

Shorts

Republican caucuses March 7

SAGUACHE — Republican caucuses will be held March 7 in Saguache, Sargents, Moffat and Center.

Precinct 1 will meet at the Road and Bridge meeting room in Saguache. Precinct 2 will be at the Tomichi Trading Post in Sargents.

Precincts 3, 4 and 5 will meet at the Moffat School in Moffat and Precincts 6 and 7 will be at the Kiwanis Hall in Center. Starting times for all caucuses will be 10 a.m. on March 7.

The County Assembly will take place at 2 p.m. March 14.

Meet the Center candidates March 4-5

CENTER — The town of Center will be hosting two meet the candidates' nights for a question and answer period beginning at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 4 and Thursday, March 5, at the Center town hall. There are three trustee positions up for election and eight candidates are running for those three positions. Center residents may question those candidates March 4 at 5 p.m., town hall. The mayor's position is also up for election and there are five candidates running for the mayor's position. Mayoral candidates will be available for questions March 5 at 5 p.m., town hall. Don't miss this opportunity to participate in local government! For more information, call 719-754-3497.

Ute theatre celebrates Black History Month

SAGUACHE — In recognition of Black History Month, the historic Ute Theatre in Saguache will be screening "Harriet," a biographical film about slave-turned-abolitionist Harriet Tubman. Tubman was born into slavery and escaped herself. She rescued over 70 other slaves, including family and friends, over the course of 13 different missions using the Underground Railroad. Not only did she help free slaves, but she also helped them find work further north. She later worked for the Union Army during the Civil War and guided a raid that freed an additional 700-plus slaves. Cynthia Erivo plays Tubman in this 2019 film. Come see one of two screenings at the historic Ute Theatre to learn more about and celebrate this historical figure during Black History Month. Screenings will be available for viewing Friday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 29, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$7 and are available at the door.

Center accounting records for 2004-2011 missing

Ghosts of Center's past

By **TERESA L. BENNS**

CENTER — A special audit submitted to Center Town Board trustees at their Feb. 18 meeting by the accounting firm Wall, Smith and

Please see RECORDS on Page 7A

The town does not have any accounting records for the periods of 2004-2011 due to a software conversion. We also did not have access to Center Sanitation records from 2004-2009.

Photo by Teresa L. Benns



FIFTEEN APPS

PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT COURTESY OF THE PORT ST. LUCIE POLICE DEPARTMENT Updated August 2019

<p>MEETME MEETME is a dating social media app that allows users to connect with people based on geographic proximity. As the app's name suggests, users are encouraged to meet each other in person.</p>	<p>CALCULATOR% CALCULATOR% is only one of several secret vault apps used to hide photos, videos, files and browser history. It allows evidence of sexting, sextortion, or other illegal activity to be concealed.</p>	<p>SKOUT SKOUT is a location-based dating app and website. While users under 17 years old are unable to share private photos, kids can easily create an account using a different age.</p>
<p>WHATSAPP WHATSAPP is a popular messaging app that allows users to send texts, photos, voicemails, make calls and video chats worldwide. WHATSAPP uses an internet connection on smartphones and computers.</p>	<p>TIKTOK TIKTOK is a new mobile device app popular with kids used for creating and sharing short videos. With very limited privacy controls, users are vulnerable to cyber bullying and explicit content.</p>	<p>BADOO BADOO is a dating and social networking app where users can chat, share photos and videos and connect based on location. While the app is intended for adults only, teens are known to create profiles.</p>
<p>BUMBLE BUMBLE is similar to the popular dating app "Tinder," however, it requires women to make the first contact. Kids have been known to use BUMBLE to create fake accounts and falsify their age.</p>	<p>SNAPCHAT SNAPCHAT is one of the most popular apps in recent years. While the app promises users can take a photo/video and it will disappear, new features including "stories" allows users to view content for up to 24 hours. Snapchat also allows users to see your location.</p>	<p>FACECAST FACECAST is a global live video chat community. It allows users to live stream, add video clips, and utilize random match video chat. Users earn rewards based on uploaded content that can then be used as gifts for private chat, making users vulnerable to exploitation.</p>
<p>LIVEME LIVEME is a live-streaming video app that uses geolocation to share videos so users can find out a broadcaster's exact location. Users can earn "coins" as a way to "pay" minors for photos.</p>	<p>HOLLA HOLLA is a self-proclaimed "addicting" video chat app that allows users to meet people all over the world in just seconds. Reviewers say they have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content, and more.</p>	<p>WHISPER WHISPER is an anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It also reveals a user's location so people can meet up.</p>
<p>ASK.FM ASK.FM is known for cyberbullying. The app encourages users to allow anonymous people to ask them questions.</p>	<p>GRINDR GRINDR is a dating app geared towards gay, bi and transgender people. The app gives users options to chat, share photos and meet up based on a smart phone's GPS location.</p>	<p>HOT OR NOT HOT OR NOT encourages users to rate your profile, check out people in their area, and chat with strangers. The goal of this app is to hook up.</p>

Courtesy photo

These are some of the cellphone apps parents need to look for on their children's phones, including Grindr, an app reportedly used in an alleged kidnapping in Moffat. The app makes children vulnerable to predators, Center Police Chief Gene Meek said recently.

Man charged with kidnapping, assaulting Moffat girl

By **TERESA L. BENNS**

SALIDA — According to a press release from the Chaffee

County Sheriff's Office, a Buena Vista man has been charged with kidnapping and sexually

assaulting a 13-year-old Moffat

Please see ASSAULT on Page 8A

Lethal dose: Fentanyl masquerading as common prescription drugs

By **TERESA L. BENNS**

COLORADO — Those purchasing prescription drugs over the internet and on the streets are at high risk of getting more than they bargained for, officials are warning Coloradoans: a lethal dose of the drug fentanyl marketed under brand names like Xanax and Oxycodone.

Last week officials seized hundreds of thousands of dollars of fentanyl pills, Denver's Channel 7 reported Feb. 21. One portion, the size of a grain of sand embedded in the pills, is more than enough to kill an adult. Federal officials arrested 24 individuals they believe to be members of a Mexican drug trafficking ring operating out of Denver and Aurora.

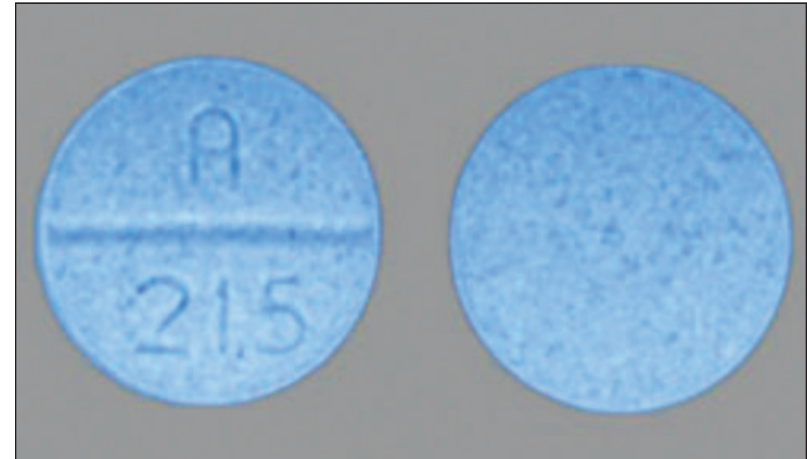
In January, members of the Northern Colorado Drug Force in Ft. Collins

began working a case involving eight fentanyl overdoses, two of them fatal. The drugs were sold as Oxycodone but contained minute traces of fentanyl. A 29-year-old male and a 17-year-old female died after ingesting the pills.

The Channel 7 article quotes task force Commander Joe Shell hammer, who called the mass importation of fentanyl into Colorado "a full-blown crisis." Shellhammer said black market operations in Mexico are now putting fentanyl into "everything," including, Oxycodone pills, Percocet, powdered cocaine, heroin, also other drugs.

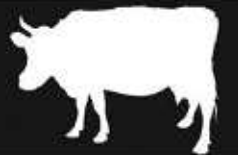
One drug policy reform activist estimated that it takes three days to mix up a batch of fentanyl in one of

Please see LETHAL on Page 7A



Courtesy photo

The blue color with embossed "A 215" are meant to mimic prescription Oxycodone.



OBITUARIES

Frances "Fran" Marie Worley McCullough, 91

Frances "Fran" Marie Worley McCullough passed away on Feb. 19, 2020 at River Valley Inn in Del Norte, Colorado. She was 91 years old. Born on Jan. 24, 1929 on a farm outside of Monte Vista, Colorado, she was the only child of Franklin Pierce Worley and Iola (Koch) Worley.

Fran was a proud alumna of Sargent Schools, graduating in 1945, the second of four generations to attend. Subsequently, she attended Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri until 1947 and then transferred to the University of Colorado in Boulder. She earned a degree in journalism at CU and graduated in 1949.

While attending the University of Colorado, she noticed a photograph of a handsome young man belonging to her roommate, Elaine (McCullough) Lavoie. On April 8, 1950, Fran married the young man from the photograph, Elaine's brother, Robert "Bob" L. McCullough, having met on a blind date. After spending their newlywed year in Denver, Bob and Fran moved to Monte Vista in 1951 to work alongside Fran's father, Frank Worley on the family farm. Together, they raised three children, Lynn, Julie and James "Jim" and worked hard to build the family farm, the operation of which continues today.

Having studied journalism at the University of Colorado, Fran had a deep interest in researching and documenting the history of the San Luis Valley. She spent many years as the editor of The San Luis Valley Historian, carefully gathering history and curating many issues of the periodical to preserve the rich history of The Valley for generations to come. She also worked with many others in the Sargent Community to create several volumes of the Sargent-Stanley History, forever preserving the early history of agriculture in the area and the happenings of the many families who called the Sargent and Stanley Communities home.

Fran was an active member of the Monte Vista and Sargent Communities. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Monte Vista where she played the piano and organ for many years. She



served on many committees within the church, published the church newsletter and kept the entryway to the church fellowship hall beautifully decorated with each changing season.

Tradition was important to Fran, and she especially loved establishing Christmas traditions with her children and grandchildren. Whether it was decorating the house, carefully assembling the family nativity (she kept a careful log of which child placed baby Jesus in the manger each year for over 40 years), or meticulously decorating gingerbread boys and girls, she was sure to leave the family with fond Holiday memories.

After retirement, Bob and Fran traveled extensively, visiting six of the seven continents, including a trip around the world on the Concorde. In their later years they explored the United States in the motorhome.

Frances was a matriarch of the McCullough Family, the Sargent Community and the San Luis Valley who leaves a lasting legacy. She is preceded in death by her husband Bob, of 66 years, and is survived by their children: Lynn, Julie, and Jim and their families including many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A Funeral service will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Monte Vista Saturday Feb. 29 at 11 a.m. with interment following in the Monte Vista Cemetery. To express condolences, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com.

RogersFamilyMortuary in Alamosa is in care of the arrangements.

George Robert "Bob" Merkey, 90

Monte Vista resident George Robert "Bob" Merkey, 90, passed away Feb. 20, 2020. He was born July 12, 1929, in Hutchinson, Kansas to George and Jessie (Ball) Merkey. Bob was a farmer at heart. After leaving his farm in Kansas to join the Marines, he returned to his farm and married Grace Breckenridge in August 1954. All four of their children were born while living on their farm in Portis, Kansas. Bob had sheep, chickens, cows and one ornery goat. He also grew alfalfa. After the third child was born the grandpas brought running water into the home, including a bathroom. In 1963, Bob moved his family to Wiley, Colorado to work as a Parts man, the family then moved to Monte Vista in 1967.

He enjoyed playfully teasing his family and friends, to hunt and fish as well as plant and harvest his garden. He enjoyed his family and especially cherished his time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren, teaching them how to plant and harvest a garden gave him great joy.

Bob is survived by his wife of 65 years, Elizabeth "Grace" Merkey, his four children, Jim (Peggi) Merkey, Janice (Jim) Melby, Jeanine (Scott) Noll and Judi (Troy) Golden, his grandchildren, Melanie (Eric) Toth, Jacob (Ally) Merkey, Stephen (Semhar) Merkey, Justin Merkey, Josh (Amy) Melby, Leah Melby, Kerri (Sam) Maxy, Rebecca (Zach) Moeller, Bryan Noll, Cody (Christina) Golden and Amanda (Kyle) Kaus as well as 15 great grandchildren. He is also survived by his two sisters, Rowena (Bob) Wilson and Arlene Merkey as well as numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Cremation was selected and a memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 7, 2020, at the Presbyterian Church in Monte Vista. In lieu of flowers, contributions are suggested to the charity of your choice in memory of Bob. To express condolences, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com

Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista is in care of the arrangements.



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SAGUACHE SHERIFF REPORT

The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the week of Feb. 18-24, 2020

Arrests

- Damien Knapp, 27, Litchfield, Michigan, second degree criminal trespass, second degree burglary, theft (\$5,000 to \$20,000), conspiracy

(\$10,000 bond)

- Andrea Jones, 24, Salida, second degree criminal trespass, second degree burglary, theft (\$5,000 to \$20,000), conspiracy (\$10,000 bond)

- Zachary McMullin, 33, Moffat, violation of a civil restraining order
- Kara Eddy, 30, Crestone, fugitive of justice

- Timothy Wallace, 38, Moffat, failure to appear

Citations

- Troy Curtis, 49, Saguache, violation of a protection order
- Timothy Wallace, 30, Moffat, DUR
- William Wilkins, 65, Crestone, reckless driving

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CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

BY SAGUACHE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER TRISH GILBERT

Prospective candidate info for 2020

State law requires state prospective candidates to be affiliated with the appropriate political party no later than the first business day of January immediately preceding the Primary Election, "unless otherwise provided by party rule."

Colorado Democratic Party Bylaws article VIII require candidates to reside in the district and be a registered Democrat, for a period of at least 12 months before the General Election following the Primary Election.

According to Article XIII, Section I, of the Colorado Republican Party bylaws, candidates seeking designation by assembly must be affiliated with the Republican Party as shown on the registration books of the county clerk and recorder for at least 30 days preceding the date of the assembly. Presumably, candidates seeking designation by petition must be affiliated by the first business day of the January before the Primary Election.

So, a political party may deviate from statute and require a longer or shorter affiliation period in its own bylaws or rules. Always check party rules!

County candidates are required to file Campaign Finance forms and reports with the Secretary of State's Office (SOS). Candidates must file the candidate affidavit online with the SOS within 10 days of announcing their candidacy. We encourage prospective candidates to file their candidate affidavits in TRACER at the time they submit their initial paperwork to the county clerk and recorder.

The County Clerk's Office will verify that the proper paperwork has been filed before placing the candidates' names on the ballot.

Candidates are required to provide an audio recording of the pronunciation of their name. This is used for the audio ballots that are available on our BMDs and accessible voting devices that enable voters to navigate a ballot via audio recording.

There are two ways a candidate may get his/her name on the Primary Election ballot*. They are:

- Through the assembly process

• By submitting a petition for nomination

It is important to note that candidates must obtain party DESIGNATION to appear on a Primary Election ballot, and that the winner of the Primary Election obtains the party's NOMINATION to appear on the general election ballot.

*Write-in candidates can participate in the election but their names are not on the ballot.

In Colorado we have major parties and minor parties. What is the difference?

Major Political Party: A party whose candidate received at least 10 percent of the gubernatorial vote at the last election. Major political parties are eligible to have candidates on the Primary Election ballot. Currently this includes:

- Democratic
- Republican

Minor Political Party: A minor political party is any political party recognized by the Secretary of State other than a major political party. Minor political parties rarely participate in the Primary Election but place candidates directly on the general election ballot. Currently (as of 2016) this includes:

- American Constitution
- Approval Voting
- Green
- Libertarian
- Unity

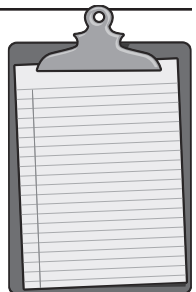
Candidates

Sections 1-1-104(17), 1-4-802, 1-4-901, 1-4-902, 1-4-904(2)(b), 1-4-905, 1-4-906, 1-4-908, 1-4-909, 1-4-912, C.R.S.

Unaffiliated candidates are not allowed on the Primary Election ballot. Unaffiliated candidates participate in the General Election. They will get on the general election ballot through the petition process.

Candidates who "win" the Primary Election are considered "nominated" and move on to the general election. No further information is required from the candidate. If a candidate loses the Primary Election, he/she may not run again in the general election for the same office.

Those with questions can call the clerk's office at 719-655-2512.



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.

For questions, inquiries, broken heater/furnace issues, contact **HEAT HELP.**

1-866-432-8435

Saguache County not paying for deputy housing

BY TERESA L. BENNS SAGUACHE COUNTY

Saguache County Sheriff Dan Warwick reported Monday that several residents have complained regarding the article on the Crestone deputies' rental dispute situation because they inferred from the article that the county is paying for deputy housing.

The article clearly stated that both deputies Randall and Vasquez were required to pay for their housing by placing rent money in a jar on the counter of the home they were *renting*.

The confusion arose from a statement by Sheriff Warwick in the paper that indicated the county would be paying for housing. This statement needs to

be clarified.

In earlier *Center Post-Dispatch* articles, it was explained that the county had discussed placing a modular home in the Crestone area for deputies working there to reside in because of the shortage of rentals in the area. This plan has not been finalized. The county would buy and place the residence, *but deputies would then pay the county rent to live there*, Warwick said.

Since the unfortunate incident with the deputies renting the residence in Crestone, Warwick says he is not certain if he will go ahead with the plan to have the county pay for providing the residence or not.





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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Which shirt are you wearing?

Most men will agree that a relationship with any of the female gender involves a lot of questions.

Not a day goes by that Ol' Dutch does not feel like he is in a round of reverse "Jeopardy." In this game instead of Alex Trebeck reading the answer, he reads the question in a lightning fire round. And instead of Alex providing the answers, it's actually Miss Trixie using her mouth like a machine gun firing off questions left and right.

The questions are not so bad, I guess, but having the right answer is paramount to what they call "harmonious bliss" and being rewarded by what is known as silence.

You don't have to be around partners of the female persuasion very long to realize that most of their time is spent asking questions to lead a man to the "correct" answer.

A friend I know left his underwear in the middle of the floor and his wife pointed at the offending drawers asking, "are those yours?" To which he quickly responded, "Well I hope so or I have a few questions of my own."

That question was, as all men know, really a directive to him to pick up the offending garment and put it where it belongs.

In our situation, I think it's more fun for Trixie to ask questions and see if Ol' Dutch slips up somewhere or maybe she is testing my cognitive ability to make sure I am not bleeding off into early onset of Alzheimer's disease.

Case in point last Sunday we were going to visit son No. 1 and his family. I got up to put on some clean clothes and there was the inquisitor waiting in the bedroom. "What shirt are you wearing?" she asked.

I looked at her probably incredulously as I had not even considered that question and would not until I had my socks and pants on. It was then that I realized that a man picks out clothes in a far different manner than a woman.

A man will simply grab any shirt that is handy and passes the sniff test. That test involves sniffing a seemingly clean shirt to ascertain if it can make one more social gathering before being deemed unfit for human habitation.

Women on the other hand begin to think about what they are going to wear the moment they wake up. Having lived with Miss Trixie these



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

seven years, I can attest the plans for the day dictate how she will dress.

For Ol' Dutch, unless I am going hunting or fishing, retirement plans for the day are usually formulated after coffee for you see there is no plan. Just whatever the day brings to me. Miss Trixie doesn't ascribe to that method.

Most men spent a lifetime having to dress in a certain manner for work but when we retire evolved in a Darwinian process to the "what the heck" dress code. Soon a T-shirt that says "Eat At Joe's Frito Pie" or a "Lulu's Diner Has Big Meat" is good enough to go about anywhere short of church and even then, would probably make the potluck Saturday night.

The woman who is partnered with a man who wears this type of apparel has long ago given up on changing it and just goes along to functions so she can hang out with the other wives of men of similar persuasion.

And yes there is always that one odd duck out there who shows up immaculately dressed and whom the woman swoon over at such gatherings but we all know that he probably cannot hunt and fish and so really is not to be considered a threat to our position at the head of the table as provider to the family.

So men, grab the t shirt, give it a quick sniff and enjoy the party. And have peace that at least your wife is going home with you even if she does like the suit that Barclay the third is wearing.

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



LETTERS

Democratic Party Caucuses – Saturday, March 7, at 2 p.m.

Show up Saturday, March 7, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. to register and chat with your neighbors before Caucus begins promptly at 2 p.m.

WHERE IS MY CAUCUS?

Precincts 1 (Saguache/Villa Grove) & 2 (Sargents): Saguache Road & Bridge, 305 3rd St.

Precincts 3 (Town of Crestone, Casita Park), 4 (Moffat), 5 (Baca): Crestone Charter School, 330 E. Lime Ave.

Precincts 6 (Center West) & 7 (Center East): Kiwanis Hall, 5th & Broadway, Center

To find your precinct Go to www.GoVoteColorado.com, click on Find My Registration, then County & District Information. Your precinct number is the last 2 digits on the Precinct line.

OR contact Barbara Tidd, Saguache County DEMS Secretary slybarb498@gmail.com 719.221.8434.

Hold on... Didn't we get rid of caucuses? Good question — the answer is "No"! In 2016, voters passed Proposition 107 & 108 which re-established Presidential Primaries. Therefore, Colorado will have a primary election Tuesday, March

3, 2020, for the Presidential race. However, Colorado (both D's and R's) still holds caucuses to help select which non-presidential candidates will be on the primary ballot.

Why should I caucus?

Caucus is the first step in the election process for non-presidential candidates, and it's YOUR opportunity to make your mark on the Democratic Party! On Saturday, March 7, you will have the opportunity to advocate for which Democrats you want to be on the primary ballot for US Senate, Congressional District 3 (CD3), Senate District 35 (SD35), House District 62 (HD62), and County Commissioner. Want to be a Precinct Organizer (PO)? Want to be a delegate or alternate to County Assembly/Convention? POs and delegates are elected at Caucus. Have an idea for a change in the Democratic Party Platform? Want to start your journey to become a National Delegate to this summer's Democratic National Convention? It all starts at caucus! Caucuses are Movement Building! Your voice is your vote!

Colorado US Senate Candidates who

are going through the Caucus/Assembly process are Andrew Romanoff, Erik Underwood, John Hickenlooper, Stephany Rose Spaulding and Trish Zornio. Come vote for your candidate! We don't use an app. We hand count! Other U.S. Senate candidates are petitioning only and are not part of the caucus/assembly process. See coloradodems.org/2020-candidates for all candidates.

Who can caucus?

Registered Democrats in Colorado can caucus. Also, if you will be 18 years of age on or before Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020 (Election Day) — if you registered to vote as a Democrat by Feb. 14, you can caucus!

Is there anything else I have to do to caucus?

If you're registered to vote as a Democrat, your voter registration reflects where you live, and you know your caucus location, that's it! All you have to do is show up — be sure to make a plan!

Barbara Tidd, Secretary, Saguache County Dems, slybarb498@gmail.com, 719.221.8434

Thanks for Valentines for Vets

To the editor:

The residents and staff of the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake would sincerely like to thank each of you for remembering and supporting our Veterans with Valentines, donations to the Resident Benefit Fund, and visits.

Once again, the response for Valentines for Vets was overwhelming. Schools, churches, volunteer organizations, veteran groups and individuals contributed during this holiday in many different ways. Special presentations, cards, and visits occurred throughout the

week. Smiles of appreciation were abundant. If only I could express the unspoken words visible in our residents' eyes, then you would know the positive impact your time and cards brought to our Home.

As the creator of this project, "Dear Abby", once wrote in a column:

"Armed conflicts are painful to remember. As time has passed, many Americans have forgotten what was accomplished because of the sacrifices of the members of our armed forces to ensure our comfort, freedom and well-being. However, we must never

forget - or allow our children to forget - our courageous veterans, both on the battlefield and behind the lines."

Thank you, fellow veterans, throughout the Valley. We sincerely hope your day was as special as Homelake's.

Thank you to Rebecca Copley for coming out and spending the afternoon with our residents and then sharing such a beautiful summary and pictures of the event.

*Sincerely,
Pam Self
Homelake Admissions and Marketing Director*

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CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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Photo by Joshua Aikins

Researchers with the Seeded and Natural Orographic Wintertime Clouds: The Idaho Experiment (SNOWIE) project used a variety of tools to track cloud seeding events, including this "Doppler on Wheels" radar dish.

Farming for precipitation

BY DANIEL STRAIN

COLORADO - For the first time, researchers have used radar and other tools to accurately measure the volume of snow produced through cloud seeding.

Led by University of Colorado Boulder atmospheric scientist Katja Friedrich and her colleagues, the research began on a chilly day in January 2017. That's when the team watched as a flurry settled over a patch of land in western Idaho.

The gentle snow wasn't a natural occurrence. It had been triggered through cloud seeding, a technique in which tiny particles are mixed into the atmosphere to try to generate more precipitation than might normally fall.

The approach has become increasingly popular in states like Idaho and Colorado that are grappling with how to quench their growing demands for water. It's also notoriously difficult to measure.

But for three days early this year in Idaho's Payette Basin, that's just what Friedrich's team did, monitoring three attempts at cloud seeding from start to finish. Collaborators on the project included researchers from the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, University of Wyoming and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"We tracked the seeding plume from the time we put it into the cloud until it generated snow that actually fell onto the ground," said Friedrich, an associate professor in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences.

In all that cloud seeding event and two more later that month produced a total of about 282 Olympic-sized swimming pools worth of water. The group reported its findings today in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Friedrich added that the research is an important first step toward better understanding just how efficient cloud seeding can be at creating those winter wonderlands.

"Everyone you talk to will say even if you can generate a little bit more snow that helps us in the long run," she said.

Idaho flurries

On Jan. 19 that little bit of additional snow kicked off with an airplane flight. Just before sunset, a plane owned by Idaho Power Company used a series of flares to inject particles of silver iodide into a natural cloud formation that was passing overhead.

The idea behind such cloud seeding is a simple one—to turn lightweight water vapor into heavy droplets.

Top: SNOWIE researchers used a variety of tools, including a "Doppler on Wheels" radar dish, to track cloud seeding events; bottom: Icy conditions set in at the research site in winter 2017. (Credit: Joshua Aikins)

"If everything goes according to plan, the water droplets will begin to freeze around the aerosols, forming snow," Friedrich said.

But, she added, it's also tricky to get a good sense of just how effective that transition really is, which is why most cloud seeding statistics lead to inconclusive results. Estimates range anywhere from zero to 50 percent additional snowfall, Friedrich said.

On that January day, however, she and her colleagues had a plan. The group used a nearby radar dish to peer into the clouds as the water inside thickened and eventually succumbed to gravity.

Based on the team's calculations, snow fell from those clouds for about 67 minutes, dusting roughly 900 square miles of land in about a tenth of a millimeter of snow.

It was barely enough snow to cling to the researchers' eyelashes. But it was water that, if not for cloud seeding, would have stayed in the air.

"If we hadn't seeded these clouds, they would not have produced any precipitation," Friedrich said.

Every little bit helps

Some in Colorado have high hopes for that process.

In 2019, the state entered into a partnership with six others that border the Colorado River to step up its efforts at cloud seeding—an attempt to increase the supply of water to that valuable waterway.

Friedrich added that, for now, she can't say how useful cloud seeding might be for such efforts moving forward—every winter storm is different and interacts with aerosols in different ways. But the group's findings could get scientists closer to being able to make those cost-benefit calculations.

"We can now finally put a number on how much water we can produce through cloud seeding," Friedrich said.

Town prepares for 37th Annual Monte Vista Crane Festival

MONTE VISTA – The spring migration of tens of thousands of Sandhill Cranes through Colorado's San Luis Valley is truly one of the country's top wildlife-watching experiences. The Monte Vista Crane Festival—March 6th

to 8th—celebrates the crane's annual return, offering wildlife-viewing tours to iconic Valley destinations as well as the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, where cranes amass as the eye can see. While other states boast the biggest

numbers of cranes, the San Luis Valley unequivocally offers some of the most picturesque scenery in the world. "It's an spectacular setting for wildlife photography, cranes flying gracefully Please see FESTIVAL on Page 8A



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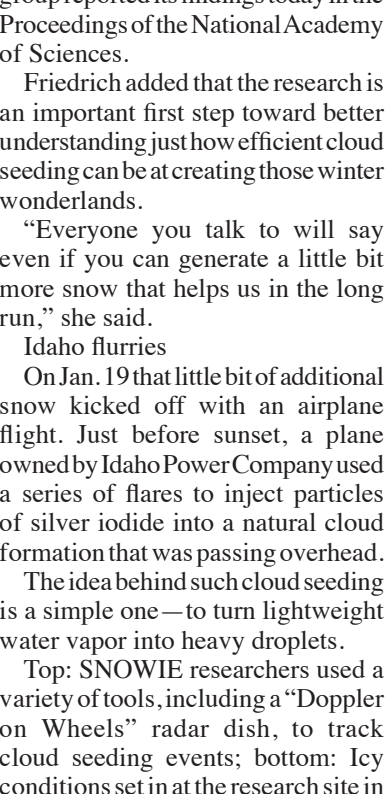


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Shrink Your Carbon Pawprint with Eco-Friendly Pet Care

For many people, making efforts to reduce their environmental impact is important, but some pet owners may find that making this lifestyle change can be a complicated process because of the additional supplies needed to care for their animals.

Emerald Rodriguez and Kristy Yu, two veterinary students at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) and members of the Green Vets student organization, advise pet owners on what steps they can take to keep their furry friend happy while being more environmentally conscious.

Oftentimes, pet owners may be able to swap out their usual products for more Earth-friendly versions. For example, Rodriguez and Yu recommend that owners seek out compostable cat litter, biodegradable waste bags, and pet toys and accessories made from recycled or plant-based materials.

When pet care essentials are not offered in more sustainable options, owners can still be proactive in disposing of packaging waste responsibly.

“Pet owners can recycle empty and clean items such as aluminum cans for wet pet food and cat litter containers,” Yu said. “There are also recycling programs for certain brands of pet food bags.”

Owners may also reduce waste

by donating items that their pet no longer needs. This not only keeps trash out of landfills, but also reduces the number of items that must be produced. Donating old pet supplies to charitable organizations has the added benefit of supporting valuable causes.

“Rescues and shelters may accept donations of gently used pet items, including dog beds, toys, pet carriers, crates, exercise pens, collars, leashes, and bowls,” Yu said. “They might also accept household items, including newspapers, towels, and blankets. Contact your local animal shelter to learn what gently used items they will accept.”

In addition to supporting shelters and rescues by donating supplies, owners can also adopt pets from these agencies to reduce overcrowding, and spaying and neutering pets can benefit the environment by preventing overpopulation, says Rodriguez.

One significant but preventable environmental issue is large populations of feral cats and the disruptions they introduce to an environment. When pet cats are allowed outdoors, they will sometimes breed and generate populations of stray cats that disrupt local ecosystems by hunting wild birds. For this reason, pet cats allowed outdoors should be spayed or neutered and should have a bell on their collar to help lessen their success when hunting.



Although some aspects of pet care generate unavoidable waste, there are also areas in which owners can make adjustments to care for their furry friends in an eco-friendly manner. There is no reason why pet owners can't take care of their pet and the Earth at the same time!

Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University. Stories can be viewed on

the web at vetmed.tamu.edu/news/pet-talk. Suggestions for future topics may be directed to editor@cvm.tamu.edu.

Home Alone: Separation Anxiety in Dogs

Does your dog whine when he sees you heading for the door? Are shredded pillows a frequent welcome home from work? Does your otherwise houstrained pooch have a problem with accidents in your absence?

If so, your dog might have a case of separation anxiety.

Kit Darling, infection control coordinator at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, says canine separation anxiety is a condition born from love.

“Since dogs have been domesticated over thousands of years, there has been the development of a bond between dogs and people,” Darling said. “Dogs are social animals and thrive on companionship. They would like to spend all of their time with you if they could.”

Separation anxiety arises when a dog becomes stressed and anxious in the absence of their owner. Oftentimes, this distress manifests in symptoms that mimic misbehavior.

“Signs of separation anxiety include excess whining, barking or howling; having accidents, even though housebroken; chewing things; scratching at doors and windows; digging holes; excessive drooling and panting; and trying to escape,” Darling said.

While there are many theories on why dogs develop separation anxiety, the exact cause can be difficult to pinpoint.

“Risk factors include coming from a shelter, being left alone or seldom left alone as a young puppy, change of ownership, change in family routine or schedule, experiencing a traumatic event when the dog is alone, moving to a new house, and loss of a



family member,” Darling said.

When managing canine separation anxiety, a kind and patient approach is best.

“Do not scold or punish your dog because it might make the dog more upset and fearful,” Darling said. “The behaviors exhibited in separation anxiety are not the result of disobedience or spite.

“If your dog has mild separation anxiety, counter-conditioning training may be helpful. This is done by associating the sight or presence of the feared or disliked situation with something the dog really likes,” she

continued. “Over time, the dog will learn something feared will predict something good.”

Distraction can also be a valuable tool, as a tired dog has less energy available for destructive activities. Darling suggests food puzzles, aerobic exercise, interactive games, daily walks, and playdates with other dogs to keep your dog busy.

“Each dog is different so you have to find out what motivates him and sets him up to be successful,” Darling said. “Providing lots of physical exercise and mental stimulation decreases your dog's stress and enriches his life.”



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SPORTS

Valley skiers and riders place in Junior Regional Freeride Competition

Landry Neufeld of Center/Hooper boards down a slope to take 1st place in the Snowboard Female under 12 age bracket. Photo courtesy Monarch Image Makers
 Courtesy photo



MONARCH MOUNTAIN - Continental Divide Freeride Team skiers and riders competed at the International Freeskiers & Snowboarders Association 2020 Monarch Junior Regional Freeride Competition Feb. 22 and 23. This two day event included runs on High Anxiety and Mirkwood Bowl for each skier or snowboarder. Continental Divide Freeride (CDF) brought four snowboarders and five skiers to the event from Del Norte, Center/Hooper and Pagosa Springs. CDF team members placed as follows:

- Snowboard Female U12
 Landry Neufeld (Center/Hooper) 1st Place
 Audrina Smith (Pagosa Springs) 2nd Place
- Snowboard Male U12
 Kife Mashburn (Del Norte) 5th Place

- Eric Smith (Pagosa Springs) 7th Place
- Ski Male U12
 Noah Bellina (Pagosa Springs) 18th Place
 Ryan Rich (Pagosa Springs) 25th Place
- Ski Male 12-14
 Corbin Horrocks (Del Norte) 3rd Place
 Summit Mashburn (Del Norte) 4th Place
 Aiden Mashburn (Del Norte) 6th Place

For more information about how to be a part of Continental Divide Freeride or how to support our athletes please contact Liz Callard at continentaldividefreeride@gmail.com.

RECORDS

Continued from Page 1A

Bateman (WSB) show that an effort to discover an outstanding balance owed by the town was frustrated by missing financial records.

In a letter addressed to the board and mayor, the auditors explained that in the course of their efforts to verify the exact amount owed to the Center Fire Protection District for the past 16 years, it was discovered that, "The town does not have any accounting records for the periods of 2004-2011 due to a software conversion. We also did not have access to Center Sanitation records from 2004-2009.

"Because of the poor records and large amounts of transactions comingled between the entities," (the town of Center, Center Fire and the Sanitation District), the letter stated, the exact amount now owed to the Center Fire Department was difficult to determine. Manual records from Center Fire Department and some bank statements somewhat helped auditors piece things together.

It was determined that the town owes the Center Fire Protection District a total of \$41,000, an amount some board members disputed. Town Administrator Brian Lujan said he has been keeping a check in his desk written to the Fire Department for that amount since he accepted his position. After hearing Lujan read the letter and discussing the matter, the board tabled any further discussion pending further research.

What is not clear is why records from 2009 to 2011 are missing. In 2009 an auditor hired to help straighten out the town's considerable financial distress at the time warned them they needed

to immediately correct their financial situation and the board agreed to heed to his recommendations.

Town's financial background Because the town failed repeatedly to meet its audit deadlines, beginning in 2005 Saguache County held varying amounts of funds from property taxes in the Town, County Treasurer Connie Trujillo confirmed at that time. According to the budget passed by the Town of Center in December 2007, the amount reportedly held by Saguache and Rio Grande Counties totaled over \$423,000.

At the end of 2007, the State Auditor's office continued to hold approximately \$388,773 in assets for the Town of Center until audits for the last three years were sent to the State.

Saguache County held money from the town itself in the amount of \$225,321.86 as of Sept. 30, 2007. In December 2006, both Rio Grande and Saguache Counties forwarded funds to the Town held for the Fire Protection and Sanitation Districts after that particular part of the audits was completed. The County is required by state law to hold the town's funds until the audits are received.

Lamar auditor Ron Farmer was hired by Center in August of 2008 after the town's longtime auditor resigned. Farmer noted in 2009: "The Town changed its bookkeeping procedures for 2005 from a hand-posted set of books to computer software and did not establish controls over the posting of individual fund activity. Evidence supporting the proper classification is no longer available. The Town's records do not permit the application

of other auditing procedures to determine the proper classification of the individual fund activity."

"Since the Town does not have the records to determine the proper classification of transactions for the individual funds and we were not able to apply auditing procedures to satisfy ourselves as to the individual fund classifications, the scope of our work was not sufficient to enable us to express, and we do not express, an opinion on these financial statements."

Farmer explained at the Feb. 17 meeting that what he offered the Town was not a qualified or an adverse opinion but a disclaimer of opinion, which in reality is not much better than an adverse opinion. He added that the disclaimer of opinion on the audit was the result of the Town's use of Quickbooks for their auditing program. He also blamed former Center CPA Don Gruenler for allowing the Town's finances to become too tangled before instituting corrective measures.

The financial difficulties Center faced dated back to 1999, state audit records show, when the first request for an extension on submitting the annual audit was granted by the State. When current trustee Bill McClure became town clerk in 2004, he pledged to rectify the town's financial problems.

McClure's efforts were interrupted in 2006 when he spent several months in prison for filing false tax returns. He later returned to the board as clerk but was removed from office in 2009.

Center's audits were accepted by the state and the town's funds were released in the spring of 2008.

LETHAL

Continued from Page 1A

these black laboratories. The drug is especially lucrative for those selling the pills because fentanyl is highly addictive. Chemical manufacture also eliminates the middleman growing product for the cartels from the drug production equation.

The lead prosecutor in the death of one fentanyl overdose victim warned that unless prescriptions are obtained from a doctor, no one knows what is in the medications they are buying from dealers.

Shellhammer said his unit is working nonstop to stem the crisis but noted he is very concerned about where it will all end. Those working to rehabilitate drug addicts are equally concerned and one Colorado psychologist offers his thoughts on the crisis and how to help stem it.

A psychologist speaks on fentanyl crisis

Hunter Kennedy is the executive director of Footprints to Recovery in Colorado (<https://footprintstorecovery.com/addiction-treatment-locations/colorado/>), an addictions 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 telephone interview Feb. 20, Kennedy called the fentanyl crisis "One of the greatest up and coming concerns in Colorado — there is going to be an epidemic." He gave a history of the drug and provided further details about its potency and manufacture.

A synthetic opioid, fentanyl was first introduced as an anesthetic in the 1960s. It was used to treat chronic pain patients, mainly those suffering from end-stage cancer, who had built up a tolerance to other painkillers. Kennedy noted that the drug was soon found to be "wickedly addictive"; patients using fentanyl patches found they could not come off of them.

Fentanyl is manufactured in laboratories not only in Mexico, but also in China, and the drug is available online, Kennedy explained. The manufactured drug usually comes in brick form. What is worth \$2,000 to

\$3,000 in manufacturing costs has a street value of \$2 million per five-pound brick, he said.

"One to two milligrams can be deadly, so [if they are ingesting] two to three milligrams, this is why people are overdosing and dying," Kennedy observed. "A baker's pinch is enough to end up in cardiac arrest because it depresses the pulmonary system," stopping the heart and breathing processes.

The Center for Disease Control is aware of the problem and has warned officers not to search for fentanyl coming into the country for fear of contamination. Kennedy estimates that deaths reported from opioid abuse at 30,000 two years ago are likely in the 50,000 range today and predicts the real number of deaths today is 80,000-100,000 annually.

The solution? Rehabilitation and reintegration into society once sobriety is achieved. To achieve that Kennedy uses an all-embracing approach, which will be explained in Part 2 in next week's paper.

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La Veta 59	Centennial 42
Antonito 2	Aguilar O FF
La Veta 50	Sierra Grande 35
Sangre de Cristo 61	Moffat 17
Custer County 56	Monte Vista 50
Sangre de Cristo 37	Kim/Branson 20
Hoehne 36	Center 32
Del Norte 62	South Park 14
Sanford 52	Sargent 33
Springfield 60	Sargent 23
Manzanola 67	Creede 37
Center 45	Custer County 42
Del Norte 45	Sanford 27

COLLEGE

Western 62	Adams State 43
Colorado Mines 63	Adams State 51

Boys

Centaury 70	Monte Vista 51
Centennial 51	La Veta 33
Sierra Grande 67	Creede 52
Sierra Grande 51	La Veta 43
Sangre de Cristo 54	Moffat 35
Monte Vista 60	Custer County 35
Kim/Branson 49	Sangre de Cristo 37
Ignacio 65	Sierra Grande 46
Primero 64	Centennial 56
Center 61	Hoehne 55
Del Norte 65	South Park 37
Sanford 61	Sargent 25
Creede 47	Antonito 39
La Veta 45	Moffat 41
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ASSAULT

Continued from Page 1A

girl who disappeared from her home Feb. 16.

Jason Andrew Harter, 34, of Buena Vista was charged with second-degree kidnapping, a class two felony; sex assault, a class three felony; enticement of a child, a class four felony and child abuse, a class two misdemeanor. Harter was transported to the Chaffee County Detention Center where he is being held without bond.

Following the girl's disappearance, law enforcement officials throughout Colorado searched for the young teen and issued alerts. A superintendent at the Poncha Springs Visitor's Center noticed a young female in the bathroom there who fit the girl's description and notified authorities. Chaffee County responded to the call, verifying she was the missing juvenile.

Saguache County officials who took the initial missing person's report also sent deputy A. Quintero to the Visitor's Center. The deputy took the juvenile to the Saguache County Sheriff's Office where she was interviewed regarding what occurred while in the company of Harter. According to what the teen stated in the interview, she met Harter through the social media application Instagram.

They discussed animals and pets, she said, then Harter suggested they meet up and he later came to her home, although she had not given him her address. He picked the girl up and transported her to his RV/trailer home in Nathrop. She said Harter dropped her off at the trailer then left for work, returning around midnight. The juvenile told authorities she had fallen asleep and woke up to Harter touching her vaginal area.

The juvenile said when she asked Harter to stop touching her and "get off" her, he became angry and drove her to the Visitor's Center where he dropped her off. A Chaffee County detective in touch with Quintero told the deputy the stories given by both parties matched, but Harter contended he had contacted the girl through the cellphone app Grindr and had been messaging her for some time. He told law enforcement he believed the girl was 19.

Harter also told authorities the girl met him at an agreed upon location, not the girl's home as she stated. He admitted he and the juvenile slept on the same bed but denied any sexual contact occurred. Harter said when he woke up in the morning, he saw the girl's face on a missing child alert sent to his phone and became alarmed, but never called 911. That is when he became upset and took her to the Visitor's Center.

The teen underwent a sexual assault medical exam in Salida and the results were forwarded to the Chaffee County Sheriff's Office. Saguache County placed the girl's cellphone in an evidence locker at the Sheriff's Office and it was later forwarded to a Colorado Bureau of Investigation agent. The Children's Advocacy Center in Alamosa later conducted a forensic interview which was entered into the case file. A copy of Quintero's bodycam video also was entered into evidence.

Saguache Sheriff Dan Warwick said Monday that due to jurisdictional issues regarding the incident, either Saguache County or Chaffee County could pursue the case. Saguache County has decided that the case will be handled by Chaffee County authorities.

FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 5A

with the majestic snow-capped Sangre de Cristo Mountains and alpine desert as a backdrop," said photographer Ed Mackerrow. "You've got incredibly powerful scenes of cranes performing their elaborate courtship dance, allowing photographers a rare opportunity. From the thousands of migratory birds to stunning landscapes, the solitude of San Luis Valley provides the nature photographer a fantastic experience."

This year promises even more amazing photo opportunities due to a full moon rising on March 8th.

The Sandhill Crane's journey begins in southern New Mexico's Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and ends in the crane's nesting grounds around the Yampa Valley, Greater Yellowstone and even further north for some of the longer-traveled birds, said crane festival committee president Jenny

Nehring. Now in its 37th year, the Monte Vista Crane Festival is one of the oldest birding festivals in the country and the oldest in Colorado.

The festival began in celebration of a project aimed at boosting the once-dwindling Whooping Crane population. The project placed Whooping Crane eggs in Sandhill Crane nests with the intent of Sandhill Crane parents raising the Whooping Crane chick as their own. The experiment worked for a while, but the resulting Whooping Crane population remained small, eventually petering out because the Whooping Cranes failed to reproduce.

For the full festival schedule and ticket information, visit www.mvcranefest.org. The schedule and details about speakers, movies and other happenings will also be in the upcoming "Lifestyles" pullout section of Valley Publishing.



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The SLV Seed Exchange is going back to its roots!

SAN LUIS VALLEY - You are invited to the 10th Annual San Luis Valley Seed Exchange! This fun and informative community event will be hosted Saturday, March 7 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa located at 28640 County Rd 58EE in Moffat, Colorado. Celebrate spring with us at this free fundraising event.

At its roots, the event is a community seed swap. Over the years, it has grown into an event dedicated to promoting sustainability in the San Luis Valley. There will be discussions on a wide range of issues, including water, community gardens, biomass, seed saving libraries and more.

This annual Seed Exchange connects gardeners, seed producers and the community over agricultural education and exchange. You'll meet wonderful people, make valuable connections and create relationships with like-minded and common goal-oriented people.

There will be a community seed swap table in addition to a variety of community-involved vendors. Vendors will bring educational materials, demonstrations, local handmade products, healthy food and more. The event will also feature a full day of speakers, discussing topics such as the aquifer

Please see SEED on Page 2

New five-year GPS collaring study launched to help with Front Range elk management

DENVER - Colorado Parks and Wildlife biologists and wildlife officers have launched a five-year elk collaring study to obtain data that will help to better manage the Clear Creek elk herd. Over 40 GPS satellite collars will be deployed on cow (female) elk across the herd's range to better understand elk movements, reproductive rates, migration patterns and habitat use.

Capture work will be accomplished with helicopters and ground darting and



Courtesy photos

Biologists Ben Kraft (left) and Lance Carpenter (right) place one of the GPS collars on a cow elk at the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge

Please see ELK on Page 2

Duct Tape in Agriculture

A collection of testimonials for Duct Tape in agriculture...

From B.A., Large Animal Vet: I've been a Duct Tape believer ever since I had a cow tear her bag on a bob wire fence. It was a ghastly gash. She was in pain and frightened. There was no way I could close the wound until...I began wrapping her with Duct Tape! I started just behind the elbow and started circling her girth, then her ribs and her flanks with Duct Tape. I eventually was able to wrap the bag, leaving the 4 teats and tail poking out. Six months later the tape fell off and she was cured!

From F.W., Horseshoer: One afternoon I had been called to shoe a miniature horse. I was expecting one in the St. Bernard-Great Dane class but this one was not much bigger than a medium house cat. I built to the task and was bent over the hind leg when my nipper slipped. I had accidentally trimmed the hoof clear off at the hock. I panicked until...I remembered the roll of Duct Tape I always keep in my watch pocket. Using two 1/4 x 4



BAXTER BLACK
ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

inch bolts, I splinted the leg back together and wrapped it with Duct Tape. Each week I added another 12-15 feet of Duct Tape. Two months later it seems to be working although he's still walking funny.

From D.W., Poultry Pathologist: Doing surgery on chickens is uncommon. Whenever

I saw a chicken he was usually dead. And yet many suffered from ingrown feathers. Many polloqueros (chicken cowboys from Mexico) spent hours each day gently plucking the ingrown feathers from afflicted hens. One afternoon I was helping and happened to drop a chicken on a strip of Duct Tape I had circled around my feet to stave off fire ants. When I picked up the chicken her brisket was plucked clean. Inspired, the polloqueros completely wrapped me with duct tape, sticky side out, and slapped the chicken's afflicted area containing the ingrown feather against my body. This technique has since been adopted to de-claw cats and in beauty shops as a depilatory.

From Y.K., Team Roper: I used to carry rawhide, latigo, whole punchers, awls, Chicago screws, harness buckles, rubber wraps, bell boots, Super Glue, baby powder, rivets, snaps, curb chains and fencing pliers in my emergency box. Now all I carry is Duct Tape. I've used it to repair broken cinches, lengthen reins, rebuild hondos, plait manes,

wrap horns, tie on, dress wounds, plug bloody noses and replace thumbs. I now wear chinks made out of Duct Tape and braided a nice hat band with Duct Tape. Today I have covered my pickup with Duct Tape and written Born to Rope in Duct Tape on the side of my trailer. I'm ready and lookin' for a header. Just call 1-800 DuckTape.

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



PROGRESS Real Estate



~Inside this week's SLV Lifestyles!

ELK Continued from Page 1

trapping. The location information from the GPS collars will help inform wildlife managers of possible management strategies related to herd management plan objectives and habitat use. Elk locations will also aid land management agencies in land use planning decisions.

Project work is being done in collaboration with private landowners, city and county open space departments (Jefferson and Boulder Counties), United States Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“This project will help inform local management decisions. What we’ve noticed in the last couple of years is that elk are spending more time on open space and golf courses,” said biologist Ben Kraft, who is spearheading this project. “This project will help develop management strategies at both the local and herd level. Determining when and where elk occur and how many will there are is the first step in mitigating some of the issues CPW and land managers and owners are currently experiencing.”

Capture work started in Golden on Dec. 19 on the Club at Rolling Hills and Fossil Trace Golf Club. Work then shifted to Rocky Flats with the USFWS and will move along to the other locations. The team is hopeful to get all of the collars out by the end of March 2021.

The main purpose of the collars is to help us collect baseline data on elk distribution and obtain better estimates of vital rates on the herd.

“CPW hasn’t conducted a collar study on this elk herd,” Kraft said. “What we know at this point is that distribution is changing, so we are trying to get a handle on that change and the interaction with land use and the Front Range’s growing human population.

“As previously mentioned, another goal of this project is gaining a better

understanding of demographics of the herd. As is the usual practice in most areas of the state, we can’t fly to classify and survey these elk, so using collared elk as “Judas” elk when we conduct ground surveys in Februarys will give us a better idea of recruitment and in which direction the population is trending.”

The collars will give locations twice a day, but if we have other management objectives, say we are looking at how trails impact distribution, then we can get more frequent data in those areas. It will be tailored to the specific sub-herds we are investigating.

Previous studies collaring elk in Estes Park and Rabbit Mountain on Boulder County Open Space have taught us a lot about distribution and land use.

“We’ve learned not only what the current distribution is, but we’ve seen shifts in elk distribution in real time as land use has changed,” Kraft said. “We know that elk are really adaptable to all kinds of factors on the landscape like recreation, development and open space areas have become a really big magnet for elk herds.”

Deciding on what management tactics to implement once we get a clear picture from the data can be a hard question to address.

Hunting is our No. 1 management tool, and it has proven very effective in urban areas and on open space.

“We’ve done that up north in Boulder County on Rabbit Mountain and have been very successful implementing those kinds of public harvest programs,” Kraft said. “So I think in these areas, and specifically on Jefferson County Open Space, I think we can implement some of those management strategies and the main push for that would be to redistribute elk back to the west so they are not forming resident herds in the foothills along



Courtesy photo

The first elk collared in the study was on Dec. 19 on the Club at Rolling Hills

urban interface areas. Trying to get them to get back into more of a natural movement and migration pattern is the primary goal.”

This growing urban elk herd creates human safety concerns, causes damage to agricultural operations, presents challenges for herd and disease management and we are seeing habitat degradation across the landscape. Damage done by these urban elk herds can be costly.

The golf courses in Golden are seeing tens of thousands of dollars in damage from the elk each year, as over 100 elk feed on the courses year-round. Some Golden residents have brought concerns forward to CPW staff about the safety of their children, pets, landscaping and traffic safety when elk are in their neighborhoods.

“As the elk continue to move east, there is growing concern for human safety,” said Wildlife Officer Jerrie McKee. “I-70 lies just a half mile to the east of where the elk now commonly travel.”

And that takes us back to one of the primary objectives of this study - distribution. What can we learn from their movement and can we try to redistribute the elk back to the west out of town

where it will be safer for both them and the people.

Upcoming Events at THE HISTORIC UTE THEATRE in Saguache

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SEED Continued from Page 1

and closed basin project, pollinator gardens, the hemp biomass bridge, seed libraries, community gardens, high altitude gardening and more. Each talk will be followed by a community discussion.

For a full line-up of speakers and vendors, please visit SLVSeedExchange.com.

The San Luis Valley Seed Exchange is free to the public. However, donations will be accepted at the event. All of the proceeds will be donated to local

organizations focused on youth garden education in the San Luis Valley. This year’s event is strongly focused on vegetable farming and permaculture. Although, we will also touch upon the efforts of hemp farmers and entrepreneurs into the overall discussion of sustainability in the valley.

For more information, visit SLVSeedExchange.com. Or call Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa at (719) 256-4328. See you at the San Luis Valley Seed Exchange!

Conour *Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society*
www.slvanimalshelter.com

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



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Sale Starting at 10:00 o'clock Sharp

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95 JD 7600 W/JD 740 Loader, Duals 2874 Hrs Head 95 Hrs

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2010 Parma 30' Land Plane	JD 355 Disc 14'	Set Moline Dykers
2015 Kuhn Krause 4840 Dominator Disc Ripper	22' Roller Single	Plow Harrows
2016 M & W 5000 Dyna Drive DO 50 20	JD 900 Deep Chisel 3pt	8" x 54' Auger Pto
JD 995 7 Bottom Switch Plow	2 Bigham Bros Renovators 3pt	JD LT 155 Riding
Bush Hog 21' Disc	JD 10' Blade, 8 Way 3pt	Lawn Mower

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45' Conveyor	40' Conveyor	2 25' Pilers 18"
45' Piler	2 25' Pilers 24"	Miscellaneous Potato Rubber Rollers

TRUCKS AND VEHICLE

04 Mercury Marquis	79 Ford F-600 Dump Truck 1600 Gal Plastic Tank
2 79 IHC Trucks, 20' Logan Bulk Beds, Tandem 5 SP, Auto	Chevy C-60 Dump Truck

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Magnum 425 4 Wheeler w/Trailer 12' Canoe

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Lincoln Portable Welder 230 AC-DC, Trailer	Set 15.5-38 Clamp on Dual Tires, Rims	10- 6" Siphon Tubes
Arc Torch	Set 16.9-38 Clamp on Dual Tires, Rims	50 - 3" Siphon Tubes
Cherry Picker	2 14.9-24 Sprinkler Tires	100 - 2" Siphon Tubes
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5 HP Transfer Pump	500 Gal Fuel Tank, Stand	Several Lots of Scrap Iron
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REAL ESTATE

Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.

*****SOLD***** Mountain Bliss! Beautiful 1,652 sq. ft. home has open kitchen, dining room, living room area w/bedroom and full bathroom and separate laundry room. Kitchen cabinets are custom built with solid oak; twice size side and back porch looking straight up the mountain! The upstairs has a large loft area bedroom w/second full bath and loft area. Speakers throughout the home and wiring for sound. Downstairs walkout basement garage with cement floor has an additional 280 sq. ft. of space, can be used as a workshop or additional sleeping area. Basement total sq. ft. 2,744 including the garage. Home has many custom feature: Thermopane windows, Arcadia doors; heating is central propane system and wood burning stove, 40 gallon water heater, security lighting, motion lighting, in beautiful Ponderosa Estates with no HOA. Moments away from the river public access, Wolf Creek, Rio Grande Golf Club. \$269,000 Firm **Call Bernadette Gingrass 719-850-1993** schedule your private showing today! MLS # 748838 *****SOLD*****

*****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

Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.

the stairways to the home and outdoor entertainment areas have wide steps, rock walls and lighting. 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/1 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

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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 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

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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 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 the Rio Grande River, 20 min-

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utes 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**



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 Drop off a new or gently used women's or men's vest. Stay for a cup of coffee and sign up or call for a Free Home Market Evaluation with Bernadette Gingrass



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 02 CARD OF THANKS
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RATES

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\$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.

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

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

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05 Notices

Grand Opening Thursday, February 27. 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. (02/26 TFN)

07 Help Wanted

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)

DISCLAIMER

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

Saguache County will be accepting applications for a County Land Use Administrator until Friday, February 28, 2020.

This position manages, coordinates, and supervises all aspects of the Land Use Department in relations to zoning and subdivision regulations and other land uses within the County to ensure the prompt and efficient operation of the office. All aspects of the position are completed with the approval of and in conjunction with the Board of County Commissioners. This position is appointed and supervised by the three-member Board of County Commissioners. Salary range is set at \$50,000 and up depending on experience, with benefits. A copy of the job description and qualifications may be obtained from Human Resource Personnel Director, April Quintana or may be obtained from Administration office or www.saguachecounty.net. Mrs. Quintana can be reached at 719-655-2231. Administration office located at Saguache County Courthouse, 505, 3rd Street, Saguache Colorado. Saguache County is an equal opportunity employer and applicants will require the passing of a pre-employment drug test and back ground check. (02/28)

Wolf Creek Ski Area is seeking full and part time positions in the following positions: **Snow Reporter** – Must have interactive web experience, strong organizational and communication skills. Hours 6am to 3pm. willing to work weekends. **Ski School Instructor** – Duties include teaching guests in a group setting, customer service and other duties assigned by supervisor. **Shuttle Bus Drivers** – Part-time. Experienced driver looking to make extra money during Christmas, Presidents Day, MLK, Jr. and Spring Break holidays. A Commer-

cial Drivers License is not required, however pay is commensurate with professional experience and licensing. **Professional Baker/Food & Beverage** - Line/grill cooks, bakers and baristas. **Ticket Office Cashier** – Part-Time - Must have prior experience in POS system. Friendly,

hard working, flexible, organized with good communication skills. **Winter seasonal positions with competitive wages.** Applications can be downloaded from WolfCreekSki.com employment page. Send resumes and applications to wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com



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.

BUY OR TRADE WANTED

<p>Freon Wanted: We pay CASH for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 312-625-5322 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com</p>	<p>Cash for Mineral Rights Free, no-risk, cash offer. Contact us with the details: Call: 720-988-5617 Write: Minerals, PO BOX 3668, Littleton, CO 80161 Email: opportunity@ecmresourcesinc.com</p>
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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

Business Showcase



Arriving Daily: Spring Flowers and New Garden Signs! Let's get your jive on!

Bunny Trail

The Holy Moses

658-2848
 121 N. Main
 Creede
 Mon.-Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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THE HOLY MOSES

An enchanting Collection of Cabin Decor, Colorado Pottery, Quilts, Linens & Specialty Foods!

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Mon. - Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Nick & Vicki Kulyk
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Valley Wide Classifieds

or P.O. Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. (2/28)

10 Apartments for Rent
Del Norte: 2 bedroom/1bath upstairs apartment. \$475/\$475 deposit. Utilities included. NO pets/smokers. Laundry onsite. 1145 French St. (719)849-1942. Credit Report required. (03/04)

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
Beautiful 4 Bedroom Ranch House located Near Monte Vista, \$1000/Month call 588-8506. (02/26)

14 Business Properties For Rent
Beauty Salon for rent Monte's Corner 1st and Adams 4 stations \$550.00 Per month. Call 719-992-4705. (02/27)

17 Real Estate For Sale
MOTIVATED SELLER, PRICE REDUCED!!! Nice 2549 sq. ft., 3 bed 2 bath Log Home on 10 Acres! Call Yvonne at Steffens Co Realty Inc. 719-580-1901 (3/4)

80.26-acre Hunters Paradise, 4 bed, 4 bath log home with furnished guest house, backed by National Forest! Call Yvonne at Steffens & Co Realty Inc. 719-580-1901(3/4)

Nice 1502 sq ft, 3 bed/2 bath Mountain Cabin with 2 car attached garage. Views galore and National forest feet away! Call Yvonne at Steffens & Co Realty Inc 719--580-1901(3/4)

Incredible CUSTOM LOG HOME! 4 bed 4 bath with Guest house only 58 miles from Salida. A must-see beauty, Call Yvonne at Steffens & Co Realty Inc 719-580-1901(3/4)

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 (02/13)

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 (03/11)

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. (03/11)

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)

36 Miscellaneous
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 CONTAIN-

ERS – 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)

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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.

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)

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

Premium Tarped & Shredded Grass hay 3x3 Bales 750lbs near Monte Vista, CO . Call 588-8506. Discounts for Larger Amounts. (02/26)

Premium alfalfa and alfalfa/grass, small bales, in Hay shed \$7, outside \$6. (719)580-2509. (02/27)

ALFALFA-GRASS HORSE HAY: Green,+/-175 RFV, 3x3x8 bales, ~820#, \$205/ton or \$90 per bale, outside stacks, 719-657-0942 (02/27)

43 Farm Products
For Sale: 499.27 Subdistrict #1 2020 Pumping Credits, \$115.00 Per Credit Call 719-849-8565.

(02/26)
48 Pets & Supplies
Yorki Puppies male registered have had shots and been wormed 719-256-4391.(2/27)

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

65 Professional Services
LICENSED PLUMBER does all types of plumbing repairs and plumbing remodels at reasonable rate. Quick service. Call anytime, available weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (02/26 TFN)

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

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(Image does not depict the dimensions of the special)

\$26,000

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Free radio frequency identification livestock ear tags

COLORADO - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will begin offering the option of no-cost Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) ear tags to veterinarians and producers for use in young beef, dairy or bison breeding replacements.

The Animal Health Division of the Colorado Department of Agriculture will be responsible for distributing the no-cost RFID tags in Colorado and is finalizing a process to respond to RFID tag orders from cattle or bison producers and veterinarians. The no-cost RFID tags are expected to be available for distribution in late March or April 2020.

The free RFID tags will be offered as an alternative to the silver metal Brite tags and orange metal Official Calhhood Vaccination (OCV) tags.

Orange metal or orange RFID OCV tags may only be used by accredited veterinarians for Brucellosis vaccination. The white RFID tags that USDA provides are targeted for use in young replacement breeding cattle that are not brucellosis vaccinates.

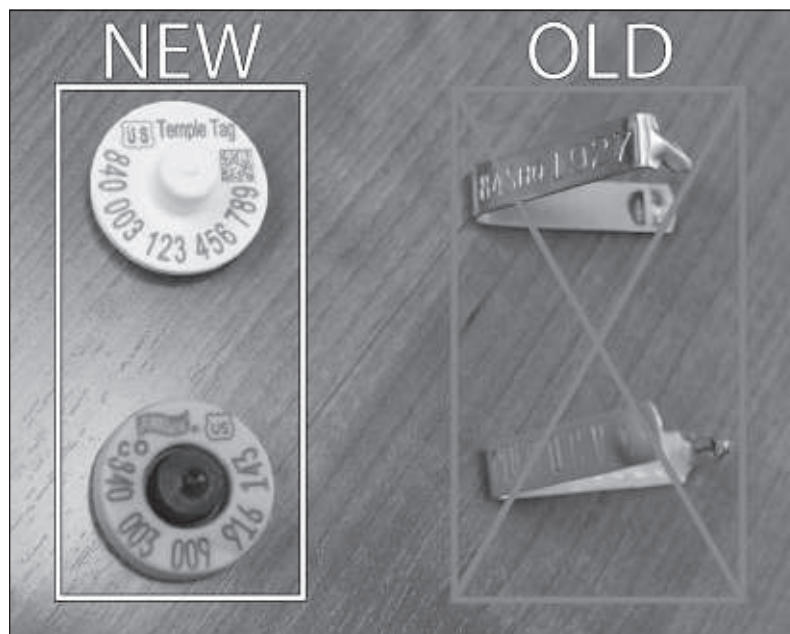
The metal clip tags have served a valuable purpose in disease control and eradication programs, and electronic tag technology will further enhance disease control by providing state animal health officials with real-time data in disease response on a daily basis.

“We don’t keep paper documents like Certificates of Veterinary Inspection or laboratory test results anymore,” said Colorado State Veterinarian Keith Roehr. “All of our livestock health data are kept electronically

in the USAHERDS database where it can be quickly searched during disease events.”

The electronic databases are used on a daily basis and are safe, protected from open records requests, and used exclusively for animal health and disease control purposes. Disease events that took days or weeks to search through paper information can be queried in a variety of ways in minutes.

Veterinarians and producers are encouraged to employ the new electronic means of managing individual beef, dairy, and bison identifications in their herd health systems. For more information, please contact Dr. Joe Menicucci, Colorado Department of Agriculture Traceability Veterinarian, at joseph.menicucci@state.co.us or 303-869-9130.



Year-round access for U.S. chipping potatoes to Japan

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MAFF) in Japan has informed USDA that U.S. chipping potatoes will be allowed to enter year-round starting February 14, 2020. Currently the import protocol for U.S. chipping potatoes states that the import period shall be from February 1 to June 30 each year. The new language will state that U.S. chipping potatoes can enter all year round or January 1 – December 31.

The states that have been approved to ship fresh potatoes for processing to Japan are; Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho (except the counties of Bingham and Bonneville), Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Chipping potatoes are a white variety specifically engineered to meet the needs of potato chip and French fry makers. The potato varieties considered chippers are denser

er internal cell structure does not absorb much oil during the frying process, creating healthier chips and fries that stay crisp, light, and flavorful.

Skin texture is thin, semi-rough, and speckled with shallow eyes. The flesh is firm and moist, yet starchy, making them versatile for culinary use. Low sugar levels and water content keep texture firm and color light golden brown. The varieties

typically purchased by consumers at the retail level, such as Russets or Yukon Golds, tend to have stronger skins (ideal for baking) and higher sugar levels than chipping potatoes. The fragile quality of the skin makes them more susceptible to damage and more perishable; maintaining warm

temperatures (50 to 55 degrees) during transit is critical.

Year-round access should allow U.S. fresh chip-stock potato exports to Japan to increase, though the very tight shipment, processing and waste treatment requirements in Japan limits the number of chip processors in

Japan currently buying U.S. potatoes. The U.S. exported 32,240 metric tons of fresh chipping potatoes, valued at \$15,014,946 in 2019. U.S. exports were 41,683 MT in 2016, when exports were allowed in December and January due to the short crop in Japan.



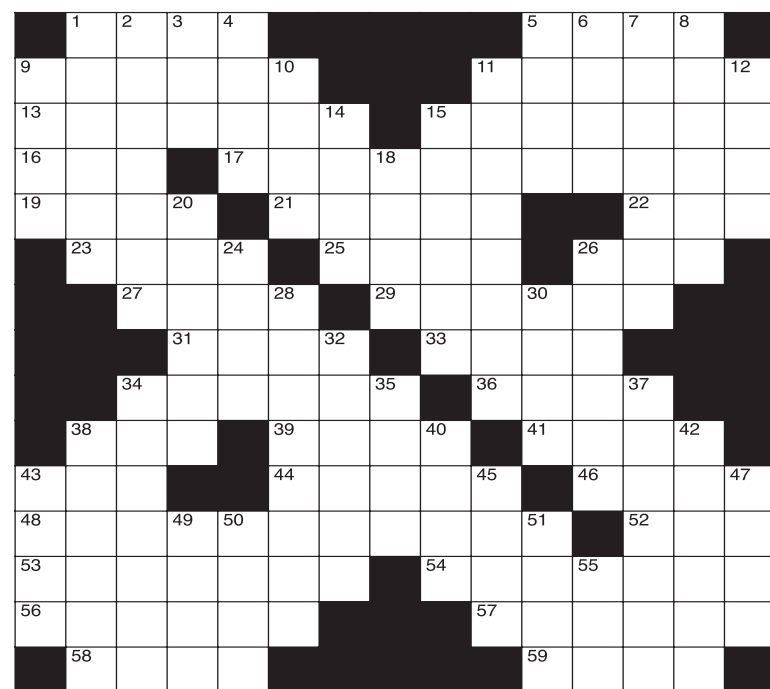
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ACROSS

1. No longer on the market
5. W. African language
9. A way to open
11. A type of pigeon
13. Japanese warrior
15. Pelvic areas
16. No seats available
17. Not working
19. In a way, soaks
21. Growing outward
22. Ritzy local ___ Air
23. Telegraphic signals
25. Metric units
26. Large wine cask
27. Fiber from the husk of a coconut
29. Gets up
31. French river
33. Witnesses
34. They make great neighbors
36. The sun does it
38. Used to store ashes
39. First Chinese dynasty
41. Network of nerves
43. Word element meaning ear
44. Metric unit of length (Brit.)
46. Tributary of the Danube
48. Off-limits



52. Appeal earnestly
53. It's good to have them
54. Commercial flying company
56. Acted out in protest
57. Took to the sea
58. Cuckoos
59. Drove fast

DOWN

1. Trapped
2. About osmosis
3. Romanian monetary unit
4. Form of Persian
5. Cold wind
6. Leave out
7. Small vehicle
8. A little off
9. Soviet Union
10. A narrow path or road
11. Contrary beliefs
12. One who speaks Gaelic
14. Private school in New York
15. Jackson and Townshend
18. Soldier in an airborne unit
20. Taken illegally
24. Capital of Valais
26. Male reproductive organs
28. State capital
30. One with supernatural insight
32. Starts all over again
34. Jai alai arena
35. Star Wars antagonist
37. Freestanding structure
38. The ideal place
40. The extended location of something
42. Made level
43. Distinctive smell
45. Greek goddess of discord
47. Got older
49. Type of monkey
50. Travels to
51. Geological times
55. Edge

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

2020 San Luis Valley Seed Exchange

Local Market • Trade • Network • Learn • Soak & Stay

Saturday, March 7th • 10am-5pm
at Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa • Free to the Public

Speakers & Vendors

- High Ground Gardens
- CSU Extension Office
- SAVE Salida Seed Library
- Western Native Seed
- SLV Farmer's Market
- La Puente's Valley Educational Gardens Initiative (VEGI)
- SLV Local Foods Coalition
- Crestone Energy Fair & Hemp Symposium & Mt. Flower Essentials
- Miss Penn's Mountain Seeds & Smart Greenhouses LLC
- Sol Mountain Farm
- Nola Naturals
- Grow with Hemp
- Green Earth Farms
- Hummingbird Horizons
- Rio Grande Water Conservation District

SLVSeedExchange.com

Supporting Our Community!
All proceeds of the event are donated.

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.

Feb. 27

CREEDE - Headwaters Alliance invites interested community members to join us for a public meeting with the Colorado Water Quality Division and Nelson Tunnel Superfund Site Project Management Team for a meeting Feb. 27 from 1 - 4 p.m. at the Rio Grande Silver Administrative Building (625 USFS RD 504.1A, aka the Bulldog Mine). After brief updates by HWA, EPA and CDPHE regarding work related to the Nelson Tunnel Superfund Site, the CWQD will present on how water quality standards for surface water and groundwater are adopted in Colorado. CWQD will address how water quality standards and water use classifications are set forth, how these standards are used for assessing the quality of Colorado waters and for establishing regulatory requirements for activities that may impact water quality.

March 1

CREEDE - Creede Arts Council will be hosting its annual Art from The Heart Collectors Exhibit Sunday, March 1, at the Blue Moose Café in Creede from 3-5 p.m. Come tell the story of art you have collected and hear how art has touched the lives of others in our community. Past exhibits have featured folk art, paintings, prints, sculptures, weavings, etc. There will be complimentary hors d'oeuvres and cash Bar. Voluntary donations will be accepted to help cover expenses. Please let us know if you plan to share your collection so we may accommodate any special exhibition requirements you may have. Contact the CAC office at creedearts@outlook.com or leave a message at 719-658-0312. You do not need to share to attend! You may come and enjoy listening to others share their collection.

March 2

ALAMOSA - The Alamosa Rotary Club is pleased to announce that Jim Clare, Manager of the San Luis Valley Regional Landfill, will speak Monday, March 2, 2020, at noon at Juanito's Restaurant, 1019 6th Street.

March 5

DEL NORTE - The Del Norte High School Knowledge Bowl Varsity Team earned its way to the knowledge bowl state competition in Fort Collins. This state competition is March 16 and 17. In order to help offset the cost of the competition, they are holding a community knowledge bowl meet in which anyone can put together a four-man team to compete against the state qualifying team. The cost of entry is \$40. The community event is March 5 at 5 p.m. at Del Norte High School 950 French Street. Contact Chelsea Dilley-Lindsay to reserve your spot at clindsay@urtigers.co

March 6-8

MONTE VISTA - Every March, bird lovers flock to Colorado's picturesque San Luis Valley from all over the state and beyond to witness the arrival of some 25,000 Sandhill Cranes. The Monte Vista Crane Festival, slated for March 6 - 8, celebrates the crane's annual stopover in the Valley. "Their remarkable journey begins in southern New Mexico's Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and ends in the crane's nesting grounds around the Yampa Valley, Greater Yellowstone area and even further north for some of the longer-traveled birds," said crane festival committee president Jenny Ne-

hring. Now in its 37th season, the crane festival is one of the oldest birding festivals in the country and the oldest in Colorado. Though the festival began in celebration of a small Whooping Crane population grown from science aimed at boosting the faltering species, the event now pays full tribute to Sandhill Cranes.

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 24. 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

• **CONEJOS** — Bingo, 7 p.m. every Monday and Thursday, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall

• **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, milcahawk@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** - The San Luis Valley Nutrition program for the elderly serves nutritional 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

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

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Housing Market Statistics – Single Family Homes for San Luis Valley counties

By TREY SPAULDING

SAN LUIS VALLEY – The following information was provided by the Colorado Association of Realtors for single family homes statistics in the San Luis Valley ending Dec. 31, 2019.

In 2019, Alamosa County saw a healthy increase in median home prices

in the county with an average single family home price of \$206,750 which is an increase of 12.7 percent over 2018. Costilla County saw the largest drop in home sales prices of 23.5 percent to a median price of \$125,000.

Followed by Saguache County whose single family home prices dropped

23.2 percent to a median price of \$189,000. Conejos County saw a 7 percent drop in home prices to a median price of \$153,000.

Mineral County had the highest median sales price in the San Luis Valley of \$294,500 which was an increase of 3 percent over prices in 2018.

Rio Grande County had the highest median price increase of 13.7 percent equalling a median price of \$194,500.

In neighboring Archuleta County, the median home price rose to \$374,450 which was a 6.5 percent increase over 2018.

Statewide the average median home

price in 2019 was \$400,000 which was 3.9 percent higher than the previous year.

All in all, home prices in the San Luis Valley are considerably lower than other areas of the state, offering a more affordable lifestyle in an uncongested region of Colorado.

Alamosa County

Single Family	December			Year to Date		
	2018	2019	Percent Change from Previous Year	Thru 12-2018	Thru 12-2019	Percent Change from Previous Year
Key Metrics						
New Listings	8	10	+25.0%	174	156	-10.3%
Sold Listings	9	11	+22.2%	133	114	-14.3%
Median Sales Price*	\$149,575	\$227,500	+52.1%	\$183,500	\$206,750	+12.7%
Average Sales Price*	\$186,662	\$219,900	+17.8%	\$201,694	\$222,678	+10.4%
Percent of List Price Received*	95.7%	95.4%	-0.3%	96.9%	97.1%	+0.2%
Days on Market Until Sale	63	73	+15.9%	68	98	+11.4%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	50	46	-8.0%	--	--	--
Months Supply of Inventory	4.5	4.8	+6.7%	--	--	--

Rio Grande County

Single Family	December			Year to Date		
	2018	2019	Percent Change from Previous Year	Thru 12-2018	Thru 12-2019	Percent Change from Previous Year
Key Metrics						
New Listings	9	9	0.0%	219	230	+5.0%
Sold Listings	7	10	+42.9%	155	150	-3.2%
Median Sales Price*	\$175,000	\$207,500	+18.6%	\$171,000	\$194,500	+13.7%
Average Sales Price*	\$228,857	\$230,900	+0.9%	\$215,188	\$236,782	+10.0%
Percent of List Price Received*	95.9%	96.9%	+1.0%	94.1%	94.8%	+0.7%
Days on Market Until Sale	208	153	-25.7%	170	159	-8.5%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	119	99	-16.8%	--	--	--
Months Supply of Inventory	9.2	7.9	-14.1%	--	--	--

Mineral County

Single Family	December			Year to Date		
	2018	2019	Percent Change from Previous Year	Thru 12-2018	Thru 12-2019	Percent Change from Previous Year
Key Metrics						
New Listings	1	1	0.0%	49	66	+34.7%
Sold Listings	1	0	-100.0%	25	28	+12.0%
Median Sales Price*	\$310,000	\$0	-100.0%	\$285,900	\$294,500	+3.0%
Average Sales Price*	\$310,000	\$0	-100.0%	\$302,612	\$369,043	+22.0%
Percent of List Price Received*	97.0%	0.0%	-100.0%	94.2%	94.6%	+0.4%
Days on Market Until Sale	120	0	-100.0%	241	187	-22.4%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	42	51	+21.4%	--	--	--
Months Supply of Inventory	15.1	16.4	+8.6%	--	--	--

Costilla County

Single Family	December			Year to Date		
	2018	2019	Percent Change from Previous Year	Thru 12-2018	Thru 12-2019	Percent Change from Previous Year
Key Metrics						
New Listings	2	4	+100.0%	76	80	+5.3%
Sold Listings	2	2	0.0%	34	43	+26.5%
Median Sales Price*	\$174,500	\$90,000	-48.4%	\$163,500	\$125,000	-23.5%
Average Sales Price*	\$174,500	\$90,000	-48.4%	\$166,865	\$152,213	-8.8%
Percent of List Price Received*	95.0%	90.9%	-4.3%	93.8%	92.4%	-1.5%
Days on Market Until Sale	43	126	+193.0%	135	139	+3.0%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	50	44	-12.0%	--	--	--
Months Supply of Inventory	17.6	12.3	-30.1%	--	--	--

Saguache County

Single Family	December			Year to Date		
	2018	2019	Percent Change from Previous Year	Thru 12-2018	Thru 12-2019	Percent Change from Previous Year
Key Metrics						
New Listings	11	5	-54.5%	137	156	+13.9%
Sold Listings	5	8	+60.0%	68	91	+3.4%
Median Sales Price*	\$280,000	\$215,000	-23.2%	\$220,000	\$189,000	-14.1%
Average Sales Price*	\$384,400	\$243,631	-36.8%	\$215,441	\$198,891	-7.8%
Percent of List Price Received*	94.5%	95.1%	+0.6%	95.6%	95.1%	-0.5%
Days on Market Until Sale	181	79	-56.4%	134	100	-25.4%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	66	71	+4.4%	--	--	--
Months Supply of Inventory	9.3	9.4	+1.1%	--	--	--

Conejos County

Single Family	December			Year to Date		
	2018	2019	Percent Change from Previous Year	Thru 12-2018	Thru 12-2019	Percent Change from Previous Year
Key Metrics						
New Listings	2	4	+100.0%	65	60	-7.7%
Sold Listings	2	3	+50.0%	54	33	-38.9%
Median Sales Price*	\$260,000	\$110,000	-57.7%	\$164,550	\$153,000	-7.0%
Average Sales Price*	\$260,000	\$156,508	-39.8%	\$189,512	\$217,492	+14.8%
Percent of List Price Received*	97.0%	85.2%	-12.2%	93.6%	94.4%	+0.9%
Days on Market Until Sale	53	218	+311.3%	185	160	-13.5%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	36	22	-38.9%	--	--	--
Months Supply of Inventory	8.0	7.3	-8.8%	--	--	--

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2020 Wrestling & Basketball Preview

Wrap Up

Wednesday, February 26, 2020
 Valley Publishing
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Photo by Stephen Jiron

Over the weekend, the Pepsi Center in Denver was once again the location for the CHSAA State Wrestling tournaments.

State Championship wrestling comes to a close Lucero earns state championship at 285 pounds

By STEPHEN JIRON
DENVER — Hard work culminates in a three-day whirlwind at the Pepsi Center in Denver and before you know it, it has come and gone. On the final day of tournament competition, podium positions were shored up and champions were named.
 In the 3A class, Alamosa placed plenty of competitors on the podium as they do every year. Despite that, the Moose could not earn their third state title in a row and would settle for the No. 5 spot garnering 91 points as a team. The team first-place finish was

awarded to both Eaton and Valley in an odd turn of events that resulted in both teams tying at 105.5 points. At 106 pounds, freshman Kyler Liddell finished in 6th place, suffering a defeat by fall in the 5th place match to Javan Valdez. Older brother Colton Liddell also made it to the championship day morning session. Senior Liddell would also meet a Valley opponent besting Noah Damian by a 4-0 decision in the 132-pound class to take third. Alamosa's Hunter Smith would also take part in the morning session at the 170-pound class. A

win in the consolation semifinals advanced Smith to the third-place match, unfortunately, Smith fell there and took fourth in the tournament. Suffering a loss in the championship quarterfinals, Alamosa's 195 pounder, Austin Trujillo, turned it around ripping off three straight wins in the consolation bracket to qualify for the third-place match. There, Mitchell Peabody of La Junta would earn a fall at 2:08 to place Trujillo fourth in his weight.
 The lone wrestler in 3A to make it to the championship session was

Alamosa's Davion Chavez at 113 pounds.
 Chavez would take on defending champion Angelo Lozado of Jefferson in a 1v2 matchup where the Alamosa's Chavez was favored. Lozado earned a takedown in the first period giving him a 2-point lead that carried to the first choice, where Chavez chose the down position. When Lozado elected not to cover Chavez was awarded an escape point and it was a one-point match through the second period thanks to Lozado locking down any offensive attempts from the

challenger. In the third period, Lozado scored with another takedown and would manage 2 near fall points out of it to earn his second state title in a row with a 6-1 decision. The silver is Chavez's second of his high school career after taking state at 106 pounds in his freshman year.
 In the 2A Class, it was Centauri and Del Norte advancing to Saturday competition. As teams, Centauri finished in fifth place with a score of 91. Del Norte took 33rd with 10 team points. First place was claimed
See WRESTLING on Page 2

Great Job Wrestlers!



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WRESTLING

Continued from Page 1

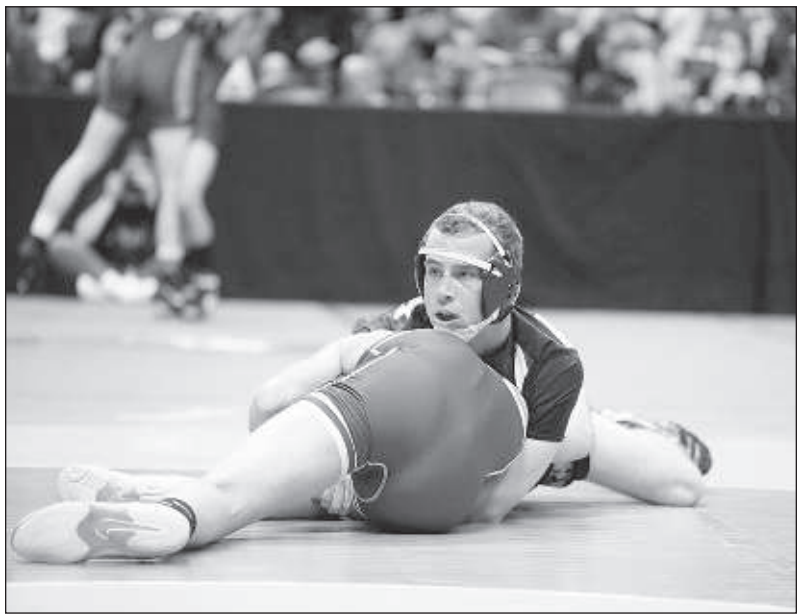
by Wray with 162.5 team points. Del Norte and Centauri would get five wrestlers to the podium in the 2A class.

In the morning session, Del Norte's Malachi Gallegos would start his day with an 8-4 decision over Mario Vigil of Centauri. In the consolation semifinals, Gallegos would tweak his knee and later relent an 8-2 decision to Trae Kennedy of Meeker in the fifth-place match to take sixth in the tournament at 106 pounds.

At 132 pounds Eyan Chavez was upset the day before by Lain Yapoujian who went on to take state. In the morning session, Chavez made good on his opportunity and marched through the consolation bracket eventually besting Lucas Hefner of Highland with a 4-0 decision in the third-place match. Jordan Martin also took third for Centauri, doing it at the 145-pound weight. A tough 3-1 tie-breaker loss in the championship

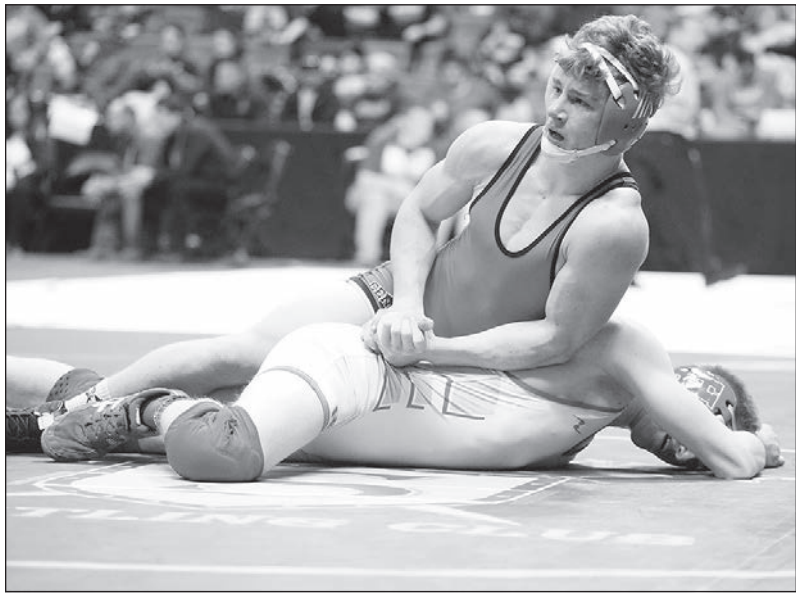
quarterfinals sent Martin to the consolation bracket. There, Martin went undefeated capping his weekend with a victory over Michael Gutierrez of Burlington to take third-place. Centauri's Byron Shawcroft went 2-2 in the morning session. A loss in the fifth-place match granted sixth place for the 170-pounder.

The lone San Luis Valley wrestler to make it to the champion session was Centauri's Remi Lucero in the heavyweight class. In the championship match, Lucero met a familiar face in Rocky Ford's Peyton Froman. The first meeting was a 4-1 match in favor of Lucero. The second meeting looked like it might have some length to it until Lucero took all the momentum and forced a pin at 2:41. The win marks Lucero's first state title. For a complete listing of team results and individual brackets be sure to visit CHSAANow.com



Alamosa senior Colton Williams looks up from his opponent Colton Williams of Berthoud in the consolation semifinals on Saturday. Williams went on to take third place in the 3A 132-pound class.

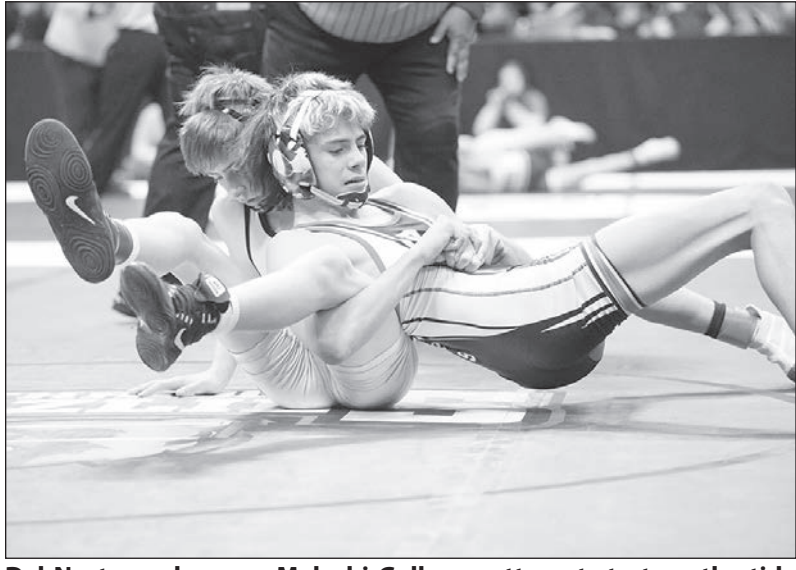
Photos by Stephen Jiron



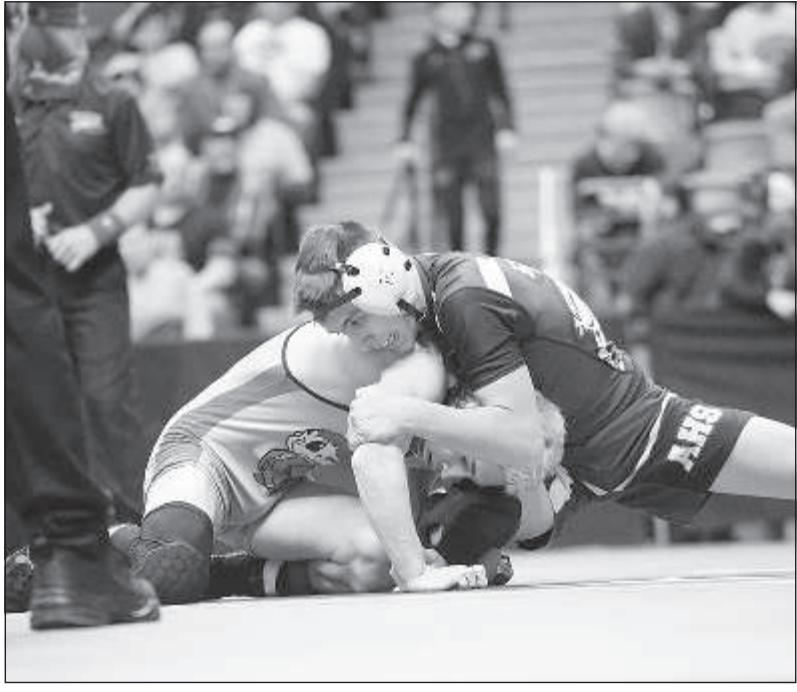
At 145 pounds Jordan Martin of Centauri pins the arm of Hotchkiss's J.D. Miller and looks for some guidance from his coaches during a consolation semifinal meeting. Martin went on to take third place on Saturday.



Centauri's Remi Lucero finds the Centauri crowd after pinning Peyton Froman of Rocky Ford in 2:41 to claim the 285 pound 2A State Title.



Del Norte sophomore Malachi Gallegos attempts to turn the tide during his fifth-place match with Trae Kennedy of Meeker. Kennedy would take an 8-2 decision.



Davion Chavez of Alamosa fights to avoid a takedown during his championship match with Angelo Lozado of Jefferson on Saturday night. Chavez was the runner up relighting a 6-1 victory to Lozado.

Good Luck, Valley Athletes!

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Basketball gets down to business

By **STEPHEN JIRON**

With the regular season settled for all the teams in the valley across the different

classes, it's time for district tournaments to kick off. Valley prep basketball fans have plenty to rejoice as all three of the different

class tournaments are scheduled within the cozy confines of the San Luis Valley. Bracket play is scheduled for Tuesday the 25th for the

first round, Friday the 28th for the semifinals and Saturday the 29th for championship and third-place games.

1A – Southern Peaks League

Quarterfinals at home sites of higher seeds, all others Del Norte High School



Boys Bracket
Pigtail games are out of the way in the Southern Peaks League. Creede eliminated Antonito to advance in a 47-39 game. La Veta downed Moffat 45-41 to

keep their season alive. No. 1 seed Sangre de Cristo will (17-2) will be Creede's first tournament game. The T-Birds had a dominant run through the SPL picking up nine wins and no losses.

The last meeting between Sangre and Creede was a 79-31 game in Sangre's favor. In the other quadrant, second-seeded Primero will look to advance to the SPL championship

game. Primero was involved in one of Sangre's closest league games losing 53-34. But they've also shown promise in the league besting quadrant mate Cotopaxi 64-60 in their last meeting.



Girls Bracket
The first games of the SPL got underway on Saturday with Manzanola eliminating Creede in the pigtail game 67-37, Sierra Grande picked up a forfeit from

Lake City. Top seed Sangre de Cristo (16-3) will welcome Manzanola to the district bracket in the first round. As far as opening draws go, Sangre is not what you hope for. Sangre is undefeated

in league games and their last meeting with Manzanola resulted in a 59-33 thumping. Along with the T-Birds, Cotopaxi (16-3) is favored to make it to the championship game entering as

the No. 2 seed. At 9-1 Cotopaxi's only league loss came to Sangre de Cristo in a 34-27 game. The Pirates will take on Sierra Grande in the first round of tournament play.

2A – Southern Peaks League

Quarterfinals at home sites of higher seeds, all others Alamosa High School



Boys Bracket
After going a meager 1-5 in the class a season ago, Crested Butte (16-3) has surged to the top of the SPL sweeping the league with a perfect 6-0 record. The Ti-

tans will await the winner of Sargent and Del Norte. The Titans seem to play a different game when the stakes are raised. In non-league games against Sargent, Del Norte and

Sanford Crested Butte is 2-1 with a 3.5-point average margin of victory. In league games against those opponents, the Titans are 3-0 with a 22-point average margin of victory. Expect to see their

more grisly half come tournament time. With an odd number of teams, the Titans are the lone bye and Sanford will need to clear South Park while Center will look to eliminate Custer County.

Please see more brackets on Page 4

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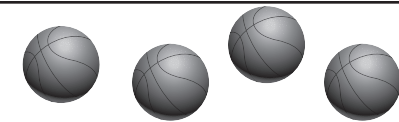
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2A – Southern Peaks League

Quarterfinals at home sites of higher seeds, all others Alamosa High School

Continued

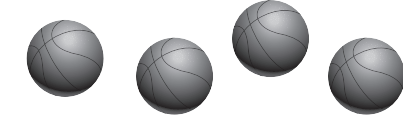


Girls Bracket

The Tigers (16-3) did not find their equal in the SPL this season rolling to a 6-0 league record. As a reward, they earned the top seed where they will await the winner of Center (8-11) and Custer County (8-11). Del Norte owns an average 30.3-point margin of victory in their games with the Vikings and Bobcats. On the other side of the bracket, Sanford will be holding the second bye. Sanford will face the winner of Sargent (8-11) and South Park (4-13). Neither team was able to clear Sanford during the regular season.

3A – Intermountain League

Quarterfinals at home sites of higher seeds, all others Monte Vista High School



Boys Bracket

Things don't get any easier from here on out for the IML. Rivalries may have to be settled this weekend otherwise they may have to hold their peace since there is no guarantee they will meet come state tournament time. The Mean Moose (15-4) stomped through their league schedule staying undefeated and taking the No.1 seed for district play, rival Centauri (17-2) picked up the two seed and both will get a first-round bye. Pagosa (9-10) will need to best host Monte Vista in order to make their way to the semifinals. Montezuma Cortez will get the easier task of Bayfield (3-16).



Girls Bracket

In a district that always heats up with league play, the 2019/20 season was no different. For the girls, some uncharacteristic late-season losses from Pagosa Springs (15-4) didn't stop the Pirates from qualifying as a No. 1 seed. Behind them, the Falcons (17-2) would take the No. 2 seed. With both byes claimed that means fellow hopefuls Bayfield and Alamosa will need to earn their way to the top of the bracket. Bayfield will face Montezuma Cortez and Alamosa will take on host Monte Vista in the first round of tournament play.



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