the Valley) possible in 2020 and beyond. The Trinchera Blanca Foundation’s support will advance CCALT’s San Luis Valley Conservation Strategy, a program designed to address increased demand for conservation tools from landowners in the Valley.

“Working farms and ranches are paramount to the character and economy of the Valley,” said Louis Bacon, chairman of The Moore Charitable Foundation and Trinchera Blanca Foundation. “CCALT’s San Luis Valley Conservation Strategy program will give local landowners facing increased development pressure and other uncertainties a viable option to conserve their farm and ranch lands now and for future generations.”

Geographically, the San Luis Valley is nearly 8,000 square miles, bordered on the west by the La Garita Mountains and the San Juans, and to the east by the Sangre De Cristo Mountain Range. With fertile soil and a favorable growing season, agriculture has been the predominant economic driver in the Valley for generations. Large farming operations and family ranches make up the fabric of the communities in the Valley, and ranchers and farmers produce multiple crops and products including beef, bison, potatoes, quinoa, and lettuce.

An influx in development in recent years, combined with drought and economic pressures on farming and ranching families, has increased the importance of conservation in the region. For many ranchers and farmers, conserving their land is the only way to keep their properties in agricultural production. To date, CCALT has partnered with multiple families to conserve more than 9,000 acres in the Valley, and more than 41,535 acres in the region, protecting agricultural lands, key wildlife habitat, and 17 miles of stream frontage along Saguache Creek. While

this work is impressive, there is still more to be done.

In 2020, CCALT hopes to complete four conservation projects in the Valley (adding an additional 5,862 acres of conserved land to the region), expand our operating presence in the Valley, and increase funding

opportunities for landowners interested in conservation. The San Luis Valley Conservation Strategy will drive these projects and objectives forward with support from the Trinchera Blanca Foundation.

“The San Luis Valley is an integral part of Colorado’s western heritage and agricultural history. The farming and ranching families of the Valley have a strong conservation ethic. These family farms and ranches are worth conserving for the future of Colorado, and CCALT is proud to be a partner in this work,” said Erik Glenn CCALT executive director.



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MOFFAT

Continued from Page 1A — annex Potch LLC/Area 420 acreage into the town. The acreage annexed by the town is a series of lots designated for commercial marijuana cultivation.

Several Moffat residents banded together earlier this year to protest the annexation through their attorney, but the town has consistently ignored all complaints registered by landowners adjacent to Potch LLC/Area 420. Saguache County told the town of Moffat at their Jan. 21 meeting they will not cede rights to County Road 59 for the purpose of the “flagpole” annexation the town proposes.

Last month County Attorney Ben Gibbons addressed a letter to the town of Moffat, restating the fact that the county has no intention of giving up any part of the road. The town needs the road to be included as part of the annexation in order to satisfy contiguity requirements set down by the state. Commissioner Jason Anderson commented earlier this month that if Moffat persists in their claim to County Road 59, the matter will likely end up in district court.

Tuesday, March 3, the Moffat board reviewed the letter from the county and Mayor Patty Riegel took a consensus of the board regarding how the town should respond. It was entered into the record that the board of trustees chose to do nothing with the letter.

The board then went on to discuss extending board member Kenny Skoglund’s excavating contract to include six months of maintenance on County Road 59, after which the maintenance would then become the responsibility of the county. Trustees decided to table the discussion until the next work session. Plans for subdividing Potch LLC/Area 420 also were briefly discussed.

Annexation No. 3 and Skoglund’s excavating contract were listed as items for discussion on the agenda for Moffat’s Tuesday, March 10, work session.

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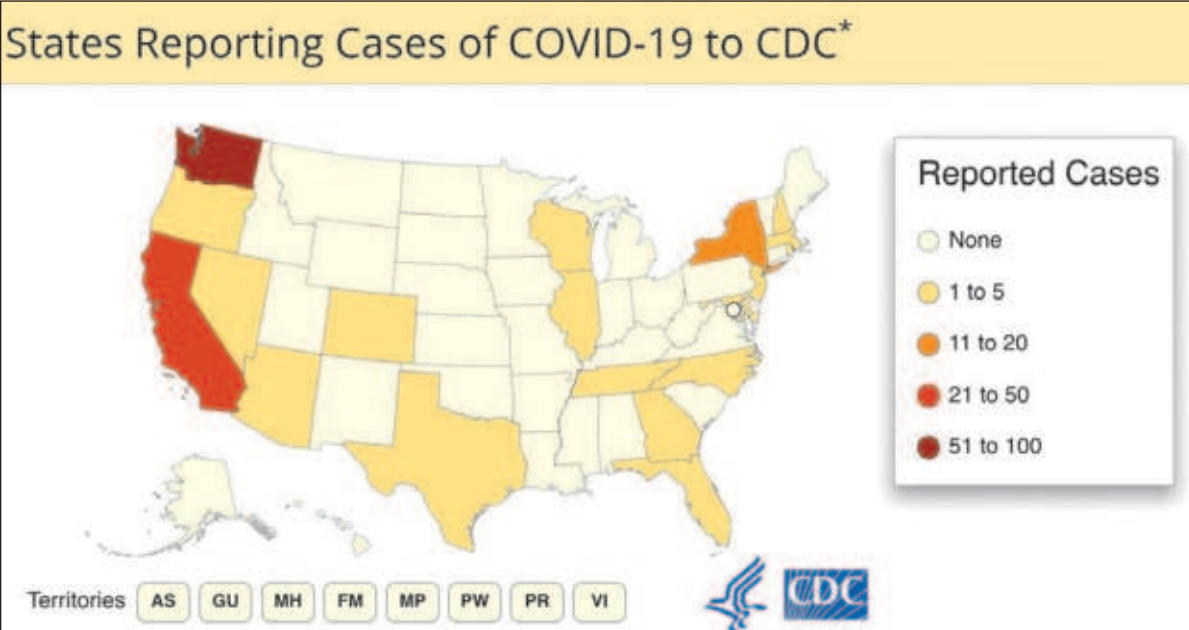
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Five confirmed coronavirus cases in Colorado

COLORADO - The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is reporting that the state laboratory has five positive test results for COVID-19 as of March 6, 2020. One of the cases presented itself in a male in his 30s, who had contact with a known case of COVID-19. Because the testing was done at the state level, the case is a "presumptive positive" and results will be sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for confirmation. To act as swiftly as possible, the state will proceed as if the case is officially confirmed.

The individual is recovering in isolation in the Denver metro area and will remain isolated until cleared by public health officials. The department is working with the local public health agencies to identify any close contacts who may have been exposed while the person was

infectious. Public health practitioners will attempt to contact anyone who may have been exposed and monitor them for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

"We are hopeful that the patient will have a swift recovery," said Jill Hunsaker Ryan, executive director, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. "Like other states, we expected to begin seeing cases in Colorado and that is why we have been preparing for the past couple of months, in conjunction with local public health agencies and healthcare partners. Our goals are to protect the public from the disease, get people the care they need, and minimize disruption to daily lives."

At least 14 people in the U.S. have died from COVID-19. More than 20 states are reporting cases of the respiratory virus. There are now more than 260 coronavirus cases in the U.S. That figure

includes more than 40 people who were repatriated from outbreak sites in China and Japan.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment continues to work closely with CDC and public health agencies across the state and is committed to protecting the health and safety of Coloradans. Health officials advise Coloradans to stay informed, take simple disease prevention measures, and prepare.

Practice good hygiene. Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water. In the absence of soap and water, use hand-sanitizer; use your elbow or sleeve to cover coughs and sneezes

Stay home if you're sick; keep your children home if they are sick. The illness can last for many days so make preparations now to work from home

See CORONAVIRUS on Page 6



Rhythms on the Rio announces lineup, ticket availability

By R. SCOTT RAPPOLD

SOUTH FORK - Thousands of music lovers will converge on South Fork this summer for the 15th year of Rhythms on the Rio, which promises to be the best and largest yet.

The nonprofit South Fork Music Association announced that Grammy winners the Infamous Stringdusters and national touring band Leftover Salmon will be among the 13 musical acts to take the stage during the three-day festival, which will run from July 31 to Aug. 2. Held each year in an idyllic meadow with gorgeous mountain views on the banks of the Rio Grande, the event draws music lovers from across Colorado and the country, who come for the camping and sense of community as much as the music.

"Rhythms on the Rio has reached a level that nationally touring acts are contacting us to play the fest," said association president Scott

Stecken. "2020 is our best lineup yet and we have music for everyone's tastes. You may not have heard of all the names on our bill, but we promise you many hours are spent assuring that each band is going to deliver quality music that you can sit in your chair and enjoy or get up and let loose."

The South Fork Music Association was founded in 2005 to help connect local children with music instructors and instruments, helping more than 100 develop a love for playing music. The association now donates revenue from the festival to area schools for music programs.

"A few years ago when a local school district was going to cut out its music department entirely is when the SFMA shifted its program focus. The SFMA started to reach out to program directors about their budgets to find out most do not have a budget. Since

See RHYHMS on Page 11

A bad sign

The cow went down in the pasture. I took it as a sign. Like lightning striking my saddle horn or guppies in the wine.

I'll have to pull the calf right here. But it isn't raining hard. It's just too bad that my slicker is still back in the yard.

I taught my horse to ground tie. Like havin' an extra man. Now why did he run off like that? I really had a plan,

Thank goodness I've got a catch rope. Whoa, darlin', just lay still... You four-footed Double Whopper! Your next stop is the grill!



Stay outta the blinkin' cattails! At least they break the breeze. For now she's stuck in the quagmire, me, I'm up to my knees.

I've got both feet and I'm pullin'. She's flat out on her side. It's a water cooled delivery. He's comin' with the tide.

I feel like a scuba diver, he hangs up at the hip. I get his head on my shoulder. It's hard to keep my grip,

He's slick as a newborn porpoise. I heave him on the shore And plop, right there in the water, just glad there ain't no more.

The cow, relieved of her burden rises outta the crud And walks the length of my body mashin' me into the mud.

My hat is the only thing floating. I'm soaked from head to toe. The cow is lickin' her baby and watchin' me below.

I wait till he's up and suckin', then slip out like a mouse And thank the Lord that I'm only half a mile from the house.

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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2020 Summer of Stewardship: Projects to Get Outdoors and Give Back

Land, Water and People

BY SALLY WIER

As the days grow longer, temperatures warm and Sandhill cranes begin to return to the Valley, we are reminded that spring is not so very far away. It's a nice time of year to think ahead to the joys that await in the coming Colorado spring and summer. Before we know it, we'll be able to get out for hiking, biking, paddling, fishing, bird watching, camping and more. Here in the San Luis Valley we are all blessed to

a 36 year-old organization with a passion for enabling people to become active stewards of Colorado's natural resources, will host

six fun projects across the San Luis Valley this year. They will take place on the Rio Grande National Forest or on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management San Luis Valley

Field Office. The projects are:

Colorado Public Lands Day: Erosion Rock Structures @ Rio Grande Natural Area - May 16

BeaverBlitz! Citizen Science @ South Fork - July 18-19

Habitat Restoration @ Moon Pass - July 25-26

Weekend Crosscut @ Weminuche Wilderness - Aug. 15-16

Weeklong Crosscut @ Wemi-

nuche Wilderness - Aug. 24-28

Citizen Science: Abandoned Mine Mapping @ Los Mogotes - Oct. 3-4

Details on all the projects, what work you'll be doing, and a link to register can be seen at <https://www.voc.org/volunteer>. Many other stewardship projects all over the state are also listed on this webpage. Projects fill quickly and spots are available on a first-come first served basis. April, May and June projects are currently open for registration. Registration for projects in July and beyond will open over the course of the season.

These projects will include building rock structures to prevent heavy sediments from eroding in the Rio Grande east of Antonito, hiking trails and collecting data on beaver presence and habitat, pulling oxeye daisies in the La Garita Mountains, clearing wilderness trails of fallen trees using traditional crosscut saws, and collecting data on old mine infrastructure west of Antonito. Volunteers on VOC projects are provided

with free camping, all required tools and equipment to do work well and safely, and excellent meals provided by volunteer chefs. Some projects are easily accessible by car while others are weeklong backpacking trips into Wilderness areas.

Other ongoing and smaller community-based stewardship projects will occur throughout the season, as well. Save the date for these fun and important volunteer days:

Tree Seedling Shade Cone Removal @ Lookout Mountain - July 9 - help remove plastic shade cones from tree seedlings for a reforestation project in the La Garita Mountains.

Fence Removal @ San Francisco Creek Wildlife Rehab Facility - Sept. 12 - join Colorado Parks and Wildlife to remove a barbed wire fence and improve important elk habitat outside of Del Norte.

Conejos Canyon BioBlitz! - Join Rio Grande National Forest biologists for an evening training in a classroom setting in early July

and then sign up to hike specific trails during the last two weeks of July to collect data on butterflies, bees, plants and more. Use the free iNaturalist app at any time to help us, too! Visit <https://www.inaturalist.org/> to sign up.

Goshawk Monitoring @ Conejos Canyon - fall 2020, date TBD

Ongoing - high lake water sampling at remote alpine lakes on the Rio Grande National Forest.

And more to come!

Want to get involved? Contact me at sally@voc.org or 719-852-6234. You can also email me to be added to the SLV's volunteering e-newsletter. Updates and details on projects are sent throughout the year.

Sally Wier is the San Luis Valley Volunteer and Partnership Manager - a collaborative role managed by Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, the Rio Grande National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management San Luis Valley Field Office.



be surrounded by so much public land on the Rio Grande National Forest, Bureau of Land Management areas, a national park, three national wildlife refuges, state wildlife areas and more. As we begin to make plans for summer adventures and outings, it's also a great time to think about spending some time outside to give back to the public lands we all love and need to collectively care for. The summer of 2020 is gearing up to be a great summer of stewardship in the Valley, and there are many ways for folks of all ages and abilities to get involved.

Rio Grande Hospital Gains More National Recognition from CCRH

SAN LUIS VALLEY- Rio Grande Hospital is now recognized as one of the top 100 Critical Access Hospitals in the nation. The highly known and respected Chartis Center for Rural Health (CCRH) is an arm of the consulting firm The Chartis Group, which provides advisory services and analytics to the healthcare industry. CCRH recently released its **annual** (?) findings, which honored only four of the top 100 hospitals nation wide designated as Critical Access Hospitals, including Rio Grande Hospital in Del Norte.

Critical Access Hospital (CAH) is a designation given to eligible rural hospitals by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Congress created the CAH designation through the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

When the previous hospital in Rio Grande County closed many years ago, several fatalities and other issues emphasized the need for a hospital on the west end of the San Luis Valley

that could also serve Mineral County. Many physicians and community members came together to design the solution, Rio Grande Hospital.

With financial crises for rural healthcare in the media lately, it's good to know that RGH is raising the bar for the community. "Our CEO and the board don't only think rural, they look at the needs of our community and how to fulfill them," said Eva Timberlake, RGH's Development & Communications Officer, "We have some exciting things that we hope to share soon, more needs for our patients and their families will be achieved."

The CAH recognition comes soon after RGH was also chosen as a 5-star hospital in the United States, and the only one in the San Luis Valley. The

Monte Vista Medical Clinic of Rio Grande Hospital was also recently awarded with being an Exemplary Provider accredited by The Compliance Team, which is a national recognition.

Their recent increase in services like cardiopulmonary, new surgeries, colonoscopies, and their state-of-the-art wound care with hyperbaric oxygen therapy brings in people from outside the Valley as well. Last year when a pharmacy in Rio Grande County closed, RGH stepped up and started delivering most prescriptions to their various clinics to help with the community's need. They are still doing it today. RGH has proven repeatedly when there is a great healthcare need, they unify the community and strive to satisfy that demand.

Upcoming Events at THE HISTORIC UTE THEATRE in Saguache

FRI., MARCH 13
Flash Fiction and Foreign Film Friday: The Farewell
7 p.m. • \$7

SAT., MARCH 14
Jackson Emmer (live music)
7 p.m. • \$10

SAT., MARCH 21
Spring Into Stardom Open Mic/Talent Show • 6 p.m.

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT HISTORICUTETHEATRE.COM OR CALL (719) 427-1080

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Summer is almost here and you're probably looking forward to taking off on a few warm-weather road trips. But a closer look at your vehicle might tell you that the winter months have taken their toll and that your car is in dire need of some tender loving care.

A good place to get started is under the hood. Examine all the lines and belts to ensure there is no cracking that could cause problems. Then check the levels of the various fluids. It is a good idea to replace these occasionally, especially the motor oil and coolant. An inspection of the battery may also uncover a few surprises; don't hesitate to replace it if necessary.

Your next step is to ensure that the tires you plan to use over the summer are still in good condition. Do they need replacing? Check their air pressure. A quick inspection of the suspension and braking system is also wise. Take a close look at your windshield wipers, as they may be in need of changing—that could be good for both your glass windshield and your visibility! Take advantage of the warmer weather to clean all the windows and do a spring cleaning of the interior of the vehicle.

After the rigors of a long winter, your car's bodywork may be looking a little worse for wear. If you find some new scratches, dings, or dents, call on the services of a professional auto body repair person who will be able to make your car look like new. The final step in getting your vehicle ready for summer roads is to apply a coat of car wax that will protect your paintjob from the hot sun.



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REAL ESTATE

Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.

Look New Listing! Enjoy golf course living at its finest! This stunning 2098 sf, 3 bd, 2.5 ba home features amazing log accents in and out. Located right on the #9 fairway of the award-winning Rio Grande Club and Resort, take in the breathtaking views in all directions. The home has a luxurious main-floor master suite with large windows to take in the views, walk-in closet, whirlpool bath, dual sinks with granite counter tops, and separate no-door shower with beautiful tile work. The soaring great room has vaulted ceilings, rock propane fireplace, dining area, and wood floors. The kitchen features high-end Jenn Air stainless appliances, propane stove, granite counter tops, and custom Knotty Alder cabinetry. Upstairs there is an open loft for office/sitting/work-out space, 2 guest bedrooms and a full bath. Outdoor entertainment will be a top priority on the large stone patio, overlooking the fairway and mountains. Home is fully furnished with beautiful decor and those furnishings are negotiable. In addition if interested in the Rio Grande Club membership..you would be able to join the club Without paying any initiation fee. However, whichever level you would choose, you would have to pay the monthly dues. All of this and just 25 minutes to skiing, walk to golf, walk to the legendary Rio Grande River and so much more! Short-term rentals are permitted per the covenants. This is a MUST-SEE! **Call Bernadette Gingrass 719-850-1993** and schedule your showing today! Price \$379,000 MLS# 767109

*****SOLD***** - Beautiful Home on The Range! Pion Hill Estates where the Mule Deer and the Rocky Mountain Elk play! This 2,457 sq. ft. meticulous, comfortable well-maintained log home is located on 40 acres with reach out and touch mountain views and moments from the Rio Grande National Forest. Wild Life is abundant; Elk, Mule Deer, Turkey, Fox, Bald Eagles and more. Located in beautiful quiet Pinon Hills Estates tucked away from traffic and people and still easy driving to South Fork or Del Norte. Open great room living room, kitchen and dining room with accent logs and floor to ceiling windows and wood burning stove. Custom built log staircase. The upstairs is a Master Suite with two large walk-in closets, master bath with Jacuzzi tub looking out at the mountains views with floor to ceiling windows. a separate tiled shower and double sinks. Upstairs also has a sitting room /office area. Main floor has a bedroom, full bath and laundry room with Alder cabinets and large pantry with sliding shelves. Beautiful newly built sun room on south side of the home is spacious and bright. Ground level floor has a bedroom with ¼ bath. Adjoining room is a great relaxing den or game room providing space for reading, games, watching television or crafts. Attached cement floor two car garage large enough for storage, 4 wheelers, fishing gear, tools and more. Beautiful home with landscaping and two huge decks two levels-one open wood deck and one covered stained concrete. All the space you need for friends and family and outdoor entertaining. All the stairways to the home and outdoor entertainment areas have wide steps, rock walls and lighting,

Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.

This home has floor to ceiling window and wonderful views in every direction all electric home has three heat sources, baseboard board heat, 3 Energy Thermal Systems and wood burning stove. Two fifty gallon-water heaters so you will never run out of hot water. Domestic well, cistern and septic system. This home has a large metal barn with dirt and concrete floor with feed and tack room and plenty of space for your horses. Access year round to hiking and riding trails. Enjoy the great outdoors with fishing, golfing, hiking, four wheeling, skiing, hunting and so much more. \$470,000 **Call Bernadette** and schedule your personal showing today! *****SOLD*****

***** SOLD*** 35 Deeded Acres!** This property is located 12 miles east of South Fork on County Road #15, which offers year-round access. Del Norte is 11 miles away and offers a full service hospital and medical care facility. Wolf Creek Ski Area is 30 minutes away, Creede is 30 minutes, Alamosa is 45 minutes and offers full service air flights twice a day. Durango is 2 hours, Pagosa is 1 hour. This property overlooks the San Juan Mountain Range with all it's splendor and panoramic views. 35 Deeded Acres m/l 1,116 sq. ft. building, which is 50 % living quarters and the other half is a horse barn and animal shelter. There is a small outside building with windows that can be utilized as an extra bedroom or converted into a tiny home. Plus a shop/hay shed/storage canvas covered frame structure goes with the property. The property is fenced and cross fenced. The hay storage area has a high wildlife fence. Equipment that stays with the property is as follows: International Tractor, Hay Rake, New Holland Bail Hauling Wagon, Old Swatter, English Harrow, and enclosed storage unit. Aluminum irrigation pipe. Approximately 24.67 acres are irrigated, and 10.33 acres are average meadow. Water Rights: Permit #231534 for 15 GPM. 8 Shares of the Meadow Glen Ditch Being 5 CFS in priority #1903-57C, 232, 348, and 1903-21. **Call Bernadette Gingrass 719-850-1993 ***SOLD*****

LOOK! Reduced Price \$295,500 Perfect Home or Vacation Rental Opportunity, 2,231 sq. ft. of endless possibilities. This beautiful home has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, kitchen with mud room, dining room and living room with propane heat and wood burning stove. Enjoy the large private fenced backyard with green house, patio area, gardens, wood storage carport and your very own workshop. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to have your home and business all in one spectacular resort location. Walk out your front door to a wonderful 574 sq. ft. business on scenic byway, Hwy 149. Your dreams are coming true. Come live, work and play here in South Fork, CO. This won't last long. **Call Bernadette Gingrass 719-850-1993 and schedule your showing today! MLS # 755964**

UPDATE! Terms Available! Adorable park model located on two beautiful landscape lots number 38 and features lot 37 in River's Edge RV Resort. This home has a front entrance, side entrance and back entrance with deck. Beautifully landscaped with patio and two sheds

Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.

with electric. This home has 1 bedroom and two bathrooms and comes complete with all the furniture, appliances and inside washer and dryer. The Colorado room with propane burning stove is finished allows lots of sunshine and adds to living area. River Edge RV Resort is beautifully located on the Rio Grande River allowing property owners private access to the river and plenty of outdoor activities and community events including outdoor activities as fishing events and 4 wheeling outings along with community potlucks. Moments from the Rio Grande River, Rio Grande Golf Club, 30 minutes from Wolf Creek Ski Area. Come live, fish, hike, golf, ski and play. This is your perfect weekend retreat, mountain get-a-way or second home. **Call Bernadette Gingrass 719-850-1993** and schedule your showing today! **\$159,900 MLS # 750041**

*****SOLD*** \$325,000** Enchanting Mountain Home! You can see the forest beyond the trees - Its right there in your own back yard. Beautiful 1,750 sq. ft. home backs up to the mountain side. 3 bedrooms two baths with Master bedroom upstairs and loft office area. Cathedral ceiling with open dining / living area with wood burning stove and rock hearth and propane furnace to keep you warm on cool winter evenings. Beautiful large windows to enjoy the mountain views and the mule deer and wild turkeys that visit daily. Kitchen includes all appliances and laundry area with washer and dryer. Wonderful front deck to enjoy your

Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.

morning coffee on with additional covered side porch area and detached storage shed to store grills, garden tools and more. This enchanting home has a large 896 sq. ft. cement floor 3 car garage and plumbed for water with side storage area. Plenty of storage for 6 cords of firewood or more. Garage has wood burning stove and wonderful workbench and box trust with pull down currently leading to bright roomy artist studio! Home comes partially furnished. This is your dream place or perfect get-a-way in enchanting Ponderosa Valley Estates with no HOA complete with its own private well and town sewer system on paved roads. Moments from hiking, gold medal fishing, rafting, hunting and skiing. Bring your passion for Adventure and **Call Bernadette Gingrass 719-850-1993 and schedule your private showing today! MLS#756372 ***SOLD*****

New Listing - Affordable, charming one bedroom, one full bath park model with enclosed sun room for extra living space. Located in River's Edge Mountain View RV Resort. All furniture and furnishings included. Nice kitchen all kitchen appliances including conventional oven and microwave, dishes and pots and pans. Includes washer and dryer in large storage shed w freezer and workbench area. This home is your perfect weekend get-a-way or vacation home in this 55+ neighborhood. Planned activities such as fishing, hiking, 4 wheeling and fun community potlucks. Moments from

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the Rio Grande River, 20 minutes to Wolf Creek Ski Area. All you need is your tooth brush! Adventure is waiting for you right out your front door. Priced to sell \$89,000. Won't last! **Call Bernadette Gingrass 719-850-1993** and schedule your showing today! MLS# 760432

New Listing! Affordable Charming Log Home! Call and schedule your showing today! 4 bedroom 2 bath home located in South Fork Small Tracks. Priced to sell \$223,900 Call and schedule your showing today! **Call Bernadette Gingrass 719-850-1993** and Schedule your showing today! MLS #758665

Thinking of Selling your Home?

If so, I can help! Call for your free "Broker Price Opinion" from Bernadette Gingrass, Broker Associate

From "For Sale" to "Sold"
Call 719-850-1993

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Valley-Wide Classified MARKETPLACE

FREE!

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



CLASSIFIED INDEX

ANNOUNCEMENTS
 01 TICKETS
 02 CARD OF THANKS
 03 MEMORIALS
 04 LOST & FOUND
 05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
 06 PERSONALS
EMPLOYMENT
 07 HELP WANTED
 08 WORK WANTED
 09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
FOR RENT
 10 APARTMENTS
 11 ROOMS
 12 HOUSES
 13 MOBILE HOMES
 14 BUSINESS PROPERTY
 15 WANTED TO RENT
 16 VACATION
REAL ESTATE
 17 REAL ESTATE
 18 LOTS & ACREAGE
 19 FARM & FARMLAND
 20 BUSINESS PROPERTY
 21 MOBILE HOMES
 22 PROPERTY WANTED

MERCHANDISE
 23 LAWN & GARDEN
 24 GARAGE SALES
 25 AUCTIONS
 26 ANTIQUES
 27 APPLIANCES
 28 HOUSEHOLD GOODS
 29 MUSICAL ITEMS
 30 ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS
 31 HEALTH
 32 FUEL & HEATING
 33 BUILDING MATERIALS
 34 OFFICE EQUIPMENT
 35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT
 36 MISCELLANEOUS
 37 WANTED
 38 MACHINERY, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
 39 SPORTING GOODS
 40 AUTO PARTS
FARMER MARKET
 41 FARM EQUIPMENT
 42 FEED & SEED
 43 FARM PRODUCTS
 44 FARM SERVICES

ANIMALS
 45 ANIMAL BREEDING
 46 PASTURE FOR RENT
 47 HORSES & CATTLE
 48 PETS & SUPPLIES
 49 ANIMAL CARE
 50 LIVESTOCK
RECREATIONAL
 51 BOATS & EQUIPMENT
 52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT
 53 TRAILERS
 54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S
 55 R.V.'S/CAMPERS
FINANCIAL
 56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
 57 INVESTMENTS
TRANSPORTATION
 58 MOTORCYCLES
 59 VEHICLES WANTED
 60 CLASSIC CARS
 61 4X4'S
 62 VANS
 63 TRUCKS
 64 AUTOS FOR SALE
SERVICES
 65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
 66 CHILD CARE

RATES

15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications
\$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.

Garage Sale Ads: 15 Words or less for 1 week
\$12 + 35¢ each additional word.

Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Limited to private party only, 2 ads per person, 4 weeks.)

Convenient ad placement:

To place your ad in person come to the office at 835 First Ave. in Monte Vista, or call (719) 852-3531. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may also fax your classified to (719) 852-3387 or email at monte vista class@gmail.com

Check your ad the first day:

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

Our ad policy: Valley Publishing accepts all classified advertising except that which it deems objectionable to its readers. Credit or replacement ads will not be given for early ad cancellation.

DEADLINE

Thursday 5:00 pm

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

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05 Notices

Are you looking to start a Wood-working Business or a Hobby Shop? Power Equipment, Hand Tools and Many Accessories Available. Call 719-873-1138. (04/01)

Upper Rio Grand School District – Transportation Department Seeking bids for numerous vehicles: 1997 Ford Econoline Van \$2500, 2006 F-450 14 passenger mini-bus \$10,000, 2006 F-450 14 passenger mini bus \$10,000, 1991 Thomas 65 Passenger bus \$2,000, 1994 Bluebird 77 passenger bus \$3,000. (04/01)

The AcuCenter a community Acupuncture clinic in Del Norte will be open every Thursday from 3-6 pm. Experience the health benefits of affordable Acupuncture from our team at Vista Acupuncture. Located at 990 6th street on Penasco street. Schedule an appointment NOW! Call 360-821-9006. (03/11)

“Even though the snow is falling, we are looking forward to this summer! **CCSP (Christian Community Service Projects) is now accepting applications for home repair.** If you or someone you know is needing an extra hand around the house with painting, yard work, or small construction jobs, please give Suzanne a call at (719) 589-2330 or e-mail at ccsp@gojade.org” (03/11)

WE BUY ANTLERS: 5 miles west of Del Norte on US 160 at Elk Ranch. 719-657-0942. (03/25 TFN)

07 Help Wanted

Del Norte Bank is seeking an Executive Assistant. Applicants should possess the following skills: Highly proficient in Excel and Word, be able to communicate and write let-

ters about complex matters, manage multiple systems that are either Excel or database driven, be able to manage and maintain scheduling efforts, be an eager team member with problem solving skills. At a minimum a bachelor's degree or equivalent is required. The position is permanent, full-time, M – F, 8am – 5pm with a robust benefits package. Salary commensurate with experience. Qualified candidates please send your resume or application to postmaster@truelocalbank.com by March 18, 2020. Application available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers. EOE. (03/18)

The Rio Grande County Assessor's Office is seeking an entry level Clerk whose primary duties will be working with the public. Must have strong customer service skills, be detail oriented and a quick learner, and proficient in Microsoft Excel and Word. Requirements include: High school diploma or GED, a valid Colorado Driver's License, and must pass a pre-employment drug test. 40 hour work week and full County benefits. Applications and job description is available on-line at www.riograndecounty.org. Pickup and submit applications to: Human Resources, 925 6th St., Rm 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. (03/25)

Creede School District is currently seeking a receptionist, elementary para-professional, third grade instructor and an art instructor. Please visit credek12.net for further information. (03/25)

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.org

SLV

Lifestyles

Serving the entire San Luis Valley

Is your business looking for qualified employees?

Place your help wanted ad in Valley Lifestyles and you will reach 15,000 San Luis Valley households and over *30,000 weekly readers. Valley Lifestyles is the most cost efficient way to find qualified employees to help your business to continue to prosper.

30 words or less for 2 weeks (2 publications)
\$38 + .95 per additional word.

Email your ad to MonteVistaClass@gmail.com

(719) 852-3531 • 835 First Ave. • Monte Vista.

Deadline to submit you advertisement for the following week is Thursdays at 5 p.m.

*Based on average readership of 2.1 persons per copy.



Colorado Statewide Classified Advertising Network

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

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 Write: Minerals, PO BOX 3668,
 Littleton, CO 80161
 Email: opportunity@ecmresourcesinc.com

Colorado Press Network

Buy a 25-word statewide classified line ad in newspapers across the state of Colorado for just \$300 per week. Ask about our frequency discounts!

Contact this newspaper or call Colorado Press Network, 303-571-5117

Valley Wide Classifieds

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. (03/25)

Alamosa County Treasurer and Public Trustee, job opening for Accounting Technician. Please visit alamosacounty.org for job application and details. 37.5 hours per week (full time with benefits) \$14-\$14.50 per hour. Must have experience with Treasurer's Deeds, releases, foreclosures and banking and cash management. Deadline to apply is 2/21/2020.(3/11)

10 Apartments for Rent
2 Bedroom, 1 bath apartment in the Alpine Village near South Fork, CO. Power bill included, propane separate. \$650.00 per month+deposit 719 849-8640 no pets. (3/11)

12 House for Rent
Suite, 1bedroom furnished house near down town (Del Norte) patio, all utilities paid, plus Free Wifi included. \$700 Call 657-2850. (04/01)

South Fork duplex, 2 bedroom, 1.5 baths, fully furnished, laundry, no pets. \$1100/mo. 719-849-8149 (04/01)

17 Real Estate For Sale
PERFECT SMALL FARM: 59 acres with center pivot, new 60X120 steel shop, 2 1/2 shares of Rio Grande Canal, 2000 GPM well, 2 miles from Center. Priced to Sell, Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc. 719-580-0770. (03/25)

11 circles in Center area with excellent potato ground, excellent wells and water rights, high production, sandy soil, 2 homes, shop, potato storage, first time ever on market and sold as full unite. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, LLC 719-580-0770. Serious inquires only (03/12)

125-150 cow/calf ranch 1154 acres with top water rights, production, 1.2 miles of Rio Grande River and 1/2 mile of Conejos River. \$1,750,000. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc 719-580-0770 (03/12)

Pasture Land, 397 acres in north of Monte Vista Airport on County Line Road with good grass and location. Also contains a huge amount of gravel on the property \$525,000.00 call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc 719-580-0770. (03/12)

240 deeded acres in irrigated grass west of Monte Vista with 6 shares Lariat ditch. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc. 719-873-1700. (03/18 TFN)

19 Farm & Farmland
SPRINKLER QUARTER ORGANIC, Carmel District, deep well, Monte-Vista canal shares. Call 719-395-4910 for purchase/lease.(03/25)

MOSCA 111 acres ag land. 69 under circle, well tested 8/2/19 576GPM Brand new electric service instal 2019. \$550,000. Costilla Ditch 1/2 share 719-256-5439 (04/08)

23 Lawn and Garden
Sprinkler repair. Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (04/01 TFN)

36 Miscellaneous
Actively buying quality books and records. Fair prices paid. Jeff (719) 256-5835 or (720) 315.9145 (04/01)

High Speed Broadband Internet Now in the SLV Everywhere WIFI FREE Equipment\$59/MO 719-298-7045. (03/25)

Misc Household Sale-Appliances, Furnishings Doors, Windows, Tools, Antiques, Building Materials, All Day March 20th, 21st, and 22nd, Whispering Pines Motel 401 Ulysses, Blvd West of Sonic Monte Vista. (03/18)

STEEL STORAGE CONTAINERS – Sales, Rentals & Modifications! Containers are water & rodent proof. 8' wide, 8'-53' in length. Call for more information and pricing. **Healdworks, Inc. – Your Total Storage Solution!** 719-850-0346 (02/27 TFN)

SOLAR PANELS! 240 WATT AND SMALLER. We Stock Inverters, Charge Controllers, and Batteries In Brand Names of Outback, Magnum, Rolls, More. We Also Carry Cable and PV Wire. Thank you for Buying at Bontrager's Variety Store. 9726 S. CR 3E Monte Vista. 719-852-0500. (TFN) (3/11)

SPRING SPECIAL! 235-Watt Solar Panels. \$210.00 Each. Good Quality. Bontragers Variety Store. 719-852-0500.(03/11)

37 Wanted
Auto Parts Wanted: 4 7.5"x17 or 8" x 17" wheels for 99 Mustang GT Call 719-580-6223. (03/25)

38 Machinery, Tools, and Equipment
Ramsey 12 Volt Pro 8000R Series #817508 wench 95 FT 5/16 Cable, remote switch, roller fairlead. 852-2285.(TFN-E)

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

40 Auto Parts
For sale. 4 studded snow tires. 225/65R17. Good shape. \$250. Ph:719.849.1529. (03/26)

42 Feed & Seed
WANTED TO BUY hay or mixed hay, most any size bale. Call 719-539-4313 or 719-239-1391. Pinon Ranch.(04/01)

FOR SALE: Grass/Alfalfa Hay - Small Bales - \$6.50/Bale - Call: 7198501062. (03/25)

Grass 3x3 Cow Hay and pasture 719-655-2219 Leave Message. (719)655-2219 (03/11)

43 Farm Products
Seal your leaking livestock tanks, ponds and reservoirs with bentonite. Spring Special, 10% off! Rio Grande Bentonite (719)580-6652 (03/25)

59 Vehicles Wanted
CASH ON THE SPOT FOR

JUNK CARS & TRUCKS: We pickup, no title ok. 719-937-7935. (TFN5-20)

65 Professional Services
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1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

Words: _____ **Times:** _____ **Price:** _____

Class: _____ **Start Date:** _____

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Coronavirus (COVID-19) Myths, Half-Truths and Facts

By Dr. Eric Ball, M.D.

SAN LUIS VALLEY - As media panic widens and stores are rapidly depleted of essential household items, we need to stop and analyze the true impact of the novel coronavirus. We are going to look at the history of coronavirus pandemics, factual data about the present outbreak and tips for the coming spread. When we look at the present data and facts coming out of China, we need to put the impact of COVID-19 in perspective. According to the Center for Disease Control, from October 2019 – February 2020, an estimated 46,000 people have died from influenza in the United States. More than 650,000 people worldwide have died this year with influenza. We hear little in the media about this, as this is a common statistic yearly. We continue to live our daily lives in spite of the death rates.

This is not the first novel Coronavirus outbreak that has been seen in history. We have experienced at least six recognized Coronavirus outbreaks in the past eight years. Most notably the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in 2012-2016 and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2002-2004. MERS originated in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and was mostly contained to the Middle East and ended in 2016. The mortality rate of confirmed cases was estimated to be approximately 34%. This virus was

found to have low levels of contagious spread but had a very high mortality rate. 858 deaths total were reported. The most famous outbreak before this year's epidemic was the SARS outbreak in 2002 which started in China and spread throughout Asia. In this outbreak, 813 people died with a 9.6% death rate of confirmed cases. When we compare the outbreak of COVID-19 to previous Coronavirus outbreaks the estimated death rate of confirmed severe cases is around 2%. Coronavirus is thought to be harbored in bats although the spread of MERS in 2012 was thought to be spread from a camel. The CDC believes that this new COVID-19 outbreak originated from a bat in China. The animal spread of viruses is very common as the natural host of influenza is sea birds.

How dangerous is COVID-19? When we analyze and look at the present data, we are finding that this virus has a mortality rate (chance of dying) of about 2% in confirmed cases. This is substantially lower than previous outbreaks. In contrast with previous outbreaks, the COVID-19 virus does appear to have a much faster spread rate. In summary, this new virus is more contagious but less fatal. This death rate is reported from confirmed cases only. So, who are these confirmed cases? When we look at the testing guidelines, the people being tested are those who are hospitalized or have

severe manifestations of the disease. There are likely significantly more people affected who have acquired very mild disease and are not being tested. By knowing that people with mild diseases are not being tested, the actual mortality rate is likely much lower. Many articles are estimating that the true mortality is likely well below 1%. Influenza worldwide this year had an estimated mortality rate of 0.1%. COVID-19 has a death total of 3,412 with confirmed cases over 100,000 worldwide at the time of this press release. The majority of cases so far have been in China, Italy, Iran and South Korea. Of those who died from the virus, 80% of them were over 60 years old with chronic medical conditions like severe heart disease, lung disease and cancer. No deaths have been noted in patients under 10 years old. 81% of cases that were confirmed in China were listed as having mild symptoms with complete recovery.

On March 5, 2020, Colorado had the first confirmed case in Summit County. The spread of this virus in the United States is inevitable. This patient had recently traveled to Italy. Simple preparation can help limit the spread of the virus. The same precautions that are taken with Influenza should be employed with COVID-19. Symptoms of COVID-19 include lower respiratory symptoms including fever and cough. In more severe cases, symptoms can

progress to pneumonia and severe shortness of breath. In contrast with other cold viruses, it is less likely that you will develop nasal congestion, sore throat or head symptoms. Make sure you are washing your hands frequently and practice good hand hygiene. If you think you are infected please wear a mask in public places and frequently use hand sanitizer. Stay home from work or school and avoid exposing high-risk individuals like nursing homes or those with chronic medical problems. **If you are an employer or teacher please do not request a required work note from a physician.** We want to limit the spread of the virus in health care facilities as there are vulnerable populations in the Emergency Department, the clinics and the hospital. If you have severe symptoms and have difficulty breathing, especially if you have chronic respiratory illnesses like COPD and are over age 60 come to the Emergency Department. If you have mild symptoms there is little benefit to visiting the Emergency Department or your Health Care provider. There is no treatment for COVID-19 and the virus usually resolves on its own like other cold viruses.

In Alamosa, we do not have the capability to test for COVID-19. Testing criteria from the CDC involves testing only those with severe symptoms that are hospitalized without a known cause



Dr. Eric Ball, M.D.

of their illness, symptoms with travel to endemic areas (China, Italy, Iran or South Korea), or known exposure to a test positive patient. All test samples obtained from the San Luis Valley will be sent to the state lab and may take a few days to obtain results. The Emergency Department will not be able to test low-risk individuals routinely.

In summary, please practice good hand hygiene and limit exposure to at-risk individuals. Make sure to have supplies for 1-2 weeks of household goods and prescription medicine. Do not go to work, grocery stores or public places if you believe you are infected to limit the spread of the virus. Please contact your health care provider for more information. For details on the outbreak please visit CDC.gov to learn more about the virus and how to best protect yourself from the virus.

CORONAVIRUS

Continued from Page 1

if possible.

We advise Coloradans to always be prepared for an emergency-- like a large snowstorm-- and have a plan for your family. Make sure to have 72 hours of key supplies on hand like medications, infant formula, diapers, pet food, etc. FEMA guidance for pre-pandemic COVID-19 preparedness is available on Ready.gov.

Stay informed with reliable, up-to-date information. People who have general questions about coronavirus disease 2019, can call CO HELP at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911 or email COHELP@RMPDC.org, for answers in English and Spanish (Español), Mandarin, and more.

"We have been made aware of one presumptive positive case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Summit County, Colorado. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) informed us that the person skied at Keystone Resort and Vail Mountain between Feb. 29 and March 2, while he was asymptomatic. He developed symptoms on March 3.

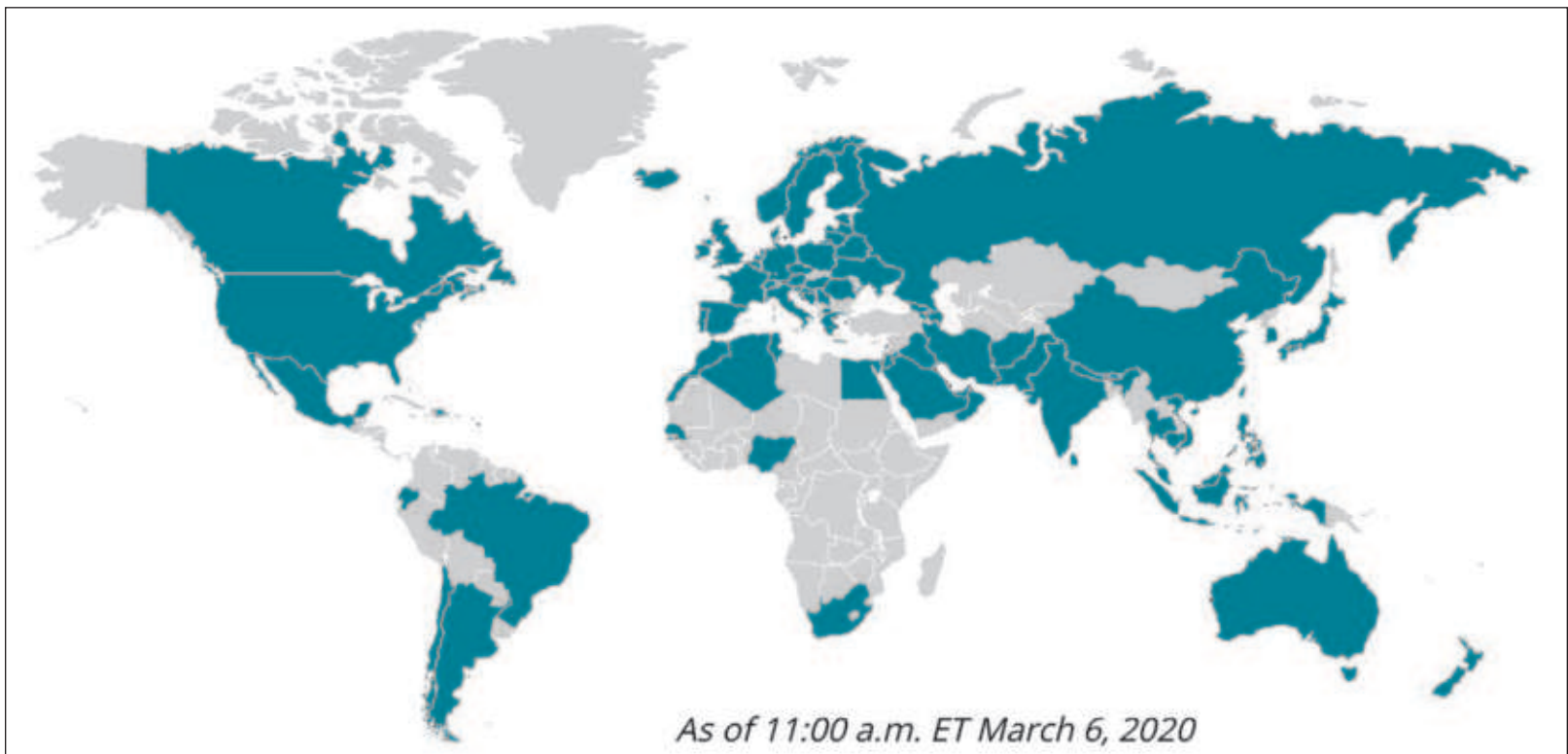
Transmission from asymptomatic people is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Summit County Public Health informed us that the individual stayed in the Slopeside Condominiums complex during his stay in Keystone. The unit is not owned or managed by Vail Resorts. We manage the building's Homeowners Association, which oversees the maintenance of all common areas. We have followed all guidance from Summit County Public Health regarding the cleaning and disinfecting of all common areas.

CDPHE reiterated this morning that the risk to the general public is low. We are in contact with Summit County Public Health and the CDPHE and will continue to follow their guidance and recommendations.

The health and well-being of our guests and employees is our top priority and we will continue to take all appropriate precautions. We have asked all employees to follow the recommendations from the CDC.

Our resorts are fully open and operating normally."



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Colorado big game application period is open until April 7

COLORADO – Hunters hoping to draw a big-game license in Colorado in 2020 are urged to study up on all the changes in license requirements, changes in hunts and fees. The application period began March 1, 2020, and runs through April 7 at 8 p.m. MT).

Important changes for hunters to take note of include:

- Over-the-counter rifle elk-hunting licenses are no longer available for Game Management Unit 83 in the San Luis Valley during the second and third rifle seasons. All elk licenses for the unit are now limited; rifle hunters must apply for an elk tag through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife limited license draw.
- Archery hunters in southwest Colorado are now required to apply through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife limited licensing program to obtain a license for elk hunting. The new requirement applies to Game Management Units 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 78, 711, 741, 751, and 771. The change was made because of concerns about the declining elk population and concerns by the hunting public that there were too many bowhunters in the field. Archery hunters will apply to hunt in a specific GMU or group of GMUs. Previously, archery elk licenses in these units were over-the-counter either-sex tags that were not unit specific. Now, archery licenses will be broken down into unit specific limited bull, cow and private-land-only either-sex licenses.

Adjustments to license fees

The Future Generations Act, which passed through the Colorado Legislature in 2018, allows CPW to adjust resident license prices to keep up with the cost of inflation. This year that means an increase of 1.3% or 30 cents to a few dollars on most licenses (bear license prices have actually gone down).

Qualifying Licenses

In order to participate in the Big Game primary draws and new secondary draws, hunters will need to purchase a qualifying license. If you applied for big game in Colorado last year, you recall that all applicants, including youth ages 12-17, must buy a qualifying license before applying for the big game license draw. Qualifying licenses include: spring turkey licenses, annual small game, annual resident combination small game/fishing, veteran's lifetime



Photo by Trey Spaulding

resident combination small game/fishing, senior combination small game/fishing (new) and disabled first responder combination small game/fishing (new). Please note that any remaining leftover limited licenses that become available on a first-come-first-serve basis (Aug. 4 at 9 a.m. MT) and over the counter licenses (Aug. 6 at 9 a.m. MT), will not require a qualifying license.

Valid dates for annual licenses have changed

2020 annual licenses go on sale March 1, 2020, including qualifying licenses, at the same time as big game applications. 2020 annual licenses, including qualifying licenses, are valid March 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021. Remember, to be a valid qualifying license for the big game draws, the license must be valid for the 2020 license year.

Secondary draw replaces the leftover draw in 2020

Hunters who don't draw a license in this year's primary draw should be aware they still have the opportunity to draw a license in the new secondary big game draw. The secondary draw replaces the old leftover draw.

New in 2020, most elk, deer, pronghorn and bear licenses not issued through the primary draw will now be made available in a secondary draw that is open to anyone, whether they applied for the primary draw or not. Secondary draw applications are accepted June 5 - July 7, 8 p.m. MT. Visit CPW's website for more information about the new secondary draw.

Review your application and account to avoid issues with your draw

Apply early to avoid any issues

with your application. Once you have submitted your application, please review your emailed receipt to confirm the hunt codes you entered. Application modifications can be made to a submitted application before April 7, 2020, at 8 p.m. MT.

To avoid any issues if you draw a license, make sure your credit card on file is up-to-date and that your email and mailing address are correct when you apply. The payment deadline for the primary big game draws is June 19, 2020.

Mandatory testing for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

CPW is continuing mandatory Chronic Wasting Disease testing for selected game management units (GMUs) as part of its Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan (see cpw.state.co.us/cwd for more info). There is no charge for mandatory testing. Eighty-nine GMUs will be tested in 2020, mostly in western Colorado. If you're hunting deer (either sex) in these units, and you harvest, you will need to bring your head in to a CWD submission location so Colorado Parks and Wildlife technicians can collect a lymph node sample for testing. A complete list of GMUs where mandatory testing will be required is available on page 21 of the 2020 Colorado Big Game Brochure.

"It's very important all hunters read the 2020 Colorado Big Game brochure, which is available at all CPW office locations and online," said CPW Public Information Officer Travis Duncan. "We're encouraging all hunters to check their online accounts to ensure their contact information is current and credit card information is up-to-date. Then check your account after the draw to see the draw results, your preference point levels and the status of your

payments," Duncan said.

data from 2019-2020 will not be available until mid-March.



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Tip

SLV Health donates ballistic vests to medical first responders

By DONNA WEHE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, SLV HEALTH SAN LUIS VALLEY - SLV Health stepped up in support of the San Luis Valley's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies. SLVH purchased 48 ballistic vest carriers and plates (body armor) for the 10 Regional EMS Trauma Advisory Council (RETAC) agencies throughout the San Luis Valley Region. This includes EMS agencies from Saguache, Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande, Mineral and Alamosa counties.

Ballistic protective equipment is worn when responding to active shooter and mass casualty incidents to support the entry of EMS personnel into a warm zone for triage, treatment and extrication of the wounded. Many are using this on higher risk and even routine calls at this time, including responding to domestic violence and behavioral health situations.

"Having ballistic vests is crucial to the safety of EMS providers in our region. Every day the ambulance drivers and first responders are at an increased risk of arriving at a violent scene. SLV Health is proud to collaborate with these great teams throughout the Valley," commented Konnie Martin, SLVH CEO.

Ryan Daugherty, SLVH EMS Director added, "Although there is not a single data collection entity, EMS providers and first responders have reported an increase in violence toward them in general. There have also been multiple best practices and policy updates from State and Fed-

eral entities with the uptick of Active Shooter and Mass Casualty Incidents occurring that lead to increasing calls for EMS to have to run into danger (Warm Zones) to save lives. EMS agencies nationwide are beginning to make such Ballistic Vests and body armor routine Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) for every call."

These vests have been deployed to agencies throughout the SLV and will no doubt improve safety and enhance operational capability for all. These are universal vests and are adjustable and available for all providers to wear. The EMS providers are extremely grateful to SLV Health for their generous donation.

Members of the South Fork Fire Rescue Team Pose with Donated Vests.

Author: Donna Wehe, Director of Communications, SLV Health

Members of the South Fork Fire Rescue Team Pose with Donated Vests. Front Row, Left to Right: Ben Webster, Linette Nye Schmit, Amy Blackmon, Lucas Slade, Shannon Goldsberry, Courtney Arthur, Melanie Dickey, Andy Dickey Back Row, Left to Right: Tyler Schmidt, Chris Miyaki, Tyler Hathorn, Michael Filipi, Tyler Off, Woody Wilson, Jed Pilant, Stafford Wilson, Tyrell Harris, Brittany Off

Courtesy photo



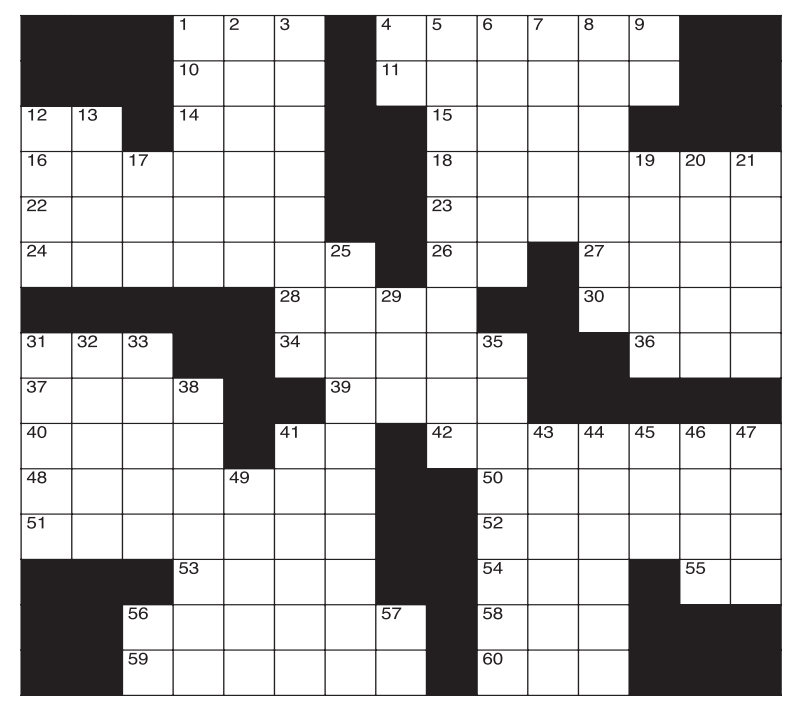
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1. Hair care product
4. Looped
10. It's present in all living cells
11. Choose
12. South Dakota
14. Cash machine
15. Of the pia mater
16. Ancient Egyptian documents
18. Layers at the back of the eyeballs
22. Not perceived
23. Look over
24. Improve a tire
26. Time zone
27. Main branch of Islam
28. Bark of the mulberry tree
30. Sea eagles
31. Records heart muscle activity (abbr.)
34. Famed Hollywood producer
36. Yuck!
37. Reject outright and bluntly
39. ___ 500, car race
40. Small heap or pile
41. Type of degree (abbr.)
42. Contagious skin disease
48. Erases from a surface
50. In an enthusiastic way
51. Begin again



52. Intricately produced pattern
53. It flows NW to the Seine
54. Be obliged to repay
55. Southeast
56. Slip in
58. Leisure time activity
59. Breastbones
60. Sun up in New York

20. Performing perfectly
21. A way to hide
25. Former NBA commissioner
29. Peter's last name
31. Outlying suburb of London
32. Used to cut steak
33. Deep inlets
35. Type of tree
38. Done openly and unashamedly
41. Indigenous person of N. Africa
43. Confessed openly
44. A way to separate with an instrument
45. Influential journalist Tarbell
46. Manning and Roth are two
47. One who cares for horses in India
49. Something to believe in
56. Form of "to be"
57. Atomic #73

DOWN

1. More cloudy
2. Main course
3. Protect with plastic
4. Equally
5. Rebukes
6. Friend to a salesman
7. Warms up
8. Overshadow
9. Interior lineman in football
12. San Antonio hoopster
13. Comedian Cook
17. Time zone
19. First PM of India

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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Valley Calendar

To have an event listed in the SLV Lifestyles calendar, write to Valley Calendar, P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144, email MonteVistaNews@gmail.com or fax us at 852-3387. We do not accept items for the calendar over the phone; however, to make a change to a listing, please call 852-3531. Deadline for listings and changes is 5 p.m. Wednesday. Submissions should be made in a .doc or .rtf format. Items will be published as space allows.

March 14

SALIDA - HRRMC's Family Birthing Center is offering a childbirth class on Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The class will be held in the hospital's second-floor conference rooms, 1000 Rush Dr., Salida. Class instructors will provide information about childbirth, comfort measures, interventions and breastfeeding. Participants should wear comfortable clothing. Light snacks are provided. Participants are welcome to bring lunch or eat in the hospital's café. The cost of the class is \$25. Limited scholarships are available. To register for the class, visit hrrmc.com or call the Family Birthing Center at (719) 530-2277.

March 17

SALIDA - a Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center is offering a class on obstructive sleep apnea on Tuesday, March 17, from 9-10 a.m. in the hospital's second-floor conference rooms, 1000 Rush Dr., Salida. Registered sleep technician TC Rodak will guide participants on how to prepare for a sleep study and what happens during the study. In addition to sleep apnea, she will discuss continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) therapy. The class is free and open to the public. For those who have a doctor's order for a sleep study or your doctor suspects you have sleep apnea, it is recommended that you attend this class. Refreshments and a light breakfast will be provided. For more information, contact TC at 719-530-2280.

March 22

SOUTH FORK - New Hope Church in South Fork will have a chili cook-off after church Sunday, March 22. Anyone is welcome to participate and cash prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50 will be awarded. Bring a pot of your best chili by 11:30 to the church kitchen. Eating and judging will begin at noon. You are welcome to bring your chili at 10:00 and enjoy our church service from 10-11. New Hope Church is located at 25258 US-160.

March 28

CREEDE - The 29th annual Creede Variety Show will be Saturday, March 28, at the Ruth Humphreys Brown Theatre on Creede's Main Street. Last year's show was a sellout! A wide selection of amazing local talent was on display and enjoyed by all. The 2020 show promises to be an equally entertaining evening! Auditions will be Monday,

March 23, and Tuesday, March 24th. Contact creedearts@outlook.com or call 719-658-0312 to set up an audition time. The audition venue is the Creede Community Church. Every age group and any talent are welcome to audition. Pieces must be performance ready and appropriate for people of all ages. Tickets will be available at the door, \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Cash and checks accepted; we are unable to process credit cards.

ONGOING

• **ALAMOSA** — Pregnant? Need Help? Call the San Luis Valley Life Center at 589-6698 for free and confidential pregnancy testing; earn while you learn parenting program; post abortive support STI testing and more. Office open Monday-Thursday 2-5:30 p.m.,

3211 Main Street, Alamosa
 • **ALAMOSA** — Circle of Parents in Recovery provides a safe, supporting, confidential, non-judgmental environment where parents can openly discuss the successes and challenges of parenting in recovery. Circle of Parents in Recovery values reciprocity and the development of leadership among participants. The group will meet every first and third Tuesday from 4-5:30 p.m. at Living Water Bible Fellowship 2019 Clark Street Alamosa. Contact Mary Lambert for more information (719)587-6965 or mlambert@slvbhg.org
 • **CONEJOS** — Bingo, 7 p.m. every Monday and Thursday, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall
 • **DEL NORTE** - The Peace Education Program, PEP, will be presented at Wildwood Sounds, 850 Grande Ave. in Del Norte,

on Thursdays beginning Nov. 7 through Jan. 23 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Wildwood Sounds in Del Norte. This free media based program presents a unique perspective on life. It is nonreligious and nonsectarian presenting 10 themed sessions. The themes are peace, appreciation, inner strength, self-awareness, clarity, understanding, hope and contentment.
 • **DEL NORTE** — Tuesdays and Saturdays at the Ruth Marie, or by appointment: Piano and music lessons with professional pianist, Allan Stuart (719-754-2576; greenshadowmusic@gmail.com) Call for more info.
 Wednesdays at the Ruth Marie: Yoga with Leigh Anne Lobato from 5 to 6:15 p.m. donation fee of \$5-\$6 to The Ruth Marie. Phone 850-0750, lobato@myamigo.net
 Thursdays at the Ruth Marie:

Kundalini Yoga with Milcah (849-1954, milcahhawk@gmail.com) from 5:30-6:45 p.m., \$8-\$10 donation to the Ruth Marie
 • **HOMELAKE** — The Homelake Veterans Museum is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-noon and 1 to 3 p.m. until the end of October. Info. 580-0023
 • **MONTE VISTA** — Exercise class every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:00a.m. at the Tri-County Senior Center, 311 Washington.
 • **MONTE VISTA** — Pool Playing for men and women every day at the Tri-County Senior Center, 311 Washington. Tournaments held periodically with other San Luis Valley Senior Centers
 • **MONTE VISTA** - The San Luis Valley Nutrition program for the elderly serves nutritional
Continued on Page 10

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Valley Calendar

Continued from Page 9

meals at the Tri-County Senior Center, 311 Washington Monday through Friday of each week at noon. Meals are open to seniors age 60 and over. Membership or building residency is not necessary for participation in activities or meals at the Tri-County Senior Center. The Nutrition program is administered by South Central Colorado Seniors. For additional information please call 852-2687

• **SAN LUIS VALLEY** — The famous Fred Hargrove is performing at Dos Rios every Thursday evening and now at Cottonwood Cove in Creede for steak night every Saturday evening from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Come by and hear favorite hits and Fred's country, western and folk music originals.

• **SOUTH FORK** — The Silverthread Outdoor Recreation Club holds hikes on the following days: easy, Mondays and Thursdays, difficult on Wednesdays. ATV rides Tuesdays. Fridays are trail cleanup days. Info, Elizabeth Baugh at 873-5286

• **SOUTH FORK** — Tai Chi for Health classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. at the South Fork Library. Classes are free, and walk-ins are welcome. • **Improve Balance** • **Slow Aging** • **Learn about health benefits.** With questions, call Jim Fox, 360-821-9006.

WEEKLY EVENTS

• **ALAMOSA** — Community Garden Nights continue every Tuesday through September between 5-7 p.m. Community members are invited to join in and help plant, weed, water and harvest Boyd Garden every Tuesday and are welcome to take home fresh produce at harvest time. Any additional produce will be donated to the Alamosa Food Bank. Boyd Community Garden is located between 11th and 12th streets on State Avenue in Alamosa and is open to the public. "Share the Work, Share the Harvest." Contact 719-589-4567 or email director.vegi@lapuente.net

• **ALAMOSA** — Women of Worth (WOW), a Single Moms Ministry at Living Water Bible Fellowship will meet every Monday from 5:30-7 p.m. at Living Water Bible Fellowship Church, 2910 Clark St. in Alamosa. If you are divorced, widowed, or separated we invite you to come and fellowship, eat, and find hope and value. Contact Bonny at 719-589-6351 for more information

• **ALAMOSA** — A free coffee

break for all veterans is held every Thursday morning from 8:30-11 a.m. at the SLV Museum in Alamosa. This is a project of the Veterans Coalition of the SLV and it is hosted by the Women Veterans of the SLV and the SLV Museum, 401 Hunt Ave.

• **ALAMOSA** — Families with babies and children through age five are invited to "Storytime Fridays" at the Alamosa Public Library. There are two sessions every Friday. Parents and caregivers with babies through age three come at 9:30 a.m.; all others come at 11 a.m. Anyone with children of both ages, pick a session and check it out — or come for both. Call Ms. Becky at 589-6592 ext. 2550 for more information.

• **ALAMOSA** — The Alamosa Elks Lodge 1297 hosts Bingo at 7 p.m. Thursday in the lodge room. Food is available.

• **ALAMOSA** — Tu Casa is now hosting groups for survivors of sexual assault, date rape, marital rape, and sexual abuse as a child. These groups are open to the community and are held at the Tu Casa office from noon to 1 p.m. every Thursday. Info, 589-2465

• **ALAMOSA** — VFW Post 899, Bingo every Tuesday, 519 Main Street

• **ALAMOSA** — B.P.O.E. ELKS 1297, Bingo, 7 p.m. every Thursday

• **ALAMOSA** — Toastmasters meets, noon-1 p.m. Mondays at The Bridge, 3407 Carroll Street. Info, Kristina, 588-5127.

• **ALAMOSA** — Optimist Club of Alamosa, noon, first, second and third Tuesday of each month, Inn of the Rio Grande. Board meetings on the fourth Tuesday. Info, Allyn Lewis at 589-4733

• **ALAMOSA** — TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly), 6-7:30 p.m. every Tuesday, College Heights Baptist Church, across from OMS, in Alamosa. Info, 589-1060

• **ANTONITO** — Come celebrate, garden and eat with us at the Antonito School & Community Garden! Because of the start of school, we will now be meeting Sundays at 5 p.m. Visit us on the web for more information: www.valleybound.org."

• **CRESTONE** — Every Tuesday Yoga for Everybody will be offered at 9 a.m. in Crestone. RSVP to attend the small classes at no charge. Contact John at 256-5315.

• **CRESTONE** — Dharma Ocean will offer a weekly meditation group every Monday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Crestone Charter School. This is a drop-in group and

there is no cost.

• **DEL NORTE** — Yoga at the Ruth Marie Center, 575 Columbia Ave., with Milcah Hawk will be held every Thursday 5:30 to 7 p.m. Come stretch, breathe and relax for just a donation. Bring a mat or use ours. Visit www.theruthmarie.com or contact theruthmarie@gmail.com, 719-850-1672.

• **DEL NORTE** — Bingo every Sunday at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 595 Pine Street. Doors open at noon and play starts at 1 p.m. Concessions are also available.

• **DEL NORTE** — Del Norte Rotary Club, 7 a.m. every Wednesday at Boogie's Restaurant. Guests are welcome. Info, 657-2967.

• **DEL NORTE** — Del Norte Public Library preschool reading group, 1 p.m. each Tuesday

• **DEL NORTE** — TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) chapter meetings, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursdays Gateway Church, 975 Grande Ave. The first meeting always free. bring a friend. Info, Julie, 719-206-2741

• **LA JARA** — Preschool reading program at Conejos County Library 10 a.m.-1 p.m. every Friday

• **LA JARA** — Saturdays at noon, all are invited to come pray the traditional Holy Rosary at 403 Poplar St. In La Jara.

• **MONTE VISTA** — Bible Study at the Monte Vista United Methodist Church starts Tuesdays at 10 a.m. A verse by verse approach to 1 Corinthians. A study of God's love. 215 Washington Ave., Monte Vista, Pastor Steve Dunkel, 852-2853

• **MONTE VISTA** — The Monte Vista Assembly of God Church, God's Closet, will be open Satur-

days from 9 a.m. to noon They will provide clothing and misc. items to those in need. Located in the small shed behind the church, which is located at 881 N. Hwy. 285. They will also take donations of clothing and misc. items, no furniture or mattresses. Contact Margarite Atencio at 580-9783 with questions.

• **MONTE VISTA - BINGO** - The Monte Vista Elks Lodge #2456 at 121 Washington St. hosts Progressive BINGO every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Refreshments and snacks are available for purchase. Doors open at 6 p.m. Call 852-2456 for info.

• **MONTE VISTA** — Penny Bingo every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. at the Tri-County Senior Center, 311 Washington St.

• **MONTE VISTA** — Learn about the Bible, starting with "baby steps," 9:45 a.m. Sundays, Monte Vista United Methodist Church. Info, 852-2790.

• **MONTE VISTA** — Anyone and everyone is welcome to gather from 2-4 p.m. Fridays at Wilderthyme Art, 1631 Grande Avenue, for knitting, crocheting, spinning or any portable handwork

• **SOUTH FORK** — Bingo sponsored by the South Fork Chamber of Commerce will be held every Thursday throughout the summer at the South Fork Community Center. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and bingo starts at 7 p.m. Concession stand and free raffle. All ages are welcome.

• **SOUTH FORK** — The Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. They meet at 8 a.m. every Thursday at the Carnegie Library in South Fork. Info, Karen Miller, 873-5466 or mkmillermink@aol.com.

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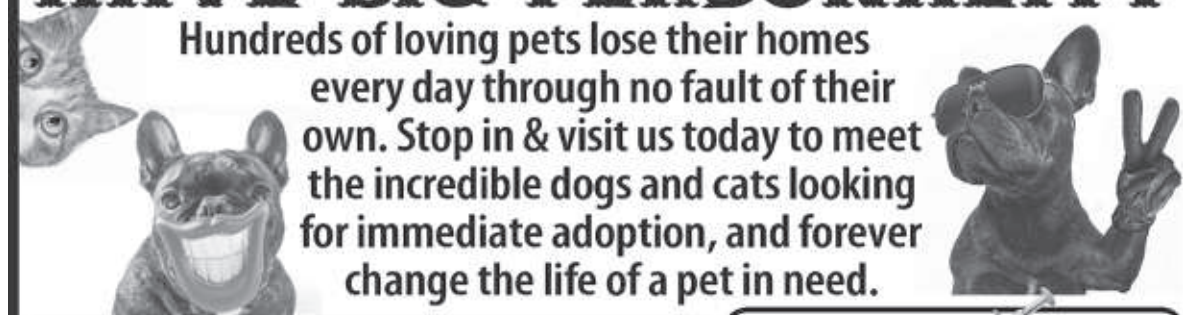
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‘The Twilight Zone’ and ‘The Myths and Bricks Project’ open Tuesday

By **KAITLYN KELLEY**

ALAMOSA – Brandon Billings and Kaleb Gideon Burris, Adams State University theatre majors, have prepared an evening of nostalgia and entertainment. Billings is directing three episodes of “*The Twilight Zone*,” adapted for stage, and “*The Myths and Bricks Project*” is directed and performed by Burris. The plays will begin nightly at 7:30 p.m. March 10 through March 13, in the Experimental Theatre.

It took months for Billings to prepare and create his adaptation of “*The Twilight Zone*.” He spent his entire summer working and then coming home to watch the television show, all 156 episodes, before deciding on “*Time Enough at Last*,” “*Nightmare at 20,000 Feet*,” and “*Eye of the Beholder*.”

“The play adaptations include lots of twists and turns, making it more entertaining for the audience to watch onstage,” Billings said.

Burris describes the one-person play, “*The Myth and Bricks Project*” as “really weird.” The short one-act tackles issues such as miscomprehension in relationships, projecting emotions in order to avoid problems, and ultimately self-respect and self-care. “I find myself finding the most average way of approaching an issue or challenge and then I try to do the opposite and this play does that.”

Billings is excited that John Taylor, Ph.D., professor of theatre and director of the theatre program, agreed to play the part of the late Rod Serling, who served as host and wrote 92 of the original shows. “This was a great project and along with working with theatre majors, I also collaborated with art students to create masks to be used in *Eye of the Beholder*.” Billings has appreciated

the opportunity to direct, which he realized he liked doing after taking a directing class. “I like to give reassurance to my actors and designers and make everyone feel good as they progress through the process. I am so proud of all of them.” After graduating Billings plans to pursue a career in theatre, movies or television. He hopes to one day write and direct his own productions.

Being both director and actor was a good experience for Burris. “I keep in my mind what I am doing when onstage so I can consciously direct myself once I am off stage.” After graduating Burris hopes to pursue an acting career that lets him travel, such as in Renaissance Fairs.

The Adams State University

Theatre production, “*The Twilight Zone*” and “*The Myths and Bricks Project*,” will open March 10 and continues nightly through March 13. Tickets are now on sale. The Theatre Box Office is open from 2:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For tickets and information call 719-587-8499.



Courtesy photo

The Adams State University Theatre production, “*The Twilight Zone*” and “*The Myths and Bricks Project*,” will open at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, in the Experimental Theatre.

RHYTHMS

Continued from Page 1

those early discussions we have donated over \$20,000 to local programs and school districts,” said Stecken. “Numerous studies have come to conclusions that music enhances areas of child development such as motor, language, social-emotional and literacy. So to us at the SFMA, music programs are a must for children.”

As a nonprofit, the association relies on volunteers to make the festival happen. There will be a “Road to Rhythms” volunteer drive with three bands March 12, from 8 p.m. to midnight, at the Colorado Grille and Tap House in Del Norte. Volunteers can work one four-hour shift in exchange for free admission for one day or two shifts to get free admission for the entire weekend.

Tickets are \$140 per person for all three days, camping included and \$100 for seniors. Admission is free for children 15 and under. Stecken said organizers for the first time have set a limit of 2,000 people for the festival, so tickets are expected to sell out. Early bird tickets sold out in less than 10 days, a sign of the increasing popularity of the festival. Along with the music, there are food and merchandise vendors, yoga classes, activities for kids and a robust, friendly and social camping experience.

Combined with the riverside location and mountain views, it’s all made Rhythms on the Rio one of the most popular small music festivals in Colorado.

“Tickets sales are months ahead of schedule, General Admission with camping has just gone on sale and with a maximum capacity of 2,000 people this year, we fully expect to sell out,” said Stecken. “Rhythms on the Rio is a true Colorado fest; it is as laid back and chilled as we can

make it. Every year we hear how our guests feel comfortable bringing the kids and making experiences as a family while listening to great music. That reputation which has been a mission of the SFMA board and has taken years to acquire, is really what Rhythms on the Rio is all about.”

Other announced musical acts include the Kitchen Dwellers; The Ghost of Paul Revere; Pixie and the

Partygrass Boys; Julian Davis and The Situation; and Elder Grown. More acts are expected to be announced in the coming weeks. Visit www.rhythmsontherio.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

The South Fork Music Association is overseen by a volunteer board of directors including Stecken, Paul Orr, Skip Patterson, Linda Miyaki and Isaac “Ike” Manobla.

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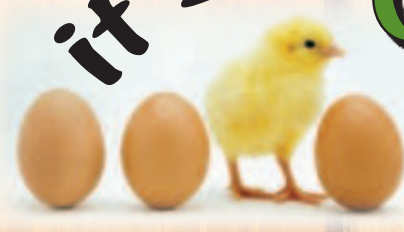
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