

Shorts

Potch Annexation 3 hearing Jan. 21

MOFFAT — The Town of Moffat board of trustees will reopen the eligibility hearing regarding the Potch Annexation No. 3 Jan. 21 for the sole purpose of allowing Saguache County to provide input on the annexation.

This hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Moffat Town Hall, 401 Lincoln Ave. Moffat Colorado. All interested residents are welcome to attend.

Center crime prevention groups to meet Jan. 18

CENTER — Coffee with the Chief, a Center event geared to improving citizen relations with law enforcement will meet Saturday, Jan. 18, at town Hall in Center at 10 a.m.

Citizens with any suggestions or information for law enforcement are encouraged to attend.

A second meeting for Neighborhood Watch members also will be held Saturday at 4 p.m. at town hall. For further information, call 754-3497.

Parent night at Center schools

CENTER — Center parents will be treated to a free healthy eating and exercise presentation in the school cafeteria Jan. 20 from 6-7:30 p.m. where Middle School principal Luis Murillo will share his personal story about the benefits of exercise and diet.

Cooking Matters, an organization that helps communities learn better eating and exercise habits, also will present during the program. Cooking Matters helps community members learn to shop smarter, using their newly gained nutritional knowledge to choose healthier food selections and prepare mouthwatering, more affordable meals.

Dinner and childcare will be provided for parents wishing to attend the presentation



Suspected burglar turns himself in

BY TERESA L. BENNS
SAGUACHE COUNTY — A suspect has turned himself in after a warrant was issued in a burglary case under investigation by Undersheriff Jim McCloskey since spring of 2019.

Benjamin Velasquez, 48, of Center, surrendered to Saguache County Sheriff's Office Jan. 13. He was charged with two counts of theft from \$1,000 and \$5,000 ranging up to \$20,000.

On May 6, a Saguache County contractor notified the Saguache

County Sheriff's Office \$10,120 of construction equipment had been stolen from his property. The bulk of the equipment taken was 113 cement forms. Other items included a vibratory plate packer, three corner sets and various metal rods and stakes.

A second burglary at the same location was reported to the Sheriff's Office May 16. This time thieves took 20 round rods and two of three game cameras used to record the thefts. The theft victim also told Undersheriff

McCloskey during this visit he believed he had located most of his stolen cement forms along Road B, behind a fenced-in area.

McCloskey obtained a search warrant for the property and the victim of the thefts identified 93 of the cement forms and two of the corner sets. The owner of the property, Dillon Velasquez, confirmed to McCloskey that his brother, Benjamin "Bengy" Velasquez had brought the forms to his property for storage within

the same time as the burglary occurred and was driving a white truck, recorded on the theft victim's remaining game camera in the second burglary.

As the result of questioning the owners of the property on County Road B, their relatives and those working for them, McCloskey was able to narrow down his suspect list to a specific person, Jesus Moreno, who also drove a white truck.

Moreno said his nephew Mario
Please see BURGLAR on Page 8A

Police chief presents crime statistics

BY TERESA L. BENNS
CENTER — During Center's first town board meeting this year, Center Police Chief Gene Meek broke down crimes statistics for the town and pledged to continue to address the rising crime rate in Center through better policing and citizen-based programs.

Burglaries are up 130.77 percent in the town from 13 in 2018 to 30 in 2019. Meeks says he believes his department has successfully curbed most of the burglaries. The town did not experience any burglaries for two months, when a burglary occurred on Thanksgiving and broke the record.

Assaults also are up 8 percent from 37 to 40. In 2018, shoplifting incidents rose from 19 to 22 and thefts stayed the same as in 2018, at 88. Suspicious person/vehicle reports escalated from 107 in 2018 to 141 in 2019, a 31.78 percent increase. Total calls for service stood at 2,701 in 2017, rising to 3,082 in 2018 and 3,411 in 2019.

Meek says he is very concerned about the rise in child sexual assaults in the town, which were reported at

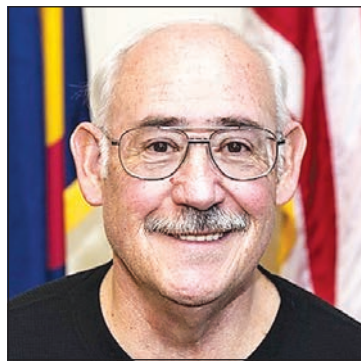
Please see CRIME on Page 3A



Misty Palacios



Lyn Bogle



Lloyd Garcia

Meet the Center School Board

BY CENTER SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT CARRIE ZIMMERMAN

CENTER — In her Center of Focus column for Jan. 13, Center Schools Superintendent Carrie Zimmerman wrote: "January is School Board Recognition month and we want to recognize the Center Consolidated School District Board of Education.

"We would like to honor the contributions that our locally elected officials have made and will continue to make for our school children and the district. School board members serve an invaluable role in all school districts. They tackle difficult challenges and shoulder the responsibility of the district.

"Our board members are elected to establish and approve policies that provide the structure for our district. They give many hours to ensure that our district is functioning at its highest capacity and make decisions that are based on what's best for our students.

"They work many hours in a variety of capacities. They attend the monthly school board meetings, listen to the concerns of the community and school staff, review and approve the district budget, listen and read reports, and attend a variety of school functions. They give of their time and energy freely, without compensation.

"We are grateful for our current board. They are hardworking and make informed sensible decisions
Please see SCHOOL on Page 7A



Kim Duran



Enrique Aguilar

Town of Saguache year in review

BY TOWN CLERK IRIS GARCIA
SAGUACHE — The Town of Saguache has been busy completing projects and looking ahead to potential improvements within our municipality.

The town has made great strides in completing projects that were in the planning phase for multiple years and have finally entered the final stages of completion. Some notable projects include our upgrades and repair of the town's sewer system and the environmental cleanup of a specific property within our city limits. In addition to several larger projects, we also completed multiple smaller projects.

The Town's major project in 2018-2019 was the rehabilitation and

replacement of our sewer system. The project consisted of the replacement of approximately 7200 Linear feet of sewer line, approximately 8200 linear feet of CIPP lining, the replacement of 19 manholes and numerous lateral spot repairs.

In addition to the planned work, the Town was also able to install necessary metering devices at our sewer lagoon and clean our French drain system. The

Please see YEAR on Page 8A

Town of Saguache 2019 projects completed including the major project in 2018-2019 which was the rehabilitation and replacement of its sewer system.

File photo



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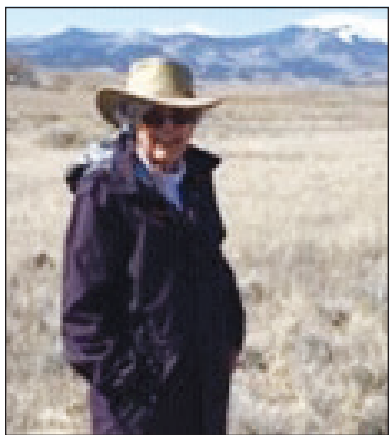
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OBITUARIES

See more Obituaries on Page 6A

Mayebelle Bedell Gilfillan July 28, 1929 - Dec. 26, 2019

MONTE VISTA - Mayebelle was born in Woodbine, Georgia July 28, 1929. She grew up in a close-knit family with a sister, two brothers and cousins nearby. She was a beautiful, talented, avid swimmer and delighted in teaching people to swim. Very athletic, she became a physical education teacher and taught at many schools, starting out in Woodbine and eventually alighting in Climax, Colorado. There she met her husband of 25 years, George Gilfillan. They had three children and moved from Climax/Leadville to Monte Vista in the San Luis Valley in 1967.



Mayebelle loved the Valley and was actively involved in the community. She served on the School Board of Monte Vista High School and was an energetic member of P.E.O., the Episcopal Church and the Monte Vista Historical Society; she also enjoyed working at Martinez Farms. Her favorite pastimes included outings with friends, camping with family and hiking in the nearby mountains. Mayebelle reveled in weekly hikes with the Silver Threaders (on snowshoes in the winter) for more than 20 years.

In her final years, Mayebelle was afflicted by Alzheimer's disease and ultimately succumbed to pancreatic cancer. She is survived by three children, George, Susan and Tom (Lynn), and four grandchildren, Ginger, Darby, Tommy and Delaney. In lieu of a service, donations to La Puente would be greatly appreciated.

Betty Jo Syring Tomlinson, 91

MONTE VISTA - Betty Jo Syring Tomlinson passed away on January 7, 2020. She was born in Mankato, Kansas, in 1929, to Mona (Brinkworth) and Joseph Calvin Huntsinger. When her parents died, Betty Jo was adopted by her aunt, Leota Brinkworth, and moved to Monte Vista in 1935.

(William) Schernekau and Patricia Tomlinson.

A celebration of life will be held in the spring and will be announced at a later time. Cremation was chosen and Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences and remarks of comfort for Betty Jo's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com

Contributions are suggested to the "Legacy at Monte Vista" assisted living center, 100 Chico Camino St, Monte Vista, CO 81144.

Betty Jo married Byron Syring in 1950, and had two daughters, Mona and Lauri. Later in 1982, she married Tom Tomlinson.

Betty Jo was a musician and played the piano and organ for several churches in Monte Vista, as well as for other community and school events. She continued to play the piano until the end of her life. She blessed people with not only her music, but with her kindness and sweet sense of humor.

Betty Jo is survived by her daughters, Mona Syring and Lauri (Randy) McMullen, her granddaughter Jamie King, her great granddaughter Skyla King, and her stepdaughters Joan



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CRIME

Continued from Page 1A

three in 2017, five in 2018 and seven in 2019.

In order to approve their investigation techniques, Meek says he has requested the disposition of 2019 arrests from the courts to spot errors or mistakes that may have resulted in charges being reduced or dismissed.

Trustee Bill McClure challenged Meek's policy of allowing officers to take their police cars home at night and cited the town's previous policy of requiring officers to live within the city limits. Meek told McClure he couldn't find a place to live in town and neither can his officers. He estimated officers were on average only 12 minutes from the town.

Trustee Adeline Sanchez reminded McClure that state law permits officers to live outside the city limits and noted that they cannot be forced to drive their own vehicles to town on police business. Trustee Jaime Hurtado reminded McClure that if officers use their own vehicles it is a liability for the town. Meek said that is why he prefers that officers drive with lights and sirens from their homes to answer calls in Center.

Utilities report
Utility Director Dave Mahaffie reported that the town's water use was down by 33,000,000 gallons in 2019. He told the board he has already sent the street map for road repairs for 2020 to the county so they can plan ahead for the repairs.

Town manager's report
Town Administrator Brian Lujan presented a proposal to the board

to use students and adults in an apprentice program with the town. A grant would pay for the student's wages, workman's compensation and liability. The program is operated by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and lasts 90 days or more. The board approved a resolution to try out the program.

Lujan told the board he has not forgotten about the Consaul property and is moving ahead on annexation plans. Trustee Bill McClure told him the annexation has been postponed long enough and should be put on the fast track, with a completion date set for March 31.

Lujan told McClure that the annexation is a lengthier process than it appears and Town Attorney Mike Trujillo agreed. Trujillo said he would handle the annexation and aim for a completion in 90 days but commented it could take longer.

Sanitation District easement
Sanitation Board Member Moe Jones addressed the board to request an easement for the construction of the district's new wastewater treatment plant. Some of the old easements can still be used but the town must approve additional easements before construction can proceed. Jones drew a map indicating approximately where the easements would need to go.

Trujillo told Jones he believed the easements should be granted by deed to be perfectly legal and in accordance with what he believes the USDA grant process for the treatment center requires. The board approved

the resolution to grant the easements and Trujillo said he would look into the deed requirement.

Electric car charging station
Members of the Saguache Tourism Council addressed the Center board seeking support for a grant that, if approved, would pay to construct an electric car charging station in Center.

The state would pay 80 percent of the funding and Saguache County would provide the other 20 percent.

Those proposing the station said it would help travelers with electric cars plan their trips and would bring tourists to Center. The proposed location for the station would be on the south side of Casa Blanca Park.

Those charging their cars would use a credit card similar to gas purchases. It was suggested that the first three charging hours would be free and additional hours would be paid. As of 2018 there were 33 community charging stations statewide.

The town approved a resolution to host the charging station.



Courtesy photo



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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Scam-a-Rama

This week found Ol' Dutch running the normal errands -- you know things like the farm supply store, Home Depot, the sporting goods store and the Big Box plus gas in the truck -- while Miss Trixie did the laundry.

It was business as usual for me and Cooper driving to these places and he hung his head out the window like a dog. Well, I guess he is a dog so there is that too.

My last stop before returning to find Trixie was for fuel. While there, two young men pulled up beside me and began to talk at me. While I have been blessed with hearing aids, I am reluctant to wear them and when strangers talk to me, they may as well be talking to a fence post.

They finally got out of the car and Ol' Dutch immediately sized them up for the danger factor. Even at my advanced age, as Miss Trixie likes to say, I figured I could probably take both of them in a toe-to-toe so I hung around to hear just what they had to say.

It seems that their boss came into a windfall in the stereo and surround sound department and they were willing to pass that savings onto me. I could totally understand their generosity since I am such a good guy. Well I am a guy anyway.

They flashed brochures in front of my eyes like a Disney layout of the old cartoon drawings making a blur of numbers and models and figures without the cartoon sequence Walt Disney used to show us every Sunday Night.

Soon we got to the bottom line: how much would it cost me to get said stereo out the door of the minivan?

Now Ol' Dutch is usually pretty cautious around such doin's and there is probably no bigger skeptic than me but I sure liked the looks of that stereo.

The boxes were all sealed with company logo tape and it appeared legit and they went from the starting price of \$500 down to \$100 in about three minutes.

I mean, how bad a deal could that be? Let me tell you exactly how bad a deal.

So this being one of my saner moments I texted Miss Trixie who has those internet magic fingers and within 15 seconds she was able to



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

tell me that it's the newest scam on the street.

Watching the video she sent I was able to see that inside the boxes is nothing more than cement and plastic. Saved by the proverbial bell. Miss Trixie. Ding!

Of late there are so many scams on Craigslist and Facebook Marketplace that the phrase "let the buyer beware" is not even close to how doubtful you need to be when you find the deal of a lifetime.

Boats and cars, tractors and event tickets and wheels and tires are the scammers favorite items to cheat people on so it seems. Most of the time you can tell it's a scam as the seller lists an email separate and apart from the webpages. That way they are untraceable.

Most of them involve having the buyer wire funds for the purchase with a money back guarantee if you don't like the item. I have long been onto this game and often will respond just to see what their spiel is.

One guy even offered to ship me a bass boat from Greece and when I asked if they could just drive it over to Florida they said "sure."

So, folks, always remember the old adage: if it sounds too good to be true it probably is. And as hard as it is to say this Miss Trixie came in handy once again saving me from the purchase as I am full up on concrete blocks.

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

Thanks from the Benns family

Josiah Benns and Larry and Teresa Benns wish to thank all those who have shown us kindness following the loss of Tristen on Dec. 20.

To all those who sent us their condolences, prayers, and for the congregations and prayer groups who offered prayers, our sincere thanks. To Sargent School administration, teachers, staff and students and Sargent parents who provided over a week's worth of meals, sent flowers

to the funeral service, a plant to our homes and checked on us regularly, we are very grateful. All of you have been awesome.

For the money donated from the sale of Tristen memorial T-shirts and other fundraisers sponsored by Sargent students and staff, our heartfelt thanks.

To Center Schools which Tristen attended from pre-school to first grade, our sincere thanks for all

the help and attention given Tristen during a difficult time in his life. Also thanks to Saguache County for their thoughtful floral arrangement.

If we have forgotten to thank anyone here, know that during this time any omission is unintentional and we thank you all the same. May God bless you all for your prayers and support.

*Josiah Benns
Larry and Teresa Benns*

Confirmation of wolves in Colorado makes ballot measure moot

To the editor,
DENVER - Colorado Parks and Wildlife announced on Jan. 8, 2020 that it strongly believes a pack of wolves is living in the northwest corner of Colorado. The ongoing investigation into the pack includes an eyewitness report of six wolves in October 2019 as well as the discovery last week of a thoroughly scavenged elk carcass near the same location as the October sighting.

Considering this news, Chad Vorthmann, Executive Vice President of the Colorado Farm Bureau called on the proponents of the ballot measure to leave nature alone and end their campaign. "Just as predicted, wolves are making their way into Colorado on their own. This measure is pointless and will only lead to wasted taxpayer dollars and increased bureaucracy. The proponents should let mother nature work its magic, stop trying to impose their will on the natural world, and retract their ballot measure."

This news comes several months after the confirmed presence of a wolf in Jackson County—also located in northwest Colorado—in July 2019. That wolf had migrated into the state from Wyoming's Snake River Pack. According to JT Romatzke, Northwest Regional Manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife, "It is inevitable, based on

known wolf behavior, that they would travel here from states where their populations are well-established."

"We have no doubt that they are here, and the most recent sighting...is further evidence of the presence of wolves in Colorado," said Romatzke. Established wolf populations exist in several states near Colorado, including immediate neighbor states: New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana.

Voters in Colorado will decide this November whether to force wolf introduction along the state's Western Slope. This means the fate of western Colorado communities will be decided by a majority of voters living east of the Continental Divide. A dangerous prospect. The ballot measure would require Colorado Parks and Wildlife to develop and implement a plan to bring wolves to the state within three years. The measure is expected to cost taxpayers nearly \$6 million over eight years.

Colorado already has a plan to address wolves. State officials, conservationists, farmers and ranchers, and other stakeholders currently operate under a "free-ranging" wolf plan that is informed by scientific processes, research, and expert guidance. This plan protects wolves that enter Colorado from surrounding states while minimizing conflicts with people and

other animals. "Forced introduction of wolves would circumvent this policy which is clearly working as intended," said Vorthmann. Further, wolves are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is the lead state agency for wildlife issues. The agency manages "41 state parks and more than 350 wildlife areas covering approximately 900,000 acres, management of fishing and hunting, wildlife watching, camping, motorized and non-motorized trails, boating and outdoor education. CPW's work contributes approximately \$6 billion in total economic impact annually throughout Colorado."

Coloradans Protecting Wildlife is an issue committee that was formed to keep wildlife management in the hands of experts. The group believes that if wolves were to migrate to Colorado it should be naturally, without human interference and not at the whim of ballot box biology. The committee consists of a robust coalition including farmers and ranchers, outdoor enthusiasts, conservationists, sportsmen, and other interested stakeholders. For additional information about Coloradans Protecting Wildlife, please visit: www.RethinkWolves.com.

*Shawn Martini
Colorado Farm Bureau*

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MOUNTAIN VALLEY PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

By PRINCIPAL KATHY HILL
SAGUACHE - Happy New Year! I hope that all of our MVS families and the entire community had a wonderful holiday and a terrific New Year celebration! It is amazing to think that we will begin another decade. Like many of you, I remember being a kid and wondering what the new millennium would bring and thinking that I would be so old in the year 2000.

Now here we are in the year 2020, and I'm so grateful to be a part of this next decade. We have a unique opportunity here in our town to impact the lives of each person we come in contact with. I hope each of you has an amazing year and pray for many blessings to be bestowed on our MVS families, friends and the entire community of Saguache.

Our second semester of school is beginning next week and faculty is hard at work preparing for second-semester course work. We are excited to be adding wood shop back into the high school classes with Mr. James Chaing leading students on a journey to learn some great trade skills. Journalism and a survival skills class will also be offered, giving our students an opportunity to experience some new and exciting learning! Senior class members can take the opportunity to work or do an internship if they are ahead on credits. Students always have the opportunity to advance their skills with online coursework as well.

Grades three through eight are gearing up and working to complete amazing projects for our annual science fair (date TBD). I love it when our kids get so excited about their projects, and I'm looking forward to viewing their creative and scientific ideas! We also have several STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Fridays coming up! Julie Brown and Crystal Knight will have a baking day Friday, Jan. 24 that will incorporate lots of science and math skills! Transportation and lunch are always provided for STEM Fridays.

The next ski trip is slated for Friday, Jan. 31, and it looks like we'll have plenty of great snow to enjoy! Finally, MVS will sponsor a FREE Community Dinner and bullying prevention seminar presented by the Saguache Sheriff's department.

Please join us in the MVS Cafe on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 4:30 p.m. for this informative and important presentation.

We have lots of sports activities throughout the months of January and February. Middle school girls' basketball games begin on Tuesdays and Thursdays and high school basketball and wrestling are well underway. Right now our wrestlers have to travel to meets, but we are hoping to have a wrestling meet right here in Saguache next season! Home basketball games are played at the Moffat gym per the combined sports agreement with Moffat and Crestone Charter.

We do have a couple of high school games to be played here at MVS. On Tuesday, Jan. 14, Cotopaxi and Creede will meet halfway and use our gym. The game is open to the public with the girls beginning at 5 p.m. Then Saturday, Jan. 18, MVS will host high school basketball games beginning at 2 p.m. Come on out and cheer on our Moffat-Crestone and MVS athletes in our beautiful new facility! After the games, grades three through five will be sponsoring a talent show and silent auction fundraiser for a trip to Mesa Verde! Check out our Facebook page and website for more details on all events at MVS!

Upcoming events at MVS

- Thursday, 01/16: FREE Community Dinner and bullying prevention seminar sponsored by Saguache Sheriff's Department 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 16: MS girls' basketball at Centauri, 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 18: HS basketball (home in Saguache) versus Cripple Creek at 2 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 18: Grades 3-5 talent show and silent auction 6 p.m. MVS aux gym
- Tuesday, Jan. 21: MVS Board of Education meeting, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 21: MS girls BB (home in Moffat) 4:30 p.m. versus Sierra Grande
- Thursday, Jan. 23: MS girls BB (home in Moffat) 4:30 p.m. versus Alamosa
- Friday, Jan. 24: HS BB (home in Moffat) 5 p.m. v. Sierra Grande
- Friday, Jan. 24: STEM Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

OBITUARY

Margaret Ann Crawford April 14, 1931 ~ Dec. 13, 2019

MONTE VISTA — Longtime Meeker resident, Margaret Ann Crawford, died peacefully Friday, Dec. 13, 2019, at the Walbridge Wing in Meeker surrounded by her daughter and son-in-law, after a long battle with bladder issues and Guillain-Barre Syndrome. She was 88.

A graveside memorial service will be held at a later date.

Margaret Ann Parkes was born the daughter of George Edward and Nellie Ardell (Warren) Parkes April 14, 1931, in a little white house on the corner of West Garfield Street. That house still stands, only it is brown now, with a porch added. She grew up on the ranch up Flag Creek, and in the winter lived in the same house she was born in. Margaret attended schools in Meeker, graduating from Meeker High School with the Class of 1950.

Following her high school graduation, four days later, Margaret married the love of her life, Boyd William "Bill" Crawford May 28, 1950, in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. To this union, three children were born. Bill and Margaret enjoyed spending time on the Crawford Ranch located 7 miles up Strawberry Creek. Margaret worked hard on the ranch/farm to make it a success. She also worked for a time at A. Oldland & Company. They resided on the ranch until moving to Monte Vista, Colorado, in 1968 when Bill accepted a job with the Colorado Potato Growers as a potato salesman and Margaret accepted a job at the local bank. They later moved to Winnemucca, Nevada, where Margaret worked as the Clerk of the District Court. The Crawfords moved to Greeley, Colorado, in 1986 where Margaret worked at Bedingfield law office, and was active with the Greeley Assistance League (Bargain Box).

Bill and Margaret later moved back to Meeker in 2012, then in 2013 to Castle Rock to be closer to their daughter and grandchildren. The couple returned to Meeker in July 2016.

Margaret enjoyed bowling, belonging

to the Colorado Women's Bowling Association, was a member of St. James' Episcopal Church and PEO. She was an excellent cook, seamstress and won Grand Champion at the fair two years ago for her custom jewelry artwork, made into the shape of Christmas trees.

Above all, Margaret was a devoted wife to Bill and loving mother and grandmother. She will be deeply missed by those who had the privilege of knowing her.

Margaret is survived by one daughter Linda (Joseph) Manzanara of Castle Rock, Colorado; sons Mike Crawford of Greeley, Colorado, and Bob Crawford of Florida; grandsons Eric (Tera) Manzanara of Highlands Ranch, Colorado, and John (Katie) Manzanara of Castle Rock, Colorado; five great-grandchildren Brady, Avery, Marlowe, Jace and Owen; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Margaret is also survived by three sisters-in-law: Naomi Parkes of Sun Lakes, Arizona; Willetta Stanton of Lakewood, Colorado; Patsy Porter of Texas; Arlene (Don) Niles of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Margaret was preceded in death by her parents; four sisters: Mary (died at the age of 2), Elizabeth Dunham, Dorothy



Bloomfield and Norma Oldland; one brother, Tom Parkes; and her husband of 68 years, Bill Crawford.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made in Margaret's memory to St. James Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 641, Meeker, Colorado, 81641

The family would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Williams and the wonderful staff at the Wing, for taking such excellent, loving care of Margee and Bill.



Items to take to the tax preparer

For many working Americans, April 15 is synonymous with taxes.

Whenever taxpayers decide to begin the process of filing their taxes, those who hire professionals to prepare their returns should have the following items ready when visiting their tax preparers.

Personal information

- Social security or tax ID number
- Social security or tax ID number of your spouse, if applicable
- Dates of birth of all dependents
- Social security or tax ID numbers of all dependents
- Last year's tax return
- Spouse's tax return from previous year, if filing jointly

Income Information

- W-2 forms from all employers you worked for in the last year
- If you are filing a joint return, W-2 forms from all of your spouse's employers in the last year
- Information regarding investment income, including proceeds from the sale of bonds or stocks, income from foreign investments, interest income, and/or dividend income
- Income from local and state tax refunds from last year
- Business income and accounting records from businesses individuals own
- Unemployment income
- Rental property income
- Social security benefits

- Proof of miscellaneous income, such as lottery, gambling winnings, etc.

Income adjustments (if applicable)

- Homebuyer tax credit
- Green energy credits
- IRA contributions
- Mortgage interest
- Student loan interest
- Contributions to medical savings accounts
- Self-employed health insurance
- Moving expenses
- Education costs
- Qualified medical expenses

Dependent care (if applicable)

- Education costs
- Childcare costs
- Adoption costs

Charitable contributions (if applicable)

- Charitable donation receipts

Bank information

- Bank account number
- Bank's routing number

This list is a general list of documents that taxpayers may need to bring when visiting their tax preparers. Individuals who want to be certain they bring all the documents necessary to file their returns should contact their tax preparers in advance of their appointments to determine which documents they will need to make the process go as smoothly as possible. TF184904



Current Topics Wellness and Prevention

featured speaker

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SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1A

based on the information available. Please take the time to get to know our Board members and thank them for their efforts when you cross their paths. We appreciate their leadership and dedication to our students, families, staff and community members."

The following is a review of current school board members and their goals.

Lyn Bogle, President

Email: lbogle@center.k12.co.us
Phone: 719-850-0146
Director District: District A- Term Ends November 2021

Lyn was elected to the Board of Education in March 2015 and was just re-elected for a two-year term in November 2019. Lyn grew up in Hereford, Texas, and graduated from Hereford Public Schools in 1966. He went on to attend Texas Tech University from 1966 to 1969 where he studied Engineering. In 1970 he moved to Center, where he farmed and served as an Undersheriff of Saguache County for many years. Lyn currently owns and operates Rocky Mountain Memorabilia in Alamosa, and Swift Self Storages in Texas. He is also an Auctioneer and does small estate and charity auctions.

Greatest hopes for Center Schools: "I have watched Center Schools improve so much during the last several years. I want to help that continue. I think that the District has an excellent staff and some really great students. I hope to encourage communication between the parents, staff, students and Board, so that that this District can give the students the best possible education. I want the students to be prepared to attain any goal they set for themselves when they graduate and move forward with their lives."

Misty Montoya-Palacios, Vice President

Email: mpalacios@center.k12.co.us
Phone: 719-588-7793
Director District: District B- Term ends November 2021

Misty was elected in March 2015 and served a two-year term. She was re-elected in November 2017 and is currently serving a four-year term. Misty is a Valley native, originally from Monte Vista, and a 2005 Academic Recovery Center graduate. She received her associate degree in Nursing in 2011 from Trinidad State Junior College and received her Registered Nursing License that same year. Misty currently works at SLV Health Physician Services.

Greatest hopes for Center Schools: "My greatest hope for Center Schools is for the continued educational excellence and improved academic performance of the students. This is important so that our students are prepared for a successful future. I am excited to a part of the great things that are happening within our schools and I am ready to get to work and contribute to our community."

Kimberlee Duran, Secretary/Treasurer

Email: kduran@center.k12.co.us
Phone: 719-754-3442
Director District: District C- Term ends November 2023

Kimberlee is returning to the Board after being elected for her second term in November 2019. Kim was originally elected to the Board in 2003. She stepped down from her second term so that she could be the Center High School cheerleading head coach. She served in that position for several years. Kimberlee was elected

again in November 2019 and she will serve four years. She graduated from Center High School in 1986. Kim is married to Victor Duran, has one son Phillip Martinez and two daughters, Amanda and Kristina. She has always been active in the community and has owned several local businesses.

Greatest hopes for Center Schools: "My goal is to make sure that, as a district, we have the staff and tools in place to provide each student with the best education possible."

Enrique Aguilar, Board Director

Email: eaguilar@center.k12.co.us
Phone: 719-588-5513
Director District: Member-At-Large- Term ends- November 2023

Enrique was elected to the Board of Education in November 2015 and was re-elected in November 2019. He is currently serving his second four year term. Enrique was born in Texas, but soon after moved to Colorado where he was raised. He is a Sargent High School graduate. Mr. Aguilar attended Pickens Technical College where he earned his master's in Automotive Alignments. Enrique owns his own auto mechanics business, Aguilar's Automotive, which is located on S. Broadway, here in Center.

Greatest hopes for Center Schools: "I am excited to be starting a new term. I want to help maintain what is going well in the district and I am always looking for ways to better our school."

Lloyd Garcia, Board Director

Email: lgarcia@center.k12.co.us
Phone: 719-850-8763
Director District: Member-At-Large- Term ends- November 2023

Lloyd is a Valley native. He graduated from Center High School and received both his bachelor's

and master's degrees from Adams State. Mr. Garcia is well-known in the Center School hallways, as he taught here for 36 years. He started as an elementary physical education educator and then moved to the high school where he taught Spanish, math, science and history over the course of his career. Lloyd was a successful coach and his passion was high school baseball. He has received a number

of recognitions for both his teaching and coaching, including the Adams State Educators Hall of Fame and the Colorado Dugout Hall of Fame. The baseball field at Center Community Park is named after him to honor his accomplishments.

Greatest hopes for Center Schools: "My goal for Center is that every child is treated fairly and with respect and given every opportunity to succeed."

Saguache County Sales Tax Grants now available!
The Saguache County Board of Commissioners will be taking Grant Applications for Saguache County Sales Tax Grants until 3:00PM, Friday, February 14, 2020. To be eligible grant applications must be for either: Emergency Services/Public Health and Safety; Youth and Senior programs, projects, or organizations; or Renewable Energy projects/Business Opportunities and Job Creation. Grant applications are available on our website at saguachecounty.net/administration - see "sales tax grant applicationform5" or you can contact the Saguache County Administration office at 719-655-2231 to request a copy of the grant application. No. 1551 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, Dec. 26, 2019, Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2020.

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DENVER NUGGETS SKILLS CHALLENGE

Be a part of this fun and exciting youth basketball event!

Free to Boys & Girls 6-13

Nuggets Skills Details

- Ages 6-13 as of 4/30/19
- Skill testing in dribbling, passing and shooting
- Separate boys and girls division
- Awards for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place each level
- Top boy and girl in each age group advance to a sectional
- Free to all participants

Local Competition

DATE: January 18th, 2020
TIME: 2:00 PM (registration)
2:30 PM (start event)
LOCATION: MS GYM 3720 Sherman Ave. Monte Vista CO 81144

Monte Vista Rec. Department
Jamie Hurtado: Director/Coordinator
95 W. First Ave., Monte Vista, CO
recreation@ci.monte-vista.co.us

San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2019-2020

Girls

Escalante NM 47	Antonito 39
Center 29	Mancos 24
Sanford 41	Ellicott 28
Rocky Ford 40	Sangre de Cristo 23
James Irwin 43	Centauri 36
Sargent 56	Center 38
Alamosa 44	Ignacio 39
Questa NM 49	Antonito 20
Del Norte 48	Sangre de Cristo 44
Pagosa Springs 42	Sanford 29

COLLEGE

Colo School of Mines 79	Adams State 36
UCCS 69	Adams State 54

Boys

Pueblo Central 57	Monte Vista 38
Escalante NM 80	Antonito 33
Mountain Valley/Moffat 38	Centauri JV 35
Mancos 71	Center 57
Sanford 66	Ellicott 33
Kent Denver 64	Alamosa 49
Sangre de Cristo 60	Rocky Ford 53
Kent Denver 69	Monte Vista 46
Alamosa 59	Pinnacle 22
Sanford 51	Pagosa Springs 37
Crested Butte 65	Creede 33
Center 38	Sargent 30
Sangre de Cristo 73	Del Norte 60
Antonito 72	Questa NM 67
Primero 67	Sierra Grande 46

COLLEGE

Colo School of Mines 90	Adams State 64
UCCS 92	Adams State 85

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Auto Body & Paint
852-5700
859 Acequia Monte Vista

YEAR

Continued from Page 1A

total project cost the town an estimated \$2.4 million which was funded through a \$1.9-million-dollar Water Quality Control Division loan and a \$500,000 grant from the Department of Local Affairs.

In addition to the sewer project, the Town also undertook the task of cleaning a property located within the municipality that had become an environmental hazard in 2013. In late 2018 the property owner deeded the property to the town as they were unable financially to cleanup the property. The Town's first estimates for asbestos abatement and cleanup ranged from approximately \$190,000 to \$320,000.

The town researched funding options for the cleanup and rehab of the property and by working with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment the town was able to clean up the property at no cost to the town. Other smaller projects funded partially or completely through grants included the completion of the Town Hall exterior restoration, the historic assessment of the town's Community Building, the Dave Martinez Park bathroom project and the purchase of new park playground equipment.

The town of Saguache would like to invite neighboring communities to visit their great little town — to sample the cuisine at their four restaurants, shop local antique shops, pottery shops and art galleries. And don't forget to stop at the local grocery store, visitor center, organic market and second-hand store. The town also has two theaters, one that hosts live events and historical movies and one that features first-run movies.

The community also hosts a multitude of yearly events throughout the year:

- April: Annual Easter Egg Hunt
- May: Cinco De Mayo celebration and Museum opening and Memorial Day events
- June: Father's Day Community Bar B Que
- July: Sharing Christmas fundraiser and Holly Hock Festival
- August: Art Walk and Annual Intertribal Pow Wow
- September: Fall Festival, Quilt Show and Photo Contest
- November: Veteran's Day Chili Dinner and Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- December: Holiday Bizarre and Annual Christmas tree Lighting.
- Monthly: Supper with your neighbor, hosted by the Saguache Methodist Church and Community Dinner hosted by Mountain Valley School.

For dates and times, call 719-655-2232. Come and share in our great little community!

BURGLAR

Continued from Page 1A

Ortega had borrowed his truck at precisely the time the two thefts being investigated were committed. He also said this nephew had shown him a game camera and asked his wife to sell it for him. Ortega confirmed he borrowed Moreno's truck within that time frame.

McCloskey then received a tip from an inmate at the Saguache County Jail regarding thefts, burglaries and drugs. The inmate stated that Benjamin Velasquez of Center, also Jesus Moreno, had stolen the cement forms. He indicated he had helped unload the forms out of Moreno's truck at the County Road B location but had not participated in the first burglary.

Center Schools Family Night, waffle Wednesday

CENTER — Center Schools Superintendent Carrie Zimmerman reported Monday that Center held its Empowering Bilingualism Family Night Wednesday, Jan. 8, in the Center School cafeteria.

The Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Team, along with Mr. Murillo and the Migrant Education Program, planned the event. The program included entertainment, great food and stories of success.

Center EL students were recognized for their accomplishments. Mr. Swanson and his student choir performed and the keynote speaker was our own Ofelia Gonzalez, a Center High School graduate. Ofelia shared her experiences and the challenges she faced growing up in poverty and as an English language

learner. She also shared how her education from Center schools positively impacted her life and allowed her to receive scholarships, attend CU Boulder and study abroad. We are fortunate to have her back in our district as a positive role model for all of our students.

Spreading sunshine
Our fantastic Sunshine Committee hosted Waffle Wednesday this past week. The committee prepared a wonderful breakfast, including waffles, sausage and juice, for our staff to enjoy. It was a great way to start the day. Thanks to our Sunshine Committee for all the extra perks they provide for our staff! Center staff enjoyed yummy waffles!



Courtesy photo
The Sunshine Committee hosted Waffle Wednesday with a wonderful breakfast, including waffles, sausage and juice for staff to enjoy.

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2013 Chevy Tahoe LTZ



SK#: G84936 **\$18,995**

2012 Nissan Titan



SK#: G20440 **\$19,995**

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Courtesy photo

We have no doubt that they are here, and the most recent sighting of what appears to be wolves traveling together in what can be best described as a pack is further evidence of the presence of wolves in Colorado.

Wolves presence in Colorado reconfirmed

MOFFAT COUNTY — Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials said an eyewitness report of six large canids traveling together in the far northwest corner of the state last October, in conjunction with last week's discovery of a thoroughly scavenged elk carcass near Irish Canyon — a few miles from the location of the sighting — strongly suggests a pack of gray wolves may now be residing in Colorado.

According to the eyewitness, he and his hunting party observed the wolves near the Wyoming and Utah borders. One of the party caught two of the six animals on video.

"The sighting marks the first time

in recent history CPW has received a report of multiple wolves traveling together," said CPW Northwest Regional Manager JT Romatzke. "In addition, in the days prior, the eyewitness says he heard distinct howls coming from different animals. In my opinion, this is a very credible report."

After learning about the scavenged elk carcass, CPW initiated an investigation, which is still ongoing.

At the site, the officers observed several large canid tracks from multiple animals surrounding the carcass. According to CPW wildlife managers, the tracks are consistent

Please see WOLVES on Page 2



Courtesy photo

Guests will enjoy some good old fashioned hockey games, warm bonfires, live theatre and a chance to get out and enjoy the winter next weekend in Creede.

Golden Pick Hockey tournament slap shots to Creede

BY LYNDSIE FERRELL

CREEDE- Now that the holidays are behind and spring is a distant light on the horizon, it is time to join Creede in a good old-fashioned pond hockey tournament. The 13th annual Golden Pick sponsored by Kip's Grill and Tommyknocker Tavern hits the ice next weekend Jan. 18 and 19. The tournament brings together two of the best qualities and brings a crowd to the area for some good old-fashioned winter fun.

This tournament has gained speed

over the years and has become a staple in Creede's long history, adding to the peaceful scenic beauty of a winter wonderland. The tournament is held at the Silver Ice Park ice skating rinks north of town which offer a beautiful backdrop at 8900 feet in elevation. Teams from all over the U.S. gather for two days of fun, hickey, live theatre and more.

The views surrounding the rinks add an incentive to those who travel from all over the U.S. to take part in the hockey tournament. Players from

all walks of life travel to Creede just to enjoy the laid-back fun tournament that caters to all levels of experience.

The tournament consists of two levels of competition and is set up in a way that ensures each participating team gets to play at least one playoff game. The schedule is a round robin format with three on three team play.

According to the schedule there will be two categories for teams to participate. This Pond Hockey Tournament will bring back childhood memories

Please see HOCKEY on Page 8

Cowboy vegetarian cookbook

When beef gets short, a lot of cowboys are forced to do without. The cook must come up with meatless meals. The following recipes are from the Cowboy Vegetarian Cookbook.

TENNIS SHOE TONGUE: Select an old one. The price is better and it may have picked up some natural flavor depending on where it has been worn. Boiling is suggested but it may also be fried to a crisp and served on a bed of marinated sweat shirt. Garnish with pickled shoe string.

SEED CORN CAP PIZZA: Carefully clean with a fish scaling knife. Remove all metal buttons, rivets and any plastic tabs. Flatten the cap by soaking in linseed oil then placing it underneath a door mat that gets heavy use. Once pliable cover it with lots of cheese and ketchup. Dry kibbles or dust motes may be sprinkled as a topping for variety.

MEADOW HAY SALAD: Choose a bale toward the middle of the stack. Break the bale being careful to remove any plastic



BAXTER BLACK
ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

twine. Take a flake and winnow it over the garage floor. Then chop the stems with a heavy blunt utensil like a bucket or hoe. For dressing, pound a kumquat sized piece of 17% protein block on a flat surface and add vinegar. Croutons chipped from corn cobs or diced styrofoam may be tossed in. Feed

whatever is left to the cows.

FAN BELT FAJITAS: The most succulent fan belt can be found on old farm equipment molding in your boneyard. It should be sliced into bite-sized chunks. Tenderize before cooking by soaking in fingernail polish remover. Fry in lard along with half a hatful of 3/4 inch black plastic hose and shredded playing cards. Serve with beer and jalapeños. It tastes a lot like abalone.

RAWHIDE STEW: Ever wondered what to do with those old reins, quirts or saddle tree bark? This recipe has been tried and tested from ancient Mongolians right up through Donner Pass. Place the strips of rawhide in a pot and boil for as many weeks as the firewood holds out. What you add to the stew depends on what's available: i.e. pine cones, hoof trimmings, iron pyrite or old hat brims. It's filling but don't expect much more.

ROASTED KAK: Ever eat a saddle? Some parts are edible. Dig a hole big enough to bury a small mule. Burn elm, cottonwood

and old tires to get a bed of coals. Wrap the saddle in a plastic tarp (blue), place it on the coals and cover with dirt. Cook for hours on end. Dig up and serve with baked faucet washers. Feeds up to two truckloads of hungry cowboys.

That should give you an idea of what you can do when you run out of beef at the ranch. There are many other Cowboy Vegetarian recipes like Latigo Jerky, Gunstock Paté and Smokin' Joe's Copenhagen Torte, but this should get you started.

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



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Dark Skies Over Crestone: Embracing the night

By KAIRINA DANFORTH

CRESTONE - The dark night sky, filled with stars and planets, is one of the assets of the San Luis Valley. It has inspired the peoples living on this land for centuries. With care it can be preserved to inspire future generations.

The Crestone community, supported by the adjoining Baca Grande Subdivision, is actively working to achieve designation as an International Dark Sky Community from the International Dark Sky Association.

Official launch of Crestone dark sky tourism, though, has begun with the recently awarded Colorado Tourism Office Marketing Matching Grant of \$25,000. Called a "Dark Sky Colorado Tour," it will connect several Colorado locations known for their dark skies and incredible stargazing opportunities, including Crestone, the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, La Veta, Creede and Lake City. The tour will also highlight dark sky events and develop daytime itineraries so visitors may take advantage of all the tourism assets the destination has to offer, as well as encouraging the conservation and preservation

of all of their natural and cultural resources.

It is a possibility that in the future the Colorado Dark Sky Tours, perhaps expanded in scope, will focus on our region as the nexus for the looming dark sky tourism market in the entire State of Colorado. The tour will include the International Dark Sky Association designated community of Westcliffe/Silver Cliff, and communities just starting the designation process such as Crestone and Creede, and the International Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. All of these communities and the Sand Dunes National Park are unified by their high elevation and low humidity, allowing for some of the best stargazing in the world.

To be awarded Dark Sky International accreditation, a community must demonstrate three things: first, meter readings demonstrating that it has exceptionally dark skies; secondly that it has robust community support; and, thirdly that it offers a unique dark sky experience. Crestone possesses the first quality in spades and has substantiating meter readings. We're similarly good with the second requirement, with strong

community support for dark sky preservation spanning 15 years.

For the third, as a community deeply rooted in a shared spirituality that transcends different circumstance, nationality, tradition, culture and even religion, we plan to offer Native American elders telling stories of long ago wisdom and knowing about our eternal, complex connection with the stars, with Nature and with all of humanity, reminding us what it means to be human and how to live in harmony with each other. Differing Native American legends, passed down verbally from generation to generation, generally shrouded in secrecy, will be presented over time. In each event, the storytelling will be accompanied by ritual fire ceremony. Some of the most sacred mountains to Native Americans overlook our area, including Blanca Peak, or White Shell Mountain as it is known to the Navajo. Whether resident or visitor, all will be invited to come and experience the spiritual connections known in local tribal tradition for generations.

Included in event planning will be Western scientific star and planetary knowledge presented by Colorado



Courtesy photo

College astronomers. Colorado College is presently planning to install a robotic research observatory and a planetarium modeled after the Chaco Canyon here on its Baca Campus.

From a survey by the National Parks Conservation Association, people have generally become desensitized to the loss of their dark night sky. Many people do not have the privilege of dark skies filled with stars. The glare of outdoor lighting has stolen the night sky from them, almost without notice.

As I have said before, 80 percent of the people in the world today will never see the Milky Way from their homes. We are part of the fortunate

few who do. I believe we can no longer take for granted something each of us is blessed with—every night—when we look up at our starry sky.

Stay tuned for updates as they are being created to support our application for designation as an International Dark Sky Community. The International Dark Sky Association was formed in 1988 and since then has awarded accreditation to only 23 applicants. Let's become the No. 24.

WOLVES

Continued from Page 1

with those made by wolves. In addition, the condition of the carcass is consistent with known wolf predation.

"The latest sightings add to other credible reports of wolf activity in Colorado over the past several years," said Romatzke. "In addition

to tracks, howls, photos and videos, the presence of one wolf was confirmed by DNA testing a few years ago, and in a recent case, we have photos and continue to track a wolf with a collar from Wyoming's Snake River pack.

Romatzke said from the evidence,

there is only one logical conclusion CPW officials can make.

"It is inevitable, based on known wolf behavior that they would travel here from states where their populations are well-established," he said. "We have no doubt that they are here, and the most recent sighting of what appears to be wolves traveling together in what can be best described as a pack is further evidence of the presence of wolves in Colorado."

Romatzke adds CPW will continue to operate under the agency's current management direction.

"We will not take direct action

and we want to remind the public that wolves are federally endangered species and fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As wolves move into the state on their own, we will work with our federal partners to manage the species," he said.

The public is urged to contact CPW immediately if they see or hear wolves or find evidence of any wolf activity. The Wolf Sighting Form can be found on the CPW website.

For more information about wolves, visit the CPW website.



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<p>This is Shela, she is Hound mix that is about 6 months old. She is very friendly and loves people.</p> 	<p>It is vital that you have your dog immunized. A puppy needs three shots for the best protection and an adult dog needs one shot. You can get these shots at your local vet clinic. IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE YOUR DOG IMMUNIZED. Parvo is a fast acting and horrible disease for your dog. It is expensive to treat but can be treated if caught early enough; but not always. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE HAD YOUR DOG IMMUNIZED.</p> <p>Also, be aware that if your dog has been exposed to Parvo prior to immunization he/she may still contract the virus!</p> 	<p>This is Todd, he is a 4 year old Pitbull mix. He has a calm temperament, is very sweet, and loves attention.</p> 
<p>This is Waffles, she is a 7 month old Pitbull mix. She is very friendly, but can have a lot of energy sometimes. She does well with some dogs but not all dogs.</p> 	<p>This is Dannie, she is a year old Boxer mix. She is friendly with people, she likes the dog that she came in with, but we are unsure of how she does with other dogs.</p> 	<p>This is Fergie, she is a year old Australian cattle dog/Border collie mix. She can be a little standoffish at first, but she's friendly and loves to play fetch. She gets along with the dog that she came in with, but does not get along with other dogs. She likes to chase cars, so she would need a well fenced in yard.</p> 

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

Never seen anything like it

SAN LUIS VALLEY - It is snowy and cold in the SLV, just that time of year. But as news about the raging Australian wildfires reaches America, seemingly painting an increasingly bleak picture of a dire situation each day, I cannot help but to wonder what might be in store for us in North America in 2020. Stories from 60+ year old Australian fire officials keep advising readers that they've never seen anything like it. We've heard those same words right here in the SLV, recently. I worked for the San Isabel National Forest in 2018 when the Spring Creek Fire crossed into Huerfano County with estimated 600 foot flame lengths. All the old "fire dogs" said the same thing: "I've never seen anything like it."

I'm emphasizing the increasing intensity of wildfires and length of "fire seasons" here in Colorado. In the 70s and 80s there were not as many wildfires in the state. I can remember the Dinosaur Fire in 1988 just north of Cañon City. That was the only big fire in the state that year. Of course, 1/3 of Yellowstone National Park saw flames that year, forging a new perspective on wildfire management for the American public.

There were a few more large wildfires per year after that but most stayed in the hundreds of acres with some burning in the low thousands. I began fighting fire in 1993 when very little happened in the state. We went to Arizona that year. In 1994 many of my trail crew members were fighting the Wake Fire when the South Canyon Fire tragedy occurred near Glenwood Springs. This senseless loss of young lives made firefighters and citizens alike ask the question "what were they up there for?" Yes, many of you remember it was a mountain densely covered with pinyon, juniper and oak brush. That's it.

Over the past 10 years or so, I've personally witnessed so many Coloradans develop a great understanding of the critical role that wildfires play in our natural environment. I'm pleased by the level of fire ecology knowledge discussions I engage with folks in Colorado communities. I sometimes wonder how these folks know this information. But I know. For the past 15 years, Colorado has been regularly dealing with large and sometimes very destructive wildfires in and around their communities.

During these incidents, dozens of Public Information Officers work tirelessly to feed the affected public critical

Land, Water and People

By GREGG GOODLAND

information that helps fill voids, calm fears and provide enough information to determine their next moves. Sometimes folks are being advised they are to remain evacuated from their homes, their lives on hold. Sometimes they hear the discussions of how fire has shaped both the geological and vegetative condition of this landscape for thousands of years.

Large wildfires have become more frequent and we find ourselves regularly comparing these fires to the worst from our past. Have you noticed that we are not reaching that far back to find the big fires to compare with? Makes you think doesn't it? Again, I am pointing out that fire seasons are now roughly 90 days longer than when I first started fighting fires. And, the fires are getting significantly larger.

These simple facts are motivating to me. I am preparing for fire season now. Sure, I live in town and most likely won't get burned out. But I have thought about where I will get my water should our community water supplies be compromised by one of these "megafires." I've worked for several years to ensure my dear friends can safely evacuate or shelter in place on their San Isabel area ranch. I would think that SLV residents would be very much aware of the potential for large wildfires here and have created survivable, or at least defensible, space around their homes.

For years people have asked me, "what do you think fire season will be like this year?" I always answer with the same reply: You can never tell until the year is over. I do know that I fully support fire managers making all of their decisions based on risk to lives, including firefighters. So, my advice is to plan for a wildfire season that may be the worst ever. Heaven forbid, if it does materialize, you will have taken steps that can serve to better position you and your family for a faster recovery. If it doesn't happen, you will be in a better position to deal with it next year.

Gregg Goodland is the new Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest.

Chew on This: Goats as Pets

Though goats are often associated with an agricultural lifestyle, these animals are being kept as pets more and more frequently. The owner of a pet goat benefits from companionship, the potential for milk production, land management by grazing, and more.

Dr. Evelyn Mackay, a clinical assistant professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, discusses the ins and outs of goat ownership that every potential owner should know.

"Goats are fun, social and playful animals," Mackay said. "They make great companions and are often very interactive and bonded to their owners."

This social nature means that potential owners should commit to getting multiple animals, so their goat has a companion.

Although goats can be companions for other animals, such as racehorses, they are happiest when with another member of their species. However, owners of multiple goats must ensure that their goats are treating each other kindly.

"Goats have a social structure and sometimes dominant goats may bully and steal food from less dominant goats," Mackay said. "This can cause problems in large groups if there are 'disagreements' between goats. Generally, they work out their issues and exist harmoniously, but groups of goats should be similarly sized, and goats with horns should not be housed with goats without horns."

Potential owners living in suburban areas should consider adopting smaller breeds of goats, like Pygmy goats or Nigerian Dwarves, which can be kept in large yards.

Full-sized pet goats, such as dairy goats and Boer goats, need plenty of room for grazing and exercise; therefore, Mackay does not recommend those breeds for potential owners living in suburban environments. In addition, parasites can become an issue if goats are too crowded or housed in an area that is too small.

Ultimately, Mackay recommends consulting with a veterinarian to determine the best type of goat for your family and living situation.

Regardless of goat size and location, it is essential that their environment provides proper nutrition; an improper diet, including human food, treats or excessive amounts of grain, can cause gastrointestinal issues and make goats very sick.



Courtesy photo

"Pet goats should always have access to some type of forage, like hay or grass," Mackay said. "Their diet can be supplemented with a little bit of concentrate (grain or pellets), but the foundation of a healthy diet should always be high-quality hay or grass. They should only be fed grain formulated for goats, since grain for other species, like cattle and horses, can cause toxicities. If they want to feed treats, consider small amounts of fruit or vegetables, but avoid kale and broccoli, which can also be toxic."

Like any animal, a goat requires annual vaccines and wellness exams with a veterinarian.

As outdoor pets, goats must also be protected from predators; Mackay says owners should ensure their pet goats are kept where they cannot be chased by dogs.

One final aspect potential owners should consider is that, as with any pet, a full-grown goat will be considerably larger than the baby they adopt.

"Everyone thinks baby goats are very cute," Mackay said, "but people should be prepared for even the smallest breeds of goats to be a minimum of 60 pounds at maturity!"

Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University.

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05 Notices

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07 Help Wanted

WANTED: Saguache County Landfill is Hiring for an additional Full Time Attendant. **REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must fill out and submit an application, must be an experienced front end loader operator and possess a valid driver's license. Applicants should have a high school diploma or GED and six months or more of relevant experience.** Final candidates applying with Saguache County will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screen and criminal background check. Pay D.O.E. Landfill Attendant is a full time 40 hour per week position - starting at 8:00 A.M. each day Tuesday through Saturday (subject

to change) Those applying must be an experienced front end loader operator, have the ability to do strenuous outdoor physical labor in extreme weather conditions and be able to lift and/or move 20 lbs. to 75 lbs. Applications are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge/Landfill Office 305 3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 - 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website - www.saguachecounty.net under the Landfill Department tab. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge/Landfill Office - at the address listed above, sent by email to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov or faxed to: 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until a qualified candidate is hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (1/22)

“The Carnegie Public Library in Monte Vista, Colorado is seeking a qualified person to fill the position of Reference Librarian, Order Clerk and Computer Technician Assistant. Inquiries and application must be made at the Colorado Work Force in Monte Vista.» (1/15)

South Fork water and Sanitation District is seeking a full time Wastewater Technician to work in South Fork Co. Wastewater industry experience a plus, but not required. Must be 18 years old with high school diploma or GED, must have a valid Colorado Driver's License, acceptable history and maintain it throughout employment. Must be Physically Capable of performing all duties required of a SFWSD Operator. Must be able to work any hour's necessary. On call schedules and holidays. Employees must live within acceptable Distance of South Fork. Application for employment available at SFWSD 28925 Hwy 160 South Fork Co. 719-873-5860 sfsan@sfwsd.org (1/15)

Seeking experienced and dependable Full and Part Time gas station cashiers and cooks in Antonito, CO. Please call (719) 580-7772 or (505) 920-0925 for an application. (01/15)

Saguache County will be accepting applications for a County Land Use Administrator until Friday, January 17, 2020. This position manages, coordinates, and supervises all aspects of the Land Use Department in relations to zon-

ing 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. 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. (01/22)

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Valley Wide Classifieds

A complete SOQ packet can be requested via email at rvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us. Submittals will be accepted until 2:00 p.m. (local time) on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 in the office of: Robert Vance, City of Monte Vista, 95 W. First Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144. 719-852-8281. The Sponsor plans to award a five-year contract for airport engineering services subject to review on an annual basis for any and all engineering projects subject to federal assistance under the Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, as amended, or other sources of funding. The contract will be for the basic airport engineering consulting services as defined herein. The City of Monte Vista reserves the right to inquire into the prospective proposer's ability to provide professional services, as defined below. The City of Monte Vista also reserves the right to amend the Schedule of Projects and contract Scope of Work at the sole discretion of The City of Monte Vista on behalf of the Monte Vista Municipal Airport. Our selection process is intended to be in compliance with the current version of FAA Advisory Circular AC-150/5100-14, "Architectural Engineering and Planning Consultant Services for Airport Grant Projects"

The Center Fire Department is looking to hire a board secretary. Individual must be self-motivated and QuickBooks proficient. Duties include: Payroll, setting up budgets, taking minutes at monthly meetings, filling state requirements, and some department business. Grant writing experience or desire to learn to write grants a plus. 50-60 Hours per month. Pay will be determined from experience. If interested send resume to Center Fire Department P.O. Box 845 Center CO 81125. (1/29)

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Telehealth for Veterans in Alamosa

ALAMOSA – The San Luis Valley is a beautiful region in south-central Colorado with an average elevation of 7,664 feet and a cold desert climate. The valley is picturesque, with the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve nestled at the foot of the usually snow-capped Sangre de Cristo Range. Just down the road from the park is the town of Alamosa, featuring a VA Clinic that is small but mighty.

During Fiscal Year 2019, more than 1,100 Veterans used the Alamosa clinic, completing 6,200 plus outpatient visits. Good things are happening at the Alamosa clinic, and the team of dedicated employees is at the heart of that progress.

The in-house Alamosa team consists of a primary care provider, a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, two telehealth technicians, a medical support assistant, and a licensed professional mental health counselor. The clinic also has remote staff, like audiologist Diane Brady, who serves Veterans from her home office.

Because Alamosa is a small town, the staff are well-known and often run into their Veteran patients at the local grocery store or gas station. Most of the staff even grew up in or near Alamosa. Telehealth tech Debra Martinez said, "I've had Veterans come up to me at the store and ask me to make them an appointment. It feels like family here."

Two of the staff members, telehealth tech Brandon Snow and counselor Donald Romero, are Veterans themselves, and most of the others have Veterans in their families. Everyone is dedicated to their work and really enjoy what they do.

Snow, a former Navy corpsman, said, "I love being able to help other Veterans, to get to know them. It's a different kind of relationship because we're so small here."

Snow recently started traveling to the nearby State Veterans Community Living Center Monday mornings to offer hearing aid services. "I pack up my gear and take our audiologist with me remotely. We help an average of five Veterans each Monday, which saves them from having to travel to our clinic."

"I love working with fellow Vets," Romero agreed. "It doesn't really feel like work, if that makes sense." He was an Army infantryman, and now uses that experience to connect with

his mental health patients. "We went through a lot of the same things, and that helps build trust. I know what it's like to eat MREs all the time. I know what it's like to be deployed. They know I get it."

Romero went on, "I enjoy working in Alamosa because it's my hometown."

For those that don't know, telehealth is much like a traditional health care appointment. If a Veteran has a telehealth appointment at Alamosa, they would go to the clinic, sign in, and have a seat in the waiting

room. A nurse would come to greet the Vet and take them to one of four exam rooms to check vitals and talk about the reason for the visit, but that is where traditional ends and progressive health care begins.

A telehealth tech enters the exam room and outlines their role in the appointment, connecting the Veteran online with the telehealth provider, who appears on a screen. From there, the tech essentially acts as the provider's hands and assists with the instructed care through the

Please see VETS on Page 6

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Courtesy photo

Kelly Gallegos, SLV Health Administrator, and serves on the local SLV Homeless Coalition Board

Homeless Coalition has successful first year

By **ETHAN CATON**

SAN LUIS VALLEY - In the spring of 2019, members of the Alamosa community came together to create the Homeless Coalition. The goal of the Coalition is to address issues such as non-sheltered person's exposure and possible death due to the subzero temperatures existing in the San Luis Valley.

Shanae Diaz, Director for Volunteer Coordination, along with other members of the La Puente team, established contact with Steve Hills, owner of Glenn Army Surplus in Colorado Springs. Steve generously donated bags and boxes of army surplus cold weather gear and clothing such as hats, gloves, boots, pants and jackets.

Coalition member Kelly Gallegos, Senior Administrator at San

Luis Valley Health, spread the word throughout the SLVH organization of a need for volunteers to aid in sorting, folding and organizing the cold weather gear. Many San Luis Valley Health employees showed up and made quick work of unloading and sorting the 45-50 bags and 10-15 boxes of clothing that arrived on short notice.

This clothing will have a significant impact on the lives of the homeless population in Alamosa that may not be able to find somewhere warm to sleep or choose not to seek shelter. Alamosa is without a "warming shelter" and the Coalition is addressing this gap in services.

The clothing gathered and sorted by the Homeless Coalition and volunteers will be distributed by La Puente.

VETS

Continued from Page 1

monitor. These techs and the nurse use a variety of tools to help the provider see inside ears and throats, listen to hearts and lungs, check blood pressure and other tasks, just like an in-house provider does. The provider looks at the results on screen and then instructs the tech and nurse what to do next, until the end of the appointment.

The process may seem strange to those who've never had a telehealth appointment, but many Veterans say it's not much different from having a provider in the room. Romero says, "I provide mental health counseling to Veterans in remote locations via something like Skype, or Facetime, on a screen. I can see and hear the Vet, and he or she can see and hear me." Romero thinks more appointments will be done via telehealth in the future. "It's a great tool, especially since we live out in rural Colorado, and the weather can be bad."

Whether a Veteran comes to the Alamosa clinic for an in person visit or a telehealth appointment with a remote provider, they will be met with a friendly health care experience, where sense of community is proud and prevalent.

From time to time, Veterans on vacation in the San Luis Valley stop into the clinic with questions or requests and the staff does what they can to help. It's all part of that small-town charm.

If you'd like to learn more about the VA Alamosa Outpatient Clinic,

visit <https://www.denver.va.gov/locations/Alamosa.asp>

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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ACROSS

1. Vital part of a lock
5. Adherent of Zoroastrianism
10. European river
14. Nonprofit public health group
15. Make law
16. Three-banded armadillo
17. Monetary unit
18. Sandwich-like dishes
19. Sicilian city
20. Finger millet
22. Of she
23. Bullfighting maneuvers
24. Lawyers
27. A place to relax
30. Often said after "Hee"
31. Supervises flying
32. Cheer of approval
35. Something spiders twirl
37. Aggressive dog
38. Long-legged gazelle
39. Mogul emperor
40. Baltic peninsula
41. Fencing sword
42. A reward (archaic)
43. Pigeon sound
44. Type of groove
45. Inquire too closely
46. Nine Inch Nails' debut (abbr.)
47. An often unwelcome guest
48. Something you can draw
49. Songs to one's lover
52. Eastern Cairo mosque
55. A partner to cheese
56. Absorption unit
60. A type of sandwich

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18					19				
20				21	22			23					
			24	25				26					
27	28	29		30			31			32	33	34	
35			36			37			38				
39					40				41				
42				43			44						
45				46			47			48			
			49			50			51				
52	53	54				55			56		57	58	59
60					61			62	63				
64					65				66				
67					68					69			

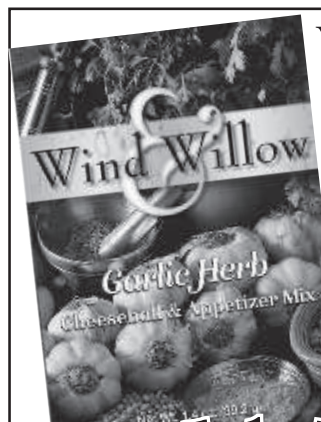
61. Herbaceous plant
63. Chinese temple classification
64. Native person of central Volga
65. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
66. Some take them up
67. South American nation
68. Threaten persistently
69. Morningwear

26. Body part
27. Mischievous child
28. Popular card game
29. Building occupied by monks
32. Spiritual leader
33. Independent ruler
34. He wrote about the Gold Rush
36. Bundle of banknotes
37. Corporate honcho
38. Touch softly
40. Made by oneself
41. Satisfies
43. Subcompact Toyota crossover
44. Cool!
46. Popular vegetable
47. Flower cluster
49. Transylvanian city
50. Robert and Stephen are two
51. Philippine island
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. He played Perry Mason
57. Ballpoint pen
58. Metrical foot
59. It has nostrils
61. Confederate soldier
62. Take in solid food

DOWN

1. German courtesy title
2. Samoan capital
3. A type of carpet
4. Upper bract of grass
5. Al Bundy's wife
6. In a careless way
7. More uncommon
8. Expressing contempt
9. Belonging to a thing
10. Adventure stories
11. Copycats
12. Farewell
13. Greek mythological builder
21. Colorless, volatile liquid
23. Monetary unit of Burma
25. Bar bill

Business Showcase



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Valley Calendar

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

Jan. 15

ALAMOSA - THE RIO IS FRIO entry deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 15. Course conditions are looking excellent this year! Reminder for Race registrations and/or shirts. For your allotted race registrations, visit <https://forms.gle/fn5VyN72jPXn9U3r8>. Please complete the form by January 15. Use this form if folks just want the shirt too; instructions are provided in the form. Any additional registrations will be invoiced to your organization at \$25 per person and will be subject to your approval, as the sponsor representative.

Jan. 18 & 19

CREEDE- The 13th Annual Golden Pick Pond Hockey tournament will kick off this year Jan. 18 and 19. The tournament consists of two levels of competition and is set up in a way that ensures each participating team gets to play at least one playoff game by the end. The schedule is known to hockey enthusiasts as a round robin format with a three on three team play. Registration is now open, so be sure to visit www.creedepondhockey.wordpress.com to get signed up!

Jan. 18

CRESTONE - Shumei International Institute will be holding its next symposium in its Whole Living Symposia series. Nicholas Chambers will be the next presenter Saturday, Jan. 18, from 10 to 11 a.m. Nick will be sharing how he sees the realities of local food, renewable energy, and local economy in a time of ubiquitous instant gratification and commoditized everything. This event is free to the public. To learn more visit www.shumeicrestone.org or call 719-256-5284.

SALIDA - The Backcountry Film Festival will be at the Salida Steam Plant Event Center located at 220 W Sackett Ave. January 18. The Festival is produced by the Winter Wildlands Alliance as a celebration of the human-powered winter experience. Funds raised at each screening stay in the local community to support human-powered recreation and conservation efforts, winter education and avalanche/safety programs, and to raise awareness of winter management issues. Adventure, environment, and climate, youth outdoors, and ski culture are represented in this award-winning lineup. Tickets are \$12.00 for CMC Members and \$15.00 for the general public.

Jan. 19

CRESTONE - Bill Ellzey, long time Crestone resident and founder of the Shumei International Artist Symposium program, will be showing his work at the Shumei Gallery in Crestone for the months of January and February. A symposium with Ellzey will be held Sunday, Jan. 19, starting at 3 p.m. A reception will follow.

ONGOING

ALAMOSA — Pregnant? Need Help? Call the San Luis Valley Life Center at 589-6698 for free and confidential pregnancy testing; earn while you learn parenting program;

post abortive support STI testing and more. Office open Monday-Thursday 2-5:30 p.m., 3211 Main Street, Alamosa

ALAMOSA — Circle of Parents in Recovery provides a safe, supporting, confidential, non-judgmental environment where parents can openly discuss the successes and challenges of parenting in recovery. Circle of Parents in Recovery values reciprocity and the development of leadership among participants. The group will meet every first and third Tuesday from 4-5:30 p.m. at Living Water Bible Fellowship 2019 Clark Street Alamosa. Contact Mary Lambert for more information (719)587-6965 or mlambert@slvbhg.org

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

DEL NORTE - The Peace Education Program, PEP, will be presented at Wildwood Sounds, 850 Grande Ave. in Del Norte, on Thursdays beginning Nov. 7 through Jan. 23 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Wildwood Sounds in Del Norte. This free media based program presents a unique perspective on life. It is nonreligious and nonsectarian presenting 10 themed sessions. The themes are peace, appreciation, inner strength, self-awareness, clarity, understanding, hope and contentment.

DEL NORTE — Tuesdays and Saturdays at the Ruth Marie, or by appointment: Piano and music lessons with professional pianist, Allan Stuart (719-754-2576; greenshadowmusic@gmail.com) Call for more info.

Wednesdays at the Ruth Marie: Yoga with Leigh Anne Lobato from 5 to 6:15 p.m. donation fee of \$5-\$6 to The Ruth Marie. Phone 850-0750, lobato@myamigo.net

Thursdays at the Ruth Marie: Kundalini Yoga with Milcah (849-1954, 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 — Pool Playing for men and women every day at the Tri-County Senior Center, 311 Washington. Tournaments held periodically with other San Luis Valley Senior Centers

MONTE VISTA - The San Luis Valley Nutrition program for the elderly serves nutritional meals at the Tri-County Senior Center, 311 Washington Monday through Friday of each week at noon. Meals are open to seniors age 60 and over. Membership or building residency is not necessary for participation in activities or meals at the Tri-County Senior Center. The Nutrition program is administered by South Central Colorado Seniors. For

additional information please call 852-2687

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

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

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

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Native seedlings for sale

SOUTHEAST COLORADO - The Colorado State Forest Service is selling affordable seedling trees, grown by its Seedling Tree Nursery, to residents of the state in support of the Trees for Conservation program. The seedling season is now underway, and residents may purchase a multitude of species in preparation for spring plantings.

With winter weather underway and spring months approaching, now is the perfect time for residents to purchase new seedlings to improve forest health, offer budding flowers for pollinators and increase the overall growth of the forest. The CSFS is offering many different species, from large evergreens, such as Colorado blue spruce and Douglas fir, to hardy bare-root shrubs, such as caragana. Not only can planting seedlings improve the health of Colorado's forests, but it can also offer increased property values, wind and snow protection for homes, and even energy savings.

To purchase seedling trees, please visit csfs.colostate.edu/southeast/ and download the 2020 Order Form. Once you have filled out this form, you may mail it to the corresponding address for your pick-up location, or you can scan and email it to csfs_woodland-park@mail.colostate.edu.

For more information about the seedling tree program, please call (719) 687-2951.



<https://www.facebook.com/ValleyPublishing>

HOCKEY

Continued from Page 1

of pick-up games played against friends. Pure fun, not levels. There were always a few good players – and everyone else. That is what the Golden Pick is all about!

There are two levels in this tournament: a Level 1 Team might have a couple of people that played in high school but were not stars, with the remaining players having a good mix of skills. A Level 2 Team might have one or two people that played organized hockey, but not necessarily in high school, and the rest of the team has just started to get into hockey. Level 1 Team for pond hockey in Creede would have one Level 1 player, one or two level 2 players, and the rest level 3 and 4 players. A Level 2 Team would have 2 or 3 level 3 players and the rest level 4 or 5.

In February 2015, a well-known actor and producer heard of Creede through

word-of-mouth and decided it was the perfect location to film his current project. Jason Mamoa with Pride of Gypsies Production Company came to Creede to film the 2015 Carhartt commercial and ended up donating a shed that would house the vintage Zamboni machine.

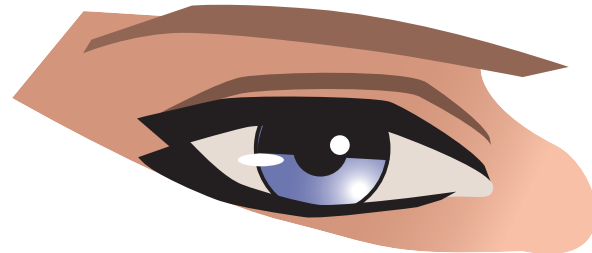
Mamoa and his crew spent several weeks in the area, filming at different locations in and around the county. Mamoa utilized many of the local residents in the commercials. When the commercials were finished, and the film crew was preparing to leave, a dedication ceremony of sorts was held at the new shed donated to the Silver Ice Park by Mamoa and his production company. A wonderful and much needed addition to the already favored park. The commercials can be viewed in full at www.creedepondhockey.wordpress.com.



Courtesy photo

Hockey enthusiasts only have one more week to wait until they can hit the ice in Creede for the 13th annual Golden Pick Hockey Tournament!

January is National Eye Care Month



What is astigmatism?

Astigmatism is a vision problem caused by a blurred image on the retina. The cornea, which is the transparent membrane located in front of the iris, refracts light rays onto the retina. The trajectory of these rays has to be curved in order to reach the retina. Normally, the cornea is round, a bit like a ball cut in half. However, the cornea of someone with astigmatism is more oval, like a football. In other words, the trajectory of the light isn't sufficiently curved and rays are not uniformly focused on the retina, causing blurred vision at all distances.

As a result, if someone with an uncorrected astigmatism looks at a cross, the focus of the horizontal line will not be at the same place as that of the vertical line; one of the lines will be clear, but the other will be blurred. In order to see the two lines as clearly as possible at the same time, the eye has to focus on them one after the other. The eye does double the work and suffers from eyestrain. That is why it is important to consult an optometrist to correct astigmatism.



Should I have my eyes checked every year?

How often you have your eyes checked depends on your age, your health and your family history.

Ideally, it is best to see an optometrist every two years. However, people who wear glasses or contact lenses should have their eyes checked every year. Your optometrist may recommend more frequent monitoring if you have any problems or a family history of diabetes or glaucoma. After the age of 65, an annual or biennial examination is recommended. Children should have their eyes examined at the age of six months then again at three years old, five years old and annually during their school years.

Whatever your age or your children's age, it is always best to make an appointment for an eye examination whenever any eye discomfort or problems occur, such as eye pain, a feeling of pressure in the eyeball and difficulties with distance or close-up vision.

What are the symptoms of cataracts?

Cataracts are not painful, and the affected eye doesn't itch, burn or water. Instead, the symptoms of this disease are related to vision. Why? Because the crystalline lens inside the eye, which focuses light on the retina to create a clear image, becomes increasingly opaque.

In addition to causing cloudy or blurred vision, cataracts give you the impression of looking through frosted glass, and bright colors seem dull. People who suffer from this disease are more sensitive to bright light and need better lighting for close-up activities. Lastly, cataracts can lead to double vision and sensitivity to glare.

Use of the affected eye won't accelerate this disease's progression. In other words, it's useless to deprive yourself of your favorite activities in order to prevent it from getting worse. Instead, take care of your eyesight by consulting an optometrist in the early stages of the disease and by updating the prescription of your glasses whenever necessary.



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