

NUGGETS Community Notes for Mineral County

Nomination petitions for Center trustee positions

CENTER - Nomination petitions for three town of Center trustee positions and the mayor's position are now available from the Town of Center. Petitions must be turned in to town hall no later than Monday, Jan. 27, by 5 p.m.

Ski Hi Regional Event & Conference Center presentation

DEL NORTE - The Upper Rio Grande Economic Development monthly breakfast meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020, at 7 a.m. at the Windsor Hotel in Del Norte. This month's program is presented by Karla Shriver and Kathy Woods, Friends of Ski Hi Park, about "The New Ski Hi Regional Event & Conference Center" Project. Shriver and Woods will give a PowerPoint presentation with an overview and update of the plan and momentum behind this exciting project. This may be the largest Economic Development project in Rio Grande County this year.

Health insurance open enrollment ends Jan. 15

COLORADO - Open health insurance enrollment for Colorado ends Wednesday, Jan. 15. That is the last chance for Colorado residents to purchase health insurance on the open marketplace for 2020. If you are not sure how or what insurance plans are best for you, talk to a navigator and purchase health insurance online from <https://connectforhealthco.com>.

"Invest in your
Community!"



SHOP LOCAL

Bogle running for District 2 commissioner's seat



G. Lyn Bogle

BY TERESA L. BENNS

CENTER — Last week G. Lyn Bogle announced his candidacy for Saguache County Commissioner for Commissioner District 2. This seat is currently held by Ken Anderson, who is leaving the office due to term limitations.

Bogle and his wife, Pam, have lived and owned property in Saguache County for 52 years. During that time, he has been mainly involved in agriculture on his own and as the farm manager for a corporate organic farm in Center.

He also has worked for Saguache County as undersheriff. "During that time I became very familiar with Saguache County in its entirety," Bogle said. "I worked with many of the county residents and solved many problems during this tenure."

Bogle has owned a business within the Town of Center and, after selling it, purchased two other businesses

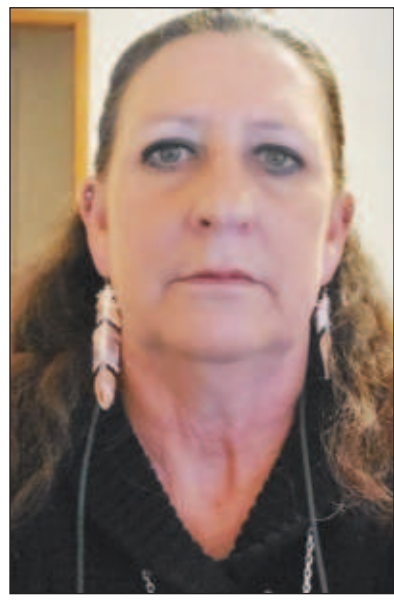
that were having financial problems. He said that while operating these businesses, he alleviated the financial problems and made them profitable, selling one and continuing to operate the other.

"I feel my experience in agriculture and business have equipped me to troubleshoot and resolve problems that exist, or will exist," Bogle observed.

"Currently, I am president of Center Consolidated Schools' School Board. I have served on this board for the past five years and have learned that governing boards, of any kind, are a team effort. Communication skills and insight to the needs of the entity are paramount."

Bogle also has served on several nonprofit boards throughout the years, among them the Monte Vista Elks Lodge board of directors, Monte Vista Parks and Recreation Board and Ski

Please see BOGLE on Page 2A



Wendi Maez

County administrator plans to "move forward"

BY TERESA L. BENNS

SAGUACHE — After her appointment as county administrator last month, Wendi Maez, who has served Saguache County for the past 35 years, laid out plans for her new position in 2020.

Maez says she is not an SLV "native" — her family moved to the Valley in 1975. Her mother at one time also worked for the county.

"I started working for Saguache County in June 1984 in the clerk's office," Maez said in an email Monday. "A few years later I went to work for the assessor's office and part-time for the Land Use office."

Maez has served as the county Land Use Administrator for the past 18 years. Concurrently she also has served as Co-County Administrator for 13 of those years. Saguache County is currently advertising for a new Land Use administrator to "manage, coordinate, and supervise all aspects of the Land Use Department in relations to zoning and subdivision regulations and other land uses within the County."

Applications for the position will be accepted until Jan. 17.

Many of those who have kept an eye on turnovers in the County Administrator position in the past two years have expressed concerns that Saguache County finances are in disarray and need a strong hand to bring them under control. The county has a history of being late filing its audits and applying the necessary internal controls. County officials also have been cited for failing to maintain proper internal controls for nearly a decade. The audit notes these issues go back as far as 2009.

Chris Parker with Hinkle and
Please see MAEZ on Page 3A

Local sheriffs respond to Red Flag Law enforcement



by Trey Spaulding

Beginning Jan. 1, a Colorado resident can have their firearms temporarily confiscated if evidence that a person poses a significant risk to self or others by having a firearm in his or her custody or control or by possessing, purchasing or receiving a firearm.

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

SAN LUIS VALLEY- In light of the new year many new laws have come into effect as of Jan. 1 including the controversial Red Flag Gun Law. The sheriffs in the western end of the

Valley have gone on record about enforcement of the law.

The Red Flag law creates the ability for a family or household member or a law enforcement officer to petition the court for a temporary extreme

risk protection order (ERPO). The petitioner for an ERPO must establish by a preponderance of the evidence that a person poses a significant risk to self or others by having a firearm

Please see RED FLAG on Page 3A

New snow on old raises avalanche concern

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

WOLFCREEK- It has been almost two weeks since the last snowstorm moved over the San Juan Mountain Range and now the older snow has heightened avalanche danger from minimal to moderate. According to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center or CAIC the high country is heading into a period of unsettled weather beginning Thursday, Jan. 9.

In a post shared on Facebook the CAIC stated, "We are heading into a

Please see SLIDE on Page 3A



Courtesy Photo

Photo of a slab avalanche caused by a person snowshoeing at the top of the ridge.

OBITUARIES

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 stills 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) Manzanaras of Castle Rock, Colorado; sons Mike Crawford of Greeley, Colorado, and Bob Crawford of Florida; grandsons Eric (Tera) Manzanaras of Highlands Ranch, Colorado, and John (Katie) Manzanaras 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.

GARY THOMAS

SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

— Gary Thomas Neamon, 69, of San Diego, California, passed away Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019. He passed the way he lived: courageously and peacefully, with faith in God, and in the arms of his daughter, with his wife by his side.

Gary was born in Olean, NY, on Sept. 25, 1950, and raised in Delevan, New York. He graduated from Pioneer Central High School and went on to play college football in Colorado at TSJC, earned an AA, and met the love of his life,



Mary Catherine Romero. He played football at Adams State, and married Mary in August 1972. In 1980, Gary became a father. He worked in the private sector for 15 years before spending 25 years as a teacher and coach at Center High School. He was an avid mountain biker, road biker, skier and world traveler. In January 2012, Gary became a Grandfather to identical twin girls. In July 2013, Gary and Mary moved to San Diego to live with and care for their granddaughters. He lived in San Diego until his passing. Gary was a loyal, honest and hardworking man, whose word was his bond. He will be greatly missed.

Gary is survived by: wife Mary, daughter Jessica, granddaughters Alexandra and Catherine, family by choice: Rex and Kathy Dickman, Gil and Bertha Gonzales, and Dave Furukawa; biological sisters Patricia (Michael) Warner, Susan (Randy) Lester, Barbara (Rick) Muskopf, Margaret Kline and Kathleen (Mike) Riley; and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, George and Laura Neamon, brother Don Neamon and niece Hannah Kline

Gary's rosary will be at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Monte Vista, where he was a parishioner and Knight of Columbus for over 20 years. His vigil is Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. and his memorial mass is Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 1 p.m. at St. Joseph's.

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



BOGLE

Continued from Page 1A

Hi Stampede, Inc. board of directors.

He has been a registered Democrat for all his years in Saguache County. "I do believe in accountability and transparency in government and will work toward keeping the residents of this county informed," he remarked.

Bogle said he doesn't make "campaign promises" regarding things he is not fully knowledgeable about. "In the months to come I will be exploring the problems within the county and working on resolutions to those problems," he explained. "Many residents have expressed their concerns to me as well and I will be looking into these concerns.

"I truly believe that a commissioner is an employee of the people of the county. My door will always be open to all of the residents and employees of the county, to hear their concerns or desires and take appropriate actions."

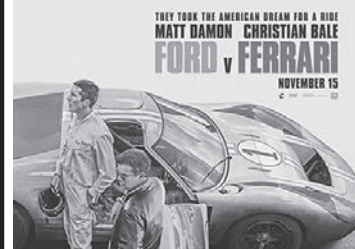
He reiterated that "one person cannot do it all, it takes the whole board to make things happen. I look forward to working with the other two commissioners to make a better

Saguache County."

In closing, Bogle asks for the support and votes of Saguache County residents. "I believe that Saguache County has a bright future and I want to be a part of that future," he concluded.

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MAEZ

Continued from Page 1A

Company of Greenwood Village, Colorado presented the audit Nov. 5. Regarding internal control issues, auditors wrote:

“The county does not have a complete system of internal controls to prevent and detect financial misstatements. The county does not have an individual whose responsibility is to oversee the overall accounting and financial reporting functions. As a result, the individual departments are not brought together and coordinated, with proper monthly reconciliations being performed and financial reporting prepared.

The auditors recommend the county “continue its search for personnel who can provide the county with a finance director duties and functions.”

The county’s response to this was:

RED FLAG

Continued from Page 1A

in his or her custody or control; or by possessing, purchasing or receiving a firearm. The petitioner must submit an affidavit signed under oath and penalty of perjury that sets forth facts to support the issuance of a temporary ERPO and a reasonable basis for believing they exist. The court must hold a temporary ERPO hearing in person or by telephone on the day the petition is filed or on the court day immediately following the day the petition is filed. Many Colorado residents believe the new law infringes on their constitutional rights.

In a brief interview with Rio Grande County Sheriff Don McDonald, the sheriff stated in reference to the new law that he and his crew will uphold the constitution and will handle each case on a case by case basis. “We already have restraining orders and other laws that prohibit people that may be mentally unstable to be in possession of firearms. Those laws have worked for countless years and with this new law I sincerely feel we have awoken a sleeping giant. There

SLIDE

Continued from Page 1A

period of unsettled weather beginning Thursday. Before an incoming storm, forecasters pay close attention to the old snow surface. We ask ourselves what the new storm snow will be falling on. Will the new snow bond well to this surface? Or is it falling on a crust or surface facets that could be our next weak layer? As you move around your favorite backcountry locale, be a forecaster; take a mental picture (or an actual picture), where are the wind slabs we have been avoiding the last week? How is the current snow surface going to interact with this week’s new snow? You’ll be prepared to make decisions as conditions change. This photo was taken yesterday by our Highway 550 forecasters looking at surface conditions in highway paths ahead of the next storm.”

As of Dec. 30, Wolf Creek Ski Resort reported 193 inches of snow for the season. A hardened one to two-inch layer is now on top of powder snow. This hardened surface can cause

The county recognizes the need for a finance director to coordinate all accounting and financial reporting functions and strengthen internal controls on a daily basis. While management believes it is difficult to find and retain a qualified finance director, the effort will continue.” At that time the county administrator position had not yet been filled.

Former County Administrator Glen Simpson’s resume shows he had a strong financial background. Simpson, who resigned earlier this year, told the county in his letter of resignation:

“It took me only a couple of weeks to identify vulnerabilities in both your accounting, timekeeping and payment procedures. Weaknesses in payroll, accounts payable and the general ledger are vulnerable to both fraud and embezzlement.”

The auditor also reported problems with Road and Bridge. The department

went some \$413,000 over its \$3.1 million budget, “which may violate state statute. Next year, take a closer look.” Simpson told commissioners in his letter:

“The problem at Road and Bridge is much more than pay rates. Again, you’re aware of the problem, you know what needs to be done, but continue to ignore it.” The auditors also pointed out that county departments don’t work well together, echoing Simpson’s observations.

In her email Monday, Maez said: “I feel Saguache County has the staff to handle the finances as they are right now — until we can get the finances updated that need corrected and move forward with the possibility of purchasing a new financial system in the future.

“Right now, Saguache County has had several changes within the administration office that [county] employees have had to work through.

My vision for the near future is to get everything current and back to where it was supposed to be. We also need to get a new financial system to move us forward.”

Simpson comments

Some have indicated that Simpson was the actual cause of the financial problems in the county that resulted in the above report last year, but this is not supported by over 10 years of audits and other data. In a telephone interview Jan. 3, 2020, Simpson observed that Maez will be great at getting information to commissioners and helped him a lot while he served as administrator.

He wishes her “good luck,” he says, but pointed out that neither Maez nor any of the individuals currently assisting her have the financial skills to deal with the county’s budget and finances. “It would take four years of college to acquire that financial knowledge,” he commented. “I told

them when I left that I hoped they would hire a financial person.”

He says that he tried to get information out of the county’s new auditors and schedule a time for them to come physically and review the books before he left but was unsuccessful. The outside information he gathered did not jive with the figures submitted by a financial consultant the county was using in Grand Junction, so the entire process was stymied. And the auditors just kept stalling, he said.

Commissioners had issues with the new auditors themselves last year after finding multiple errors in the report. The errors were later corrected, and the auditors told the county that as long as figures for the audit were submitted in a timely manner next year, they would have the audit completed much earlier.

is no way that this law will do anyone any good.”

McDonald and Rio Grande County Commissioners have passed a resolution classifying Rio Grande County as a “sanctuary” county. The resolution states, “Whereas, the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Grande County, Colorado, pursuant to Colorado Statute is vested with the authority of administering the affairs of Rio Grande County, Colorado, and Whereas the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, adopted in 1791 as part of the Bill of Rights, protects the inalienable and individual right of the people to keep and bear arms.”

The resolution declaring Rio Grande County as a “sanctuary” county was recorded by Rio Grande County Clerk and Recorder March 21, 2019, and will be used as a means to uphold the Second and Fourth Amendment’s set forth by the Constitution and Bill of Rights and will be unforced by Rio Grande County Sheriff in light of the new law. “We took our oaths of office on the

Constitution and that is what we will uphold,” stated McDonald.

Sheriff Fred Hosselkus in Mineral County took a similar stance on the topic but also stated that he will do as ordered by the courts. “We are a sanctuary county and will uphold the constitution, but we will do as ordered by a court of law if an order comes through to confiscate weapons. I trust the court system and will abide by those orders. Everything will be handled on a case by case basis and we will leave it up to the courts to decide whether or not we will confiscate weapons based on a complaint. We have a due process and an investigation will be performed before any action is taken.”

In Saguache County, Saguache County Sheriff Dan Warwick says he cannot in good conscience enforce the passed red flag bill for Colorado. “I don’t agree with it by any means,” Warwick commented. “The law is poorly written and it violates constitutional rights.” Accused individuals should be issued a summons to appear in court for a

hearing regarding having their guns removed, but as the law now stands, the accusations can be made against them and they have no right to be advised of the hearing or plead their case.

“This is no different than being charged with any other crime,” Warwick pointed out. “You get your day in court. They can say it’s a law, but that doesn’t mean we have to enforce it. Who’s to say what is more important — what takes precedence — to violate someone’s constitutional rights or to obey the ‘law’?”

The new law will face many legal challenges, he added, and until it is actually declared constitutional, which could take a U.S. Supreme Court determination, “I can’t enforce the law if there is a constitutional question.”

Warwick went on to explain that mental health providers should be the ones reporting potentially dangerous individuals to law enforcement or the courts because they have the expertise to determine when a true danger exists and when it does not. Privacy and

legal issues, however, prevent them from providing this information, and these are the issues that should have been addressed, he said.

The legislature should have explored how to empower mental health to better make these determinations, Warwick observed, so they could distinguish who should temporarily have their firearms removed and returned within a short period of time and who should not possess firearms at all. Mental health providers would then be able to work in concert with the courts to provide such information on which a judge could base a decision. Better supervision and training of mental health personnel would also be in order to assure proper treatment and evaluation of those referred by the courts.

Colorado is the 15th state to pass a red flag law and pro-gun activists across the state have filed a lawsuit hoping to have the new law overturned in coming months. The law has caused an upheaval of controversy ever since it was proposed by Governor Jared Polis last summer.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Chomp, chomp, chomp

This week once again found Miss Trixie and Ol' Dutch in the throes of gathering the harvest for future meals and, let me tell you, it was an effort of monumental proportions.

Most of my readers who follow along willingly -- or not so willingly -- each week probably know that Ol' Dutch is a hunter who is getting close to surpassing even Nimrod of biblical fame. Well, I have been lucky of late and someone once said "better to be lucky than good." To which all fishermen, hunters, divorcees and lottery winners give a rousing "Amen."

So far the lottery has eluded me, but I am working on that after my recent run of luck in the hunting and gathering department so surely I'll soon be sporting one of those oversized checks with lots of zeros.

Archeologists tell us that we all come from a long line of ancestors who traversed the land and hunted or gathered plants for food as they traveled. Civilization has reduced that effort to now only needing a weeklong trip to the Piggly Wiggly Food Center to sack up our groceries. (That Piggly Wiggly trip may not take a week, but to a male member of the tribe, any stop for shopping seems to stretch into a week.)

Miss Trixie and I have been on a kick the last five years or so of only eating what we harvest. Well that's a stretch as far as vegetables go but at least what meat we do eat Ol' Dutch, the epitome of Elmer Fudd, has been on a roll and our freezers are full to overflowing.

In the fall I was fortunate enough to talk an elk, bear and pronghorn into going home with me but little did I know that our journey to almost being a full-time butcher shop had begun.

A trip into Kansas in December also proved to be either lucky or fortuitous but either way we came home with two fat grain fed Kansas deer for the larder.

After that it finally seemed that Ol' Dutch would get a break from nonstop cutting and grinding and stuffing of good tasting vittles, but Miss Trixie had other plans on her mind and this week proved to be a plethora of blessings once again food wise. She found meat: Black Angus pure-fed beef to boot.

One of the neighbors had a Black Angus heifer with a bad case of constipation. Even though the area vet theorized it was a plastic bag and administered mineral oil in copious quantities, the poor cow could not pass that obstruction. So in the end she had to be relieved of her misery and we became the recipient of 500 pounds of great tasting steaks,



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

burgers and ribs.

You might think that was just plain lucky on our part or unlucky on the farmers part. Since this all happened on new year's day and no butcher shops were open, the cow needed to go to a team of first-rate (and readily available) at-home butchers. And, that is how Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie got to enjoy the fruits of the farmer's labors.

After the deed was done Ol' Dutch dug into the innards of the great beast and found a plastic bag and I think it may have been one from a local grocery, thereby completing the cycle of getting our food from the store just like most of America. Well sort of.

Long a hunter I was able to dissect said abomasum without retching as some of you may be doing as you read this. I felt just like The Incredible Doctor Pol who is a veterinarian on television and does this kind of thing for his viewers' pleasure.

The farmer was relieved to know the cause as he didn't want it to be a problem with the herd and I was duly impressed that the vet could diagnose that so readily without a ninth grade anatomy lesson in the field.

No. 1 son Bubs and the two grandkids #1 and #2 came out and they pitched in to get the protein in the freezer. It was a great day of family working together for food.

Miss Trixie promised Bubs meat as payment and he is already planning a steak cook-out for all of his friends with my beef. Now, there is the ultimate hunter and gatherer for you.

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 Bennis family

To the editor,

Josiah Bennis and Larry and Teresa Bennis wish to thank all those who have shown us kindness following the loss of Tristen 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 teachers and staff and Sargent parents who provided

more than 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.

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 Bennis
Larry and Teresa Bennis

Silver Thread Public Health gives thanks

To the editor,

CREEDE - Silver Thread Public Health District's Mineral County location in Creede is celebrating and thanking all of its many donors for the amount of monies raised for our community in 2019! We are so humbled and grateful that so many people care enough about others in need or for those experiencing a time of difficulty, by opening up their pocketbooks, especially during times when relying on community support and donations is imperative to all of our well beings.

As we enter a new year and a new decade, let us pause to remember that many of the successes in our community are shared and the love is spread throughout because of the generous hearts of so many who are either passing through Creede or spend summers here or live here full time! We are a blessed community and we'd really like to thank everyone for their amazing contributions. In the photo are members from the Alpine Resort Ministries, a summer group who conduct their services out

of the beautiful Mountain View RV park, located by Creede's airport and our own local County Administrator accepting a \$4000 check designated for our Senior Lunch Program. In addition to that donation, our MCPH Food Pantry received a check for \$575 and \$400 in K-Belle coupon cards from Alpine Resort Ministries. Throughout the summer months this same group donates bags upon bags of groceries for use in the Food Bank. We are eternally grateful to their big hearts and openness to our Creede community.

We would like to further acknowledge all other important organizations in Creede and outside of Creede who often give and donate several times in the year or sometimes just once per year, but all of these contributions are vital to our continued service and community support in lending a hand to those in need or those who are hungry. These organizations include but are not limited to The St. Augustine Episcopal Church in Creede, the Creede Baptist Church, the Creede

Community Church, Ladies Aid of Creede, the Catholic Church in Creede, Del Norte Bank in Creede, and our very own K-Belle, the best little country store in Colorado! We have also received sizable annual contributions from The Tucker Foundation out of Dallas, Texas, the Spar City Corporation, the Creede Baptist Campground Ministries, San Juan Catholic Community out of Monte Vista, Blue Creek Lodge Campers, and so many other individuals who we know and some who remain anonymous.

Silver Thread Public Health District and Mineral County Public Health working together as one entity is excited to see 2020 and the challenges ahead of us, even as we reflect upon the amazing work accomplished now behind us, we are thankful to be a part of our Creede Community!

Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!
STPHD and MCPH

Rio Grande Hospital investing in the community

To the editor,

DEL NORTE - Recently Rio Grande Hospital (RGH) brought in some expert providers for a variety of different needs. Bringing specialists to our area is beneficial and an investment in our future. Often the tools needed to grow aren't found locally, so Rio Grande Hospital's dedicated staff searched for the best fit and brought them in. RGH is happy to use this strategy not only on health initiatives, but also other vital components of our hospital and clinics like employee relations.

RGH had a motivational speaker, Richard Hadden, speak to their employees. Hadden, who comes from Jacksonville, Florida, is best known for his work with service excellence. RGH hosted an evening session and invited the community and area businesses for the free event to take advantage of his knowledge. Hundreds came out to Del Norte to hear Hadden speak about employee engagement and retention.

Also recently, RGH had world-renowned plastic microvascular surgeon, Dr. Pulikkottil, of the Burn and Reconstructive Centers of Colorado at Swedish Medical Center talk to their clinical staff about different scenarios and examples of some of his many success stories which included the recently viral story of a man being mauled by a grizzly bear who credits Dr. Pulikkottil and staff for helping to reconstruct his face and reattach his nose. Dr. Pulikkottil has been asked to fly to other areas to help with similar surgeries. His insight and education will help the clinical staff at RGH take measures to help save bodily extremities.

Additionally, RGH partnered with a leading national provider of hospital wound care and hyperbaric oxygen therapy programs, Wound Care Advantage (WCA). WCA helps educate and train many of the best Wound Care programs in the U.S. They help with a variety of wound care and continuum of care with

systems in place to monitor each case precisely. WCA helped RGH help patients heal much quicker than the national average. RGH has been saving limbs in its new Wound Care Department for over a year now and has exceeded 1100 wound visits.

RGH's Development & Communications Officer Eva Timberlake said, "Investing in these types of relationships is an investment to our community, and we enjoy offering educational services to our staff and the community. It will only make us and our community stronger. Many of these external groups have come back with their families to enjoy our beautiful area. Once they come to our Valley, they fall in love." Interactions like this help the economic development of the San Luis Valley, just some of the many essential benefits and services Rio Grande Hospital brings to the community outside of medical care.

*RGH staff
Del Norte*

CENTER POST - DISPATCH

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Rio Grande County awards \$150K to Ski Hi

BY LYNDIE FERRELL
DEL NORTE- After several meetings in the last few weeks, the Friends of Ski Hi met with Rio Grande County Commissioners on the last day of the year and were finally awarded \$150,000 for the Ski Hi Recreational Facility project from the county's conservation trust fund.

According to previous reports, and a handout provided during the meeting, the Friends of Ski Hi are working with the City of Monte Vista and its residents to build a multiuse facility that can be used for a wide variety of purposes. The proposed project would include meeting space, conference space for events such as the annual Crane Festival and Ski Hi Stampede, as well as, basketball and volleyball courts that would be open for public use.

In previous meetings, both Commissioner Susanne Bothell and John Noffsger voiced concerns about the need for the project and whether or not it qualified for the conservation trust funds due to the fact that funds could only be used for recreationally based projects. Noffsger continued to state those concerns during the meeting Dec. 31. Stating that though he felt uncertain about whether or not

the project is eligible for conservation trust fund monies, one of his main concerns remained on how the Town of Monte Vista planned on affording the upkeep and maintenance of the building once it was completed.

"The issue we run into, as it stands, the project is so complex and intertwined that it is hard to distinguish what is conservation trust fund eligible and what is not," stated Noffsger. "I would be more comfortable supporting this project if number one, we are not building a bridge to nowhere. And two that there is a viable operating financial plan going forward. I am looking for reasons to say that this is a good viable project."

Noffsger continued to speak to the attending Friends of Ski Hi stating that he would like to approve the funding for the project in the amount of \$150,000 but with the stipulation that the county would be reimbursed the funding should the grant applications be denied and also that there would be a committee of people that would ensure the building was maintained in the future.

Kathy Woods, the representative for the Friends of Ski Hi stated that they would be more than willing to

involve the county in further decisions, make sure that the funding was reimbursed to the county should it not be used for grant matching funds and that a viable economic plan would be put in place by an overseeing committee to ensure the building was maintained in the future.

It was during that time in the meeting that Commissioners Gene Glover made a motion to approve the letter of commitment from the county to the City of Monte Vista for the total \$150,000 request which was seconded by Noffsger and passed unanimously by the rest of the board.



Rendering of proposed new Ski Hi facility that the Rio Grande County Commissioners awarded the project \$150,000 Dec. 31.

Rio Grande County Commissioners discuss MAT vehicle

BY LYNDIE FERRELL
DEL NORTE- Rio Grande County Commissioners welcomed Social Services Director Jody Kern to their meeting Dec. 31 to discuss having SLV Behavioral Health's (SLVBH) mobile Medical Assisted Treatment vehicle (MAT) parked in the parking lot near the social service building in Del Norte.

The mobile unit is part of efforts from SLVBH to help with the opioid crisis in the Valley by offering medical assisted treatment for those addicted to drugs. According to Crossroads Director and Founder, Dr. Ian Walker and Chief Clinical Officer of Intensive Services Jennifer Silva, the unit is traveling all over the Valley to offer mobile services to those who may not be able to make it in for regular treatment at their facilities and to make the treatment options more available to anyone seeking treatment for addiction.

Walker continued by explaining what they did at Crossroads and what they were doing to actively monitor the problem of substance abuse in the Valley. The clinic offers a program known as MAT or Medical Assisted Treatment. The team administers three different types of drugs that help addicts with their addiction issues. "We have three medications that we offer our patients. Methadone, which is the most common course we use for recovery, Naltrexone which helps stimulate the part of the brain that is associated with cravings for both opioid and alcohol disorders and the most recently approved Buprenorphine. All three have benefits to patients struggling with addiction."

In the meeting, Kern asked Rio Grande County Commissioners for permission to allow the mobile unit to be parked in the parking lot near the social service building stating that the contract between the county and SLVBH would be on a month to month basis and would remain on a trial basis for a while. For more information please contact SLV Behavioral Health at 719-589-3671 or by visiting their website at www.slvbhg.org.

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SPORTS & OUTDOORS



Center School's Brandy Almeida makes her move during a game played against John Mall.



Center Schools cross-country runners Lola Estrada and Fani Molinar competed at the AAU National cross-country Championship in Knoxville, Tennessee recently, where Lola achieved All-American honors.

Photos courtesy of Dennis Schoenfelder, Center Schools

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 application form 5" 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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Wolf Creek Ski Area Fun Race results, next race Jan. 12

WOLF CREEK - Wolf Creek Ski Area held their second Fun Race of the season Sunday, Jan. 5. There were 57 racers with the fastest time of the day of 26.41 made by, yet again, Buzz Burke, from Pagosa Springs. Buzz was the most experienced of the skiers, competing in the 71+ bracket.

The next Fun Race in the series will be held Jan. 12, 2020. The race is open to all ages and ability levels and is free with the purchase of a lift ticket. Racers can sign up at the Raven Grill in from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The race will be held between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the Charisma run. See Jan. 5, 2020 race results below.



Courtesy Photo

Some of the happy young winners of the Jan. 5 Wolf Creek Ski Area Fun Race.

BOYS 9-11			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	Noah Bellina	Pagosa Springs	32.86
SILVER	Alex Lamas	Grapevine	33.44
BRONZE	Ryan Rich	Pagosa Springs	35.66

BOYS 12-14			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	Corbin Horrocks	South Fork	27.32
SILVER	Corley Pearson	Amarillo	34.75
BRONZE	Andrew Pearson	Amarillo	40.98

BOYS 15-17			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	Tabn Knapp	Pagosa Springs	36.50
SILVER			
BRONZE			

BOYS 18-20			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD			
SILVER			
BRONZE			

MEN 21-25			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	John Otts	Albuquerque	32.66
SILVER	Christian Schmidt	Los Angeles	35.87
BRONZE	Michael Schmidt	Pagosa Springs	36.62

MEN 26-30			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	Zach Maun	Pagosa Springs	45.57
SILVER			
BRONZE			

MEN 31-35			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	Alan Davis	Fort Worth	36.08
SILVER			
BRONZE			

MEN 36-40			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	Chris Pitcher	Pagosa Springs	27.86
GOLD	Augie Sparrow	South Fork	27.86
SILVER	Aaron Horrocks	South Fork	28.39
BRONZE	Sean Willingham	San Antonio	35.95

MEN 41-50			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	Luke Thompson	Pagosa Springs	28.10
SILVER	Joe Bush	Pagosa Springs	29.59
BRONZE	Lance Talkington	Celina	29.93

MEN 51-60			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	Steve Dayton	Pagosa Springs	30.62
SILVER	Tim Davis	Fort Worth	31.36
BRONZE	Al Hagopian	Melbourne	32.33

MEN 61-70			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	Howard Cox	Del Norte	31.39
SILVER	John Mazeika	Oxford	32.14
BRONZE	Courtney Parker	South Fork	36.78

MEN 71+			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	Buzz Burke	Pagosa Springs	26.41
SILVER	Greg Johnson	Pagosa Springs	34.36
BRONZE			

GIRLS 6-8			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	Veda Deitemeyer	Pagosa Springs	38.57
SILVER	Alexandria Jernigan	Oklahoma City	1.01.27
BRONZE			

GIRLS 9-11			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	Isabelle Ratliff	Pagosa Springs	29.38
SILVER	Kenli Bush	Pagosa Springs	33.72
BRONZE			

GIRLS 12-14			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	Aybree Hampton	Pagosa Springs	31.35
SILVER			
BRONZE			

GIRLS 15-17			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	Rylie Rapp	Pagosa Springs	34.11
SILVER	Jordan Maxwell	Pagosa Springs	35.48
BRONZE			

GIRLS 18-20			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD			
SILVER			
BRONZE			

WOMEN 21-25			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	Lyndsay Irwin	Albuquerque	46.84
SILVER			
BRONZE			

WOMEN 36-40			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	Nikki Horrocks	South Fork	31.53
SILVER	Jennifer Devino	Ft. Worth	36.79
BRONZE			

WOMEN 41-50			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD			
SILVER			
BRONZE			

WOMEN 51-60			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	Cathy Lemon	Pagosa Springs	31.39
SILVER			
BRONZE			

Women 61-70			
Medal	NAME	City	TIME
GOLD	Chris Schmidt	Pagosa Springs	36.89
SILVER			
BRONZE			

San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2019-2020

Girls

Kim/Branson 49	.....	Antonito 43
Rocky Ford 48	.....	Center 27
Sangre de Cristo 76	.....	Creede 15
Centauri 47	.....	Sanford 43 OT
Antonito 48	.....	South Park 32

COLLEGE

Adams State 73	.....	Chadron State 58
Metropolitan State 66	.....	Adams State 58

Boys

Centauri 47	.....	Sanford 34
Center 53	.....	Rocky Ford 45
Sangre de Cristo 79	.....	Creede 31
South Park 44	.....	Antonito 28

COLLEGE

Adams State 81	Chadron State 78
Adams State 91	Metropolitan State 73

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BY SAGUACHE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER TRISH GILBERT

Multilingual Ballot Access

Congress enacted the language minority provisions of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) because, “through the use of various practices and procedures, citizens of language minorities have been effectively excluded from participation in the electoral process.” Today, the formula in section 203 of the VRA only requires that four counties in Colorado (Conejos, Costilla, Denver and Saguache) provide election materials in both English and Spanish. One other county is required to provide information in Ute.

There are thousands of eligible voters (103,146 based on ACS 2017 five-year estimates) in Colorado who speak English “less than very well.” An estimated 60,962 of those eligible voters speak Spanish and, of those, 48,160 live in counties where ballots and other election materials are not available in Spanish. Further compounding the problem of ballot access for minority language speakers is the reading level at which Colorado’s ballots are written. For many minority-language speakers the ballot is simply incomprehensible even if they speak and read some English.

Current law

Section 203 of the VRA covers a jurisdiction when the number of United States citizens of voting age in that jurisdiction has a single language group that: is more than 10,000, or

- is more than 5 percent of all voting age citizens, or
- is on an American Indian reservation, exceeds 5 percent of all reservation residents; and
- the illiteracy rate of the group is higher than the national literacy rate.

Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act was passed by Congress to protect citizens of language minorities who had traditionally been excluded from participation in the electoral process. Generally, the Act requires designated jurisdictions to provide all election material in both English and the minority language. Federal law mandates that the Department of Justice designate new 203 jurisdictions every five years.

After determining the jurisdictions that meet these requirements, the Department of Justice is empowered to enforce these requirements and may bring suit in federal court to enforce the requirements when necessary.

The census bureau, through both the national census and the American Community Survey, helps the Department of Justice to determine which jurisdictions have met the coverage.

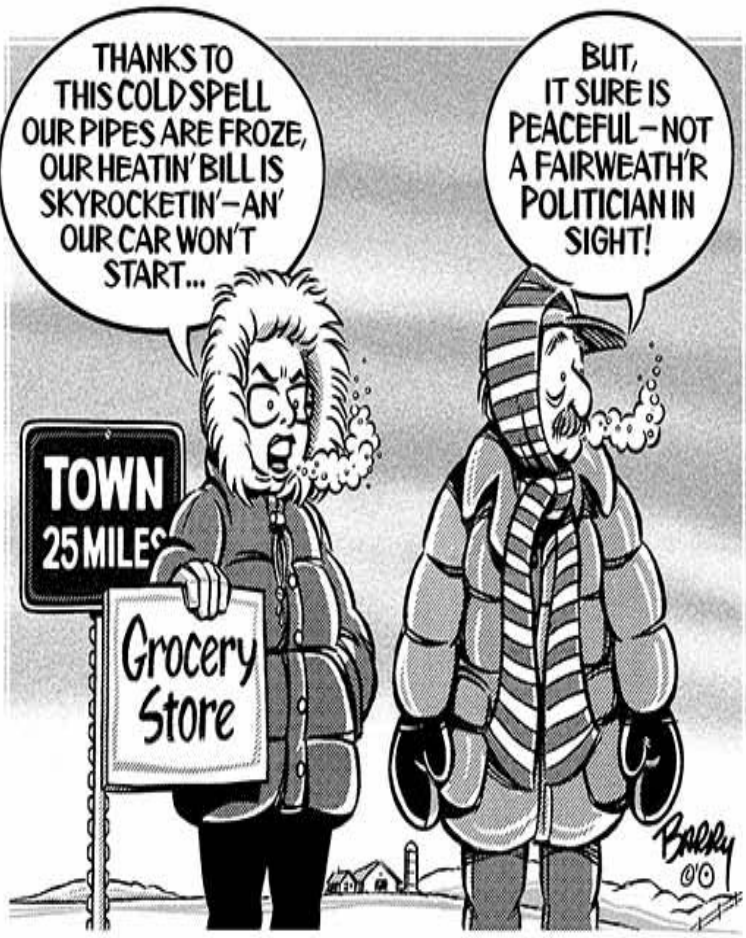
Colorado does not currently expand minority language ballot access beyond federal requirements.

The following is taken from the State of Colorado, Department of State, (1700 Broadway, Suite 200 Denver, CO 80290) Jena M. Griswold Secretary of State, Jenny Flanagan Deputy Secretary of State formula. In late 2016 the Department of Justice designated five Colorado counties as language minority jurisdictions. Those counties are:

- Conejos (Spanish)
- Costilla (Spanish)
- Denver (Spanish)
- Saguache (Spanish)
- Montezuma (Ute Mountain Ute)1

Each of these counties currently provide all election materials in both English and Spanish. Montezuma County has translators on hand for the Ute Mountain Ute nation, which has no traditional written language. See 52 U.S.C. 10503 (c).

The table below shows the data gathered from all counties in Colorado by the census bureau. The column labeled “LEPPCT” is the percentage of voters of a single language minority who are limited-English proficient. The column labeled “VACLEP” is the total number of citizens of a single language minority who are limited English proficient. Federal law currently covers counties highlighted in red. Counties highlighted in yellow are over 2.5 percent or have over 2,000 citizens of a single language minority who are limited English proficient.



27th Annual Sand Dunes Christmas Bird counts

BY REBECCA COPLEY

SAN LUIS VALLEY - The Great Sand Dunes National Park hosted their 27th Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Dec. 21. Nine volunteers came out to participate in the fascinating event. The participants spent 26 hours in the field searching the skies and trees for birds. The final count was 451 individual birds counted, and 34 species observed.

Some of the most interesting species they spotted were a Prairie Merlin, Northern Harrier, Great Horned Owl, American Goldfinch, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Wild Turkey and Western Scrub Jay. The event was sponsored locally by the Friends of the Dunes, and the nonprofit provided beverages and snacks to keep the birders fueled as they looked for birds in the cold December weather.

The Christmas Bird Count is a nationwide event that takes place in late December in communities all over North America. Every year tens of thousands of dedicated volunteers throughout the country brave winter weather as they collect data.

The annual bird count started over a century ago when 27 conservationists in 25 localities got together to make history. The group offered the count as an alternative to the “side hunt,” which was a Christmas Day activity where teams competed to see who could shoot the most birds and small mammals. On Christmas Day in 1900 the first Christmas Bird Count was born as these small groups of conservationists went out and identified, counted, and recorded all the birds they saw instead of shooting them. This founded what is now considered to be the world’s most significant citizen-based conservation effort, and the more than century-old institution of the CBC. Today the CBC is still central in monitoring the status of resident and migratory birds throughout the Western Hemisphere. All of the data collected is 100% volunteer generated and has become a vital part of the U.S. Government’s natural history monitoring database.

The Great Sand Dunes National Park has been hosting their CBC event in December every year since 1992. Each year they welcome birders and nature lovers in the San Luis Valley to come join them as they contribute and participate in the nation’s longest-running community science bird project.



Picoides-villosus, aka Hairy Woodpecker, was just one of 34 species observed during the Great Sand Dunes National Park Christmas bird count.



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Colorado third most bothered by robocalls

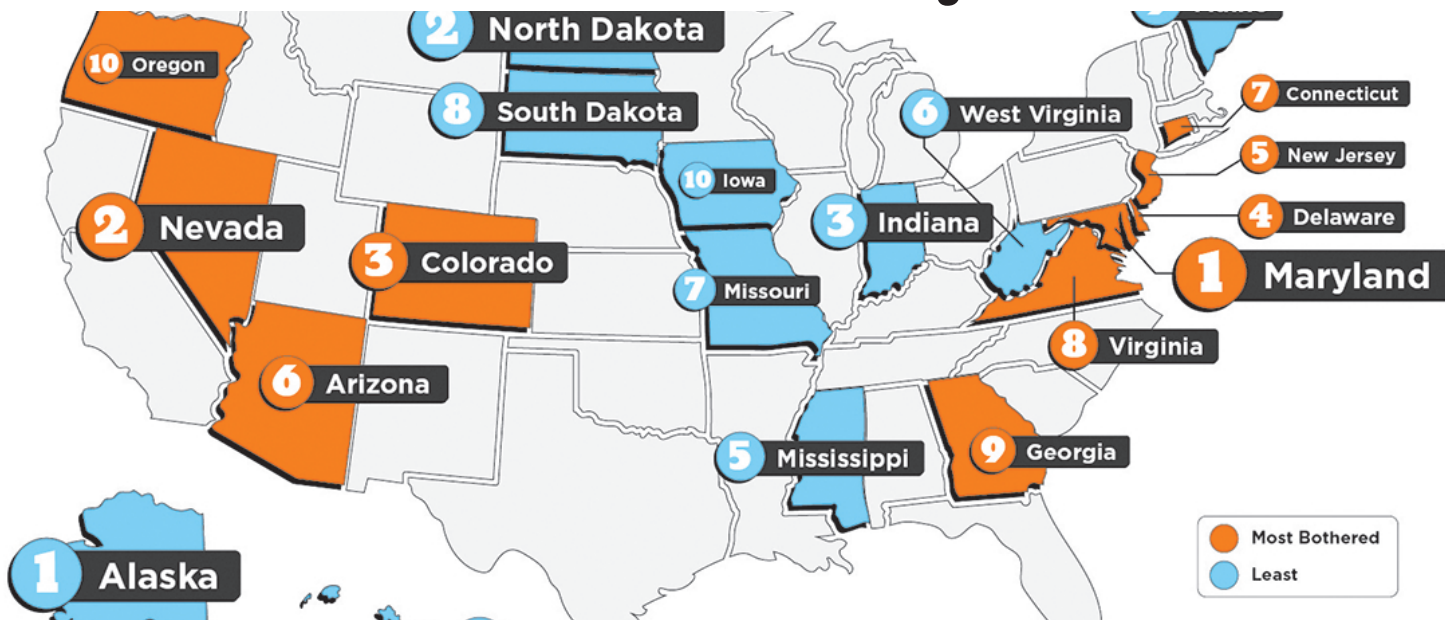
COLORADO - Colorado was the #3 state most bothered by robocalls in 2019 after culling through robocall frequency data and thousands of Do Not Call Registry complaints.

Residents in Colorado were estimated to have been robocalled more than 844 million times in 2019.

Colorado residents made more than 130,000 complaints to the FTC about robocalls throughout the year.

Scams made up the largest portion (45.7%) of robocalls nationwide in 2019, followed by alerts and reminders (22.7%), payment reminders (20.3%), and telemarketing calls (11.3%).

Scams are on the rise. Over the past three years, they've risen from making up just 17.6% of robocalls to making up more than 45% of all calls made.



Colorado Division of Securities announces top investor threats for 2020

DENVER - The Division of Securities, part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), announced the top five investment products or schemes likely to trap Colorado's investors in the new year and recommended steps they can take to protect themselves from investment fraud.

The list was developed by surveying members of the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA), of which the Division is a member, to identify threats investors are likely to see in 2020.

The following were most frequently identified by NASAA members as the top five areas of concern for the coming year: **Promissory Notes, Ponzi Schemes, Real Estate-related Investments, Cryptocurrency-related Investment Products and Social Media/Internet-based Investment Schemes.**

"It is important for investors to understand what they are investing in and who they are investing with. Don't fall for promises of guaranteed high returns with little to no risk or deals pitched with a false sense of urgency or limited availability," said Acting Securities Commissioner David Cheval. "As you begin the new year, make a resolution to protect your money from fraudulent investments and those who may be trying to fleece you."

Investment offers that sound "too good to be true" often share similar characteristics. The most common telltale sign of an investment scam is an offer of guaranteed high returns with no risk. All investments carry the risk that some, or all, of the invested funds could be lost. It's best to remember if it sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

Many of the threats facing investors involve private offerings, which are exempt from federal securities registration requirements and are not sold through public stock exchanges. Unregistered private offerings generally are high-risk investments and don't have the same investor protection requirements as investments sold through public markets.

Investors should always ask if the salesperson and the investment itself are properly licensed or registered. This information can be confirmed by the Division of Securities. Working with a properly licensed investment professional affords investors certain legal protections. For the same reasons you wouldn't go to an unlicensed doctor or dentist, you should avoid unregistered investment salespeople and their products. Anyone offering to sell a security without a license is breaking the law and should be avoided.

More information can be found on NASAA's website at www.nasaa.org.

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Monte Vista Crane Festival tickets available now

MONTE VISTA - Mark your calendars for the 37th Monte Vista Crane Festival, scheduled for March 6 - 8, 2020. Tickets went on sale for the tours, speakers, movies and other events on Jan. 2. To purchase tickets visit mcranefest.org.

The annual festival celebrates the remarkable journey of some 25,000 Sandhill Cranes through the San Luis Valley each spring—a migration that begins in southern New Mexico’s Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and ends at the nesting grounds in the greater Yellowstone area of Wyoming and Idaho. While passing through the Valley, the tall, elegant birds gather by the thousands in and around the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge. Refuge staff manage the on-site wetlands and barley fields specifically to attract cranes and

other wildlife. “The wetlands offer nighttime roosting sites,” said refuge manager Suzanne Beauchaine. “We mow the barley fields just before the festival, which provides a virtual smorgasbord.”

The cranes feed on the fallen grain as well as small animals attracted to the food. “If you watch closely, you may see a crane spear a vole or mouse with its long beak and toss it to its partner,” Beauchaine said. “You’ll also see cranes hop and dance in courtship and hear collective sound of their calls, which is breathtaking, especially with the majestic Sangre de Cristo Mountains in the background.”

This year’s festival includes crane- and hawk-viewing tours as well as expert-led excursions to Elephant Rocks, Blanca Wetlands, the Scott Miller Archaeological Site and

a private conservation site protected under the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust. Local ornithologist John Rawinski will return to lead bird walks around the Home Lake State Wildlife Area (the bird walks sold out quickly in 2019). The wildly popular craft and nature fair will once again be held in the Monte Vista’s Ski Hi Building, with live birds on display from Hawks Aloft, a raptor rescue and rehabilitator out of New Mexico.

This year’s keynote speaker is Colorado-based historian and Theodore Roosevelt re-enactor Kurt Skinner, who whisks audiences of all ages back to a time when the former president imprinted on Americans a love of the natural world. Other speakers include Cleave Simpson and Max Ciaglo. Simpson is general

Please see FESTIVAL on Page 2



Photo courtesy of Ed MacKerrow

Ski Hi Regional Event & Conference Center presentation



Courtesy photo

DEL NORTE - The Upper Rio Grande Economic Development monthly breakfast meeting will be held the second Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020, at 7 a.m. at the Windsor Hotel in Del Norte. This month’s program is presented by Karla Shriver and Kathy Woods, Friends of Ski Hi Park, about “The New Ski Hi Regional Event & Conference Center” Project. Shriver and Woods will give a PowerPoint presentation with an overview and update of the plan and momentum behind this exciting project. This may be the largest Economic Development project in Rio Grande County this year. Please join us for breakfast for Karla and Kathy’s engaging presentation.

Rendering of “The New Ski Hi Regional Event & Conference Center” Project

Cow disturber

McGraw posed an interesting question. If a cowboy herds a herd of cattle, we call him a herder. If a sheepman herds a flock of sheep, he’s still a herder. Why isn’t he called a flocker?

Oley has always referred to himself as a cow disturber. I think that is an accurate description of what cowboys do. The definition of disturb is: to annoy or disrupt.

“Where ya goin’, Bill?”
 “I’m gonna go check the cows.” Which really means, “I’m gonna ride into the bunch, git’em all up, turn’em around and just generally annoy and disrupt them.”

I grant there are occasions when we have a certain definite task in mind; i.e. “I’m gonna bring in that cow with the arrow in her side.” Or, “Saddle up, we’re pushin’ 2600 head of Longhorns to the sale barn in Bloomfield.”

But most of the time we’re just disturbing them. Like doting parents or cat fanciers, we



BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

take any excuse to fuss over the critters in our care. It’s a wonder whitetail deer or jackrabbits aren’t extinct with no one to molest them regularly.

If we were honest with ourselves, our lan-

guage would be more forthright. The cattle foreman in the feedlot might give his instructions like this... “Jason, I want you to enter the first pen in the north alley. Unsettle the steers by sitting quietly for a moment. Next upset them by approaching. Confuse them by weaving back and forth, agitating and irritating them constantly. Badger each one until they’ve all gotten up and milled around. Once you’re convinced you’ve stirred them up sufficiently, you may go disturb the next pen.”

Or, the cowman might say to his wife, “Darlin’, while I’m at the board meeting I’d like you to torment the heifer in the barn lot every 20 minutes. She’s trying’ to calve. Peek over the fence and bother her. Shine the light in her eyes to break her concentration. Worry her as often as needed, and when I get back I’ll slip in and frighten her into calving.”

In fairness, we are doing what all good shepherds do. We watch over our flocks because

that is our calling. We stand guard in case any should need our help. But if truth-in-labeling is ever applied to our job descriptions, we will have to be more specific about what we do.

So the next time somebody asks what you do, try one of these on for size: herd rearranger, bull nudger, sheep panicker, mule cusser, equine perplexer, steer beautician, hog motivator, Holstein therapist, cow companion, dog shouter or cowboy coddler.

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

See our ad on Page 8
40% OFF NEW SURPLUS
 EXTRA BUILDING MATERIALS
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 HOME IMPROVEMENTS BEST KEPT SECRET

Monte Vista Ice Rink celebration of winter



MONTE VISTA
 - Monte Vista Recreation Department is hosting a unique celebration of winter and all season skating Saturday, Jan. 11, from noon until 8 p.m. The Ice Rink (under the Pavilion) and Ski Hi Roller Rink (indoors) will be going on with food, fudge, tacos, Papa Murphy's Pizza and Rain Brews Coffee & Hot Chocolate. So come out and have some fun, fellowship and great eats this Saturday. Call 852-8287 or 852-6168 for more information.

Nearly one-third (29 percent) of Christmas tree fires occur in January

If you're having trouble parting with your Christmas tree, here's a fact to motivate you: Nearly one-third (29 percent) of U.S. home fires that begin with Christmas trees occurs in January. With this potential fire hazard in mind, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) strongly encourages everyone to remove Christmas trees from their homes promptly after the holiday season.

“Christmas trees are combustible items that become increasingly flammable as they continue to dry out,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. “The longer you keep one in your home, the more of a fire hazard it becomes.”

NFPA statistics show that Christmas tree fires are not common, but when they do occur, they're much more likely to be serious. On annual average, one of every 52 reported home fires that began with a Christmas tree

resulted in a death, compared to one death per 135 total reported home structure fires.

All Christmas trees can burn, but a dried-out tree can become engulfed in flames in a matter of seconds,” said Carli. “In recent years, we've seen tragic incidents where Christmas tree fires have resulted in deadly consequences for multiple family members, including young children.”

NFPA recommends using the local

community's recycling program for tree disposal, if possible; trees should not be put in the garage or left outside. The association also offers these tips for safely removing lighting and decorations and storing them properly to ensure that they're



in good condition the following season:

Use the gripping area on the plug when unplugging electrical decorations. Never pull the cord to unplug any device from an electrical outlet, as this can harm the wire and insulation of the cord, increasing the risk for shock or electrical fire.

As you pack up light strings, inspect each line for damage, throwing out any sets that have loose connections, broken sockets or cracked or bare wires.

Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags or wrap them around a piece of cardboard.

Store electrical decorations in a dry place away from children and pets where they will not be damaged by water or dampness.

For more information on home fire safety all winter long, visit “Put a Freeze on Winter Fires,” a winter safety campaign NFPA promotes annually with the U.S. Fire Administration.

THANKS
 to our amazing
 community for your
 support in 2019 and
 Happy Holidays!
 We'll see you in 2020!

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 UTE THEATRE**
 in Saguache
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HISTORICUTETHEATRE.COM
 OR CALL (719) 427-1080



Photo courtesy of Joe Zinn

FESTIVAL Continued from Page 1

manager of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District in Alamosa, Colorado. His talk, “Dealing with Water Scarcity,” will spotlight water issues facing the Rio Grande Basin and San Luis Valley. Ciaglo, a biologist and intern with Colorado Open Lands, will present on the “Grains for Cranes” project—a unique partnership between federal agencies, local businesses and private barley growers to manage barley as a vital food for cranes.

This year's featured movies include “Rango” and “Bird of Prey.” “Rango” is a good, old-fashioned (animated) western about a less-than-courageous chameleon who unwittingly ends up in the town of Dirt, a lawless outpost populated by desert creatures. Rango becomes sheriff—as well as the town's last hope from a greedy developer's water grab. Winners of the fourth An-

nual Kid's Crane Coloring Contest will be announced before the movie. “Bird of Prey” weaves together stunning footage of the critically endangered Great Philippine Eagle with the remarkable story of wildlife cinematographer Neil Rettig and a small group of conservationists from the Philippine Eagle Foundation—who work tirelessly to save the bird from extinction.

Please note that except for the Friday night movie this year all tours, speakers and movies will require a ticket for admittance. For schedule and ticket information, visit mvcranefest.org.

The crane festival is organized every year by a dedicated group of volunteers who depend on sponsorship dollars to support the event. Without sponsorship, the crane festival would not happen. Folks interested in supporting this im-

portant community event can email mvcranefest@gmail.com or call 720-940-7561, or donate directly at mvcranefest.org.



Photo courtesy of Ed MacKerrow

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REAL ESTATE

Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.

*****SOLD*** Now is your chance!** Return to Market - Finely Crafted "Move-in ready," 2-Bedroom 2-Bath ranch style home; 1,326 sq. ft., plus a 1,200 sq. ft. detached 2-car garage and workshop. Living room has a propane fireplace; large laundry room includes washer/dryer. Kitchen offers all black appliances and lots of costume cabinets for storage. All furniture included. Year-round access in Ponderosa Estates, South Fork with paved roads, well, South Fork water and Sanitation, utilities propane and electric. Beautifully landscaped with mature trees, room for your RV. Moments from skiing at Wolf Creek, public access to gold medal fishing on the Rio Grande. Enjoy nearby hiking, golfing and 4-wheeling. \$250,000 **Call Bernadette Gingrass 719-850-1993** and schedule your personal showing today! **MLS #747851 ***SOLD*****

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

***** SOLD*** WOW! \$135,000 New Price** on this STUNNING 44.06 acre parcel. Beautiful mountain land with meadows and San Francisco Creek flowing through this property, many aspen and pine trees, bright sunny location with views of surrounding mountains and boarders Rio Grande National Forest with trails leading to the high mountain San Francisco lakes. Power is available to the property. You can drill a domestic water well. Property allows horses and other domestic animals. The HOA includes road maintenance and snow removal. This property is ready for you to select your perfect building site for your home on the range and enjoy this quite beauti-

Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.

ful location and abundant wildlife. **Call Bernadette Gingrass 719-850-1993 \$135,000 MLS# 741069 ***SOLD*****

*****SOLD***** - Beautiful Home on The Range! Pion Hill Estates where the Mule Deer and the Rocky Mountain Elk play! This 2,457 sq. ft. meticulous, comfortable well-maintained log home is located on 40 acres with reach out and touch mountain views and moments from the Rio Grande National Forest. Wild Life is abundant; Elk, Mule Deer, Turkey, Fox, Bald Eagles and more. Located in beautiful quiet Pinon Hills Estates tucked away from traffic and people and still easy driving to South Fork or Del Norte. Open great room living room, kitchen and dining room with accent logs and floor to ceiling windows and wood burning stove. Custom built log staircase. The upstairs is a Master Suite with two large walk-in closets, master bath with Jacuzzi tub looking out at the mountains views with floor to ceiling windows, a separate tiled shower and double sinks. Upstairs also has a sitting room/office area. Main floor has a bedroom, full bath and laundry room with Alder cabinets and large pantry with sliding shelves. Beautiful newly built sun room on south side of the home is spacious and bright. Ground level floor has a bedroom with ¼ bath. Adjoining room is a great relaxing den or game room providing space for reading, games, watching television or crafts. Attached cement floor two car garage large enough for storage, 4 wheelers, fishing gear, tools and more. Beautiful home with landscaping and two huge decks two levels-one open wood deck and one covered stained concrete. All the space you need for friends and family and outdoor entertaining. All the stairways to the home and outdoor entertainment areas have wide steps, rock walls and lighting. This home has floor to ceiling window and wonderful views in every direction all electric home has three heat sources, baseboard board heat, 3 Energy Thermal Systems and wood burning stove. Two fifty gallon-water heaters so you will never run out of hot water. Domestic well, cistern and septic system. This home has a large metal barn with dirt and concrete floor with feed and tack room and plenty of space for your horses. Access year round to hiking and riding trails. Enjoy the great outdoors with fishing, golfing, hiking, four wheeling, skiing, hunting and so much more. \$470,000 **Call Bernadette** and schedule your personal showing today! *****SOLD*****

***** SOLD***** 35 Deeded Acres! This property is located 12 miles east of South Fork on County Road #15, which offers year-round access. Del Norte is 11 miles away and offers a full service hospital

Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.

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

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

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Gingrass 719-850-1993 and schedule your showing today! MLS # 755964

UPDATE! Terms Available! Adorable park model located on two beautiful landscape lots number 38 and features lot 37 in River's Edge RV Resort. This home has a front entrance, side entrance and back entrance with deck. Beautifully landscaped with patio and two sheds with electric. This home has 1 bedroom and two bathrooms and comes complete with all the furniture, appliances and inside washer and dryer. The Colorado room with propane burning stove is finished allows lots of sunshine and adds to living area. River Edge RV Resort is beautifully located on the Rio Grande River allowing property owners private access to the river and plenty of outdoor activities and community events including outdoor activities as fishing events and 4 wheeling outings along with community potlucks. Moments from the Rio Grande River, Rio Grande Golf Club, 30 minutes from Wolf Creek Ski Area. Come live, fish, hike, golf, ski and play. This is your perfect weekend retreat, mountain get-a-way or second home. **Call Bernadette Gingrass 719-850-1993** and schedule your showing today! **\$159,900 MLS # 750041 ***NOW UNDER CONTRACT*****

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

Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.

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

Thinking of Selling your Home?

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



Call 719-850-1993

Steffens & Company Realty, INC
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New Year- New Smile! Beautiful Permanent Teeth: No More Dentures!

Special Offer! Save 25-50%
Start 2020 being happier and healthier. You owe it to yourself and your loved ones to take advantage of this Limited Time Offer. These savings will be gone January 31, 2020!
(Medicare can be utilized to add to savings!)

Teeth In A Day

- Get back your confidence
- Be more social
- Enjoy food again
- No more tooth problems
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Medicare Will Pay
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Other patients have had 30-50% of surgical procedures covered.
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A Courtesy for You at No Charge ...
Courtesy Consultation (regularly \$172)
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FREE REPORT
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"Over the years I have needed to have a lot of dental work to fix my teeth but nothing ever corrected my problems or seemed to last. I kept losing teeth to the point where I had to pick a single tooth to chew with until it gave out. Now I can eat things I haven't in many years and no more tooth loss worries. All of you guys made this a great experience start to finish. Thank you, Dr. Thornell!"

~Bernie B.

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William F. Thornell DDS, MAGD, DICOI

pagosadentalimplantcenter.com

Rated 5 Stars
"The Absolute best pizza in town the crust is amazing...staff is super friendly...hometown friendly atmosphere... Best food in South Fork...go check it out for yourself you won't be disappointed!"
-Crissy H., Google

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\$6 Combo Deals
11 a.m.-5 p.m. EVERY DAY
Your choice of:
• 8" Cheese Pizza and Fountain Drink
• 1 Calzone and Fountain Drink
• Caesar Salad and Fountain Drink

Tap into Winter with Happy Hour
MON-FRI • 2-5 p.m. • 25% OFF BEER AND WINE
16 self-pour Craft Beer Taps
and 4 self-pour Wine Taps-pay by the ounce!

Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMTs and our Veterans always receive 20% off!

30483 Highway 160, South Fork
11 a.m. to 9 p.m. DAILY
EASY Online To-Go Orders:
MountainPizzaTapRoom.com

Valley-Wide Classified **FREE!** MARKETPLACE

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



CLASSIFIED INDEX

ANNOUNCEMENTS
01 TICKETS
02 CARD OF THANKS
03 MEMORIALS
04 LOST & FOUND
05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
06 PERSONALS
EMPLOYMENT
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08 WORK WANTED
09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
FOR RENT
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49 ANIMAL CARE
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56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
57 INVESTMENTS
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58 MOTORCYCLES
59 VEHICLES WANTED
60 CLASSIC CARS
61 4X4'S
62 VANS
63 TRUCKS
64 AUTOS FOR SALE
SERVICES
65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
66 CHILD CARE

RATES

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

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

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

Convenient ad placement:

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

Check your ad the first day:

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

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

DEADLINE

Thursday 5:00 pm

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

Easy Payment Options

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05 Notices

WE BUY ANTLERS: 5 miles west of Del Norte on US 160 at Elk Ranch. 719-657-0942. (12/25 TFN)

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@sfsd.org (1/15)

SLV Federal Bank is now accepting applications for a Member Service Representative in our Monte Vista office. Applications and position descriptions

Write your own Classified Ad

Regular Classified Ad Deadline-Thursday 5 p.m.

15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications
\$19⁵⁰ + 95¢ each additional word.

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

Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Private party only) Call 719-852-3531 for details.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

Words: _____ Times: _____ Price: _____

Class: _____ Start Date: _____

Circle One



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Mail with check or money order to:

Valley Publishing Classifieds, P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144

Or drop by at 835 First Avenue

All Classified Advertising must be pre-paid



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

Colorado Statewide Classified Advertising Network

WANTED

COLORADO PRESS ASSOCIATION NETWORK

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Free, no-risk, cash offer. Contact us with the details:

Call: 720-988-5617

Write: Minerals, PO BOX 3668, Littleton, CO 80161

Email: opportunity@ccmresourcesinc.com

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

Contact this newspaper or call Colorado Press Association Network

303-571-5117

Valley Wide Classifieds

are available at www.slvfed.com or at each branch location. Equal opportunity Employer, including considering individuals with Disabilities and Veterans/Affirmative Action Employer. (01/08)

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 zoning and subdivision regulations and other land uses within the County to ensure the prompt and efficient operation of the office. All aspects of the position are completed with the approval of and in conjunction with the Board of County Commissioners. This position is appointed and supervised by the three-member Board of County Commissioners. 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)

10 Apartments for Rent
Two bedroom, 1-bath apartment in Del Norte Utilities Included. No smoking, no pets. Call Tomas at 849-1942 \$475 Per Month. (01/8)

17 Real Estate For Sale
240 deeded acres in irrigated grass west of Monte Vista with 6 shares Lariat ditch. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc. 719-873-1700. (01/22 TFN)

36 Miscellaneous
STEEL STORAGE CONTAINERS – Sales, Rentals & Modifications! Containers are water & rodent proof. 8' wide, 8'-53' in length. Call for more information and pricing. **Healdworks, Inc.** – **Your Total Storage Solution!** 719-850-0346 (01/22 TFN)

SOLAR PANELS! 240 WATT AND SMALLER. We Stock

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

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

Free used Sofa Sectional with hide-a-bed excellent for College student call 719-849-0483. (1/29)

37 Wanted
Used Washer with spin cycle still working Call 719-849-8742. (1/29)

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

42 Feed & Seed
Premium alfalfa and alfalfa/grass, small bales, in shed \$8, outside \$7. (719)580-2509. (01/29)

48 Pets & Supplies
Full-Size Australian Shepard Puppies Ready December 12, 2019 Call 588-3561. (01/15)

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

65 Professional Services
LICENSED PLUMBER does all types of plumbing repairs and plumbing remodels at reasonable rate. Quick service. Call anytime, available weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (01/22 TFN)

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

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. 10
SAGUACHE - The Saguache County Democratic Party Central Committee will meet Friday, Jan. 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Saguache Road & Bridge Meeting Room, 305 - 3rd Street in Saguache to establish the date, time, and location for the County Assembly, determine the number of delegates per precinct to the County Assembly, determine whether alternates or proxies will be allowed to the County Assembly, set a date for caucus training, determine hosts for caucuses, and elect a Secretary. For questions or to get more involved with the Party, please contact Randy Arredondo randyharredondo@gmail.com. Central Committee members who are authorized to vote on any matters coming before the meeting are officers, precinct committee persons and elected officials of the County party. The meeting is open to the public.

Jan. 11
MONTE VISTA - Monte Vista Recreation Department is hosting a unique celebration of winter and all season skating Saturday, Jan. 11, from noon until 8 p.m. The Ice Rink (under the Pavilion) and Ski Hi Roller Rink (indoors) will be going on with food, fudge, tacos, Papa Murphy's Pizza and Rain Brews Coffee & Hot Chocolate. So come out and have some fun, fellowship and great eats this Saturday. Call 852-8287 or 852-6168 for more information.

Jan. 14
DEL NORTE - The Upper Rio Grande Economic Development monthly breakfast meeting will be

held Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020, at 7 a.m. at the Windsor Hotel in Del Norte. This month's program is presented by Karla Shriver and Kathy Woods, Friends of Ski Hi Park, about "The New Ski Hi Regional Event & Conference Center" Project. Shriver and Woods will

give a PowerPoint presentation with an overview and update of the plan and momentum behind this exciting project. This may be the largest Economic Development project in Rio Grande County this year.

Continued on Page 6

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Valley Calendar

Continued from Page 5

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.

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.

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kristina, 588-5127.

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

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

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

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

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

• **DEL NORTE** — Del Norte Pub-

lic Library preschool reading group, 1 p.m. each Tuesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

Shed-antler collection restrictions start Jan. 1

COLORADO – To protect wintering big-game animals and sage grouse species, collection of shed antlers on all public lands west of I-25 is prohibited from Jan. 1 through April 30.

“The purpose of the closures is to reduce disturbance of wintering wildlife during the time of year they are most vulnerable,” said Scott Wait, senior terrestrial biologist for the Southwest Region of Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Big game and sage grouse species live in a basic survival mode during the winter when food is scarce. If forced to move and burn calories unnecessarily, wildlife can lose the energy they need to make it through the winter.

In addition to the statewide restrictions, additional special regulations are

also in place for the Gunnison Basin. In Game Management Units 54, 55, 66, 67 and 551, it is illegal to search for or possess antlers and horns on public lands between legal sunset and 10 a.m. from May 1 through May 15.

Shed antler collecting has become very popular over the last decade. Commercial collectors, which sell sheds for decorations, have led to a substantial increase of people searching for antlers and horns in sensitive wildlife areas. The seasonal prohibition applies to both commercial and recreational collectors.

Anyone witnessing violations of the closure regulations should call the nearest CPW office or Operation Game Thief at 877-265-6648.



BLM Colorado issues power line policy

COLORADO – Building on the Trump Administration’s ongoing efforts to reduce the threat of wildfires through active management, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Colorado State Office issued a new policy to limit fire risk from power lines crossing BLM-managed public lands. The policy provides guidance for effective vegetation management within and adjacent to electric transmission and distribution line rights of way, also known as ROWs.

“This policy is designed to reduce wildfire risks in and around power-line rights of way, enabling utilities to manage vegetation in these areas more efficiently,” said BLM Colorado State Director Jamie Connell. “Minimizing threats to transmission and distribution lines enhances our electric grid’s reliability, an obvious benefit for the public.”

The BLM administers nearly 17,000 ROWs for electric transmission and distribution lines across more than 70,000 miles in the 11 contiguous western states and Alaska. These ROWs often contain or are adjacent to dead or dying trees and other vegetation that, if not properly maintained, can make contact with power lines and create a fire hazard.

To reduce this hazard, in 2018 Congress amended the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) by adding specific agency requirements for administering powerline ROWs. The policy is part of a larger national wildfire reduction strategy guided by President Trump’s Executive Order (E.O.) 13855 – *Promoting Active Management of America’s Forests, Rangelands, and Other Federal Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk*, as well as Secretary’s Order (S.O.) 3372 – *Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land through Active Management*. The two orders direct the BLM and other Interior agencies to implement policies to improve forest and rangeland management practices by reducing hazardous fuel loads, mitigating fire risk and ensuring the safety and stability of local communities through active management on forests and rangelands. The new BLM Colorado policy accomplishes these tasks by clarifying that utilities can conduct operation and maintenance activities to prevent and suppress wildfire immediately, without an additional authorization from the BLM. The new policy also includes updated guidance on agency monitoring of ROW holders’ activities for preventing wildfire in and around a ROW.

The new policy is available on the

BLM website at the following link: <https://go.usa.gov/xpvVZ>.

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Courtesy photo

From left to right: Fernando Martinez, Chief Executive Officer of SLVBHG drops the keys into the hands of Lance Cheslock, Executive Director of La Puente while Victoria Romero, Chief Operations Officer of SLVBHG looks on.

‘Tis the Season of Giving at SLVBHG

BY WILL BARTON

SAN LUIS VALLEY - The San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group (SLVBHG) donated five vehicles from their fleet to local organizations serving the community. “It’s been a long-standing tradition to donate our older vehicles to local non-profits,” said SLVBHG’s CEO Fernando Martinez.

La Puente, an emergency shelter focused on homelessness prevention, was one of the recipients of the vehicles. Lance Cheslock, Executive Director of La Puente, came to SLVBHG to accept the donation. “This is like an amazing Christmas present,” said Cheslock. His excitement was contagious. There were many laughs and smiles to share during the “ceremonial” transferring of the keys.

The Center of Restorative Programs (CRP), an organization that focuses on strengthening the community by bridging conflict and restoring relationships, will

also receive donated vehicles.

SLVBHG recently acquired new vehicles to aid in the transportation of clients and staff. “The agency’s fleet allows us to cover all 8,000 square miles of the San Luis Valley. Our outpatient staff must be very mobile, and this fleet allows us to do just that,” said Martinez. “As our vehicles get older, we trade them in. But when possible, we like to donate them to our partners within the community. La Puente is an organization with a tremendous impact on the homeless population. It is an honor to be able to assist them in their mission with these vehicles.”

Vehicles enable SLVBHG to meet clients where they are. Transportation is one of the major barriers-to-care in the San Luis Valley. Helping clients with transportation to their therapy appointments go a long way in assisting them in remaining stable in the community.

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month

SALIDA – Heart of the Rockies wants to remind women that January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. The state health department encourages women ages 21 to 74 to start the year by talking with their health care providers about scheduling a Pap test.

Every year in the United States, approximately 13,170 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer, according to CDPHE. A Pap test is the first line of defense against cervical cancer; finding cervical cancer early is critical. “When you find out, can be just as important as *what* you find out. When cervical cancer is detected early, more than 92% of women have a five-year survival rate,” said HRRMC Foundation Director Kimla Robinson. “Cervical cancer usually doesn’t have any signs or symptoms, so a routine Pap test will tell you if you have a problem.”

CDPHE Interim Chief Medical Officer Dan Shodell, M.D., said, “Cervical Health Awareness Month is the perfect time to remind women that these tests could be the difference between life and death. Women’s Wellness Connection offers free screenings. We can help women stay cancer free...”

Women’s Wellness Connection offers free cervical cancer screenings and any necessary follow-up testing to Colorado women. The program offers free cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services to women ages 21 through 64, who have little or no health insurance and meet income requirements. To be eligible for the Women’s Wellness Connection, women must earn less than 250% of the federal poverty level and have no health insurance or have health insurance with high deductibles or copays.

Dr. Tiffany Rhodes, gynecologist at HRRMC, will be presenting information on the human papilloma virus (HPV) at a Lunch & Learn on Jan. 15 at noon. HPV is linked to cervical cancer, and Dr. Rhodes will share how the two are related

and how HPV can be prevented.

For more information about the presentation or The Women’s Well-

ness Connection, contact Brenda at 719-207-2088 or brenda.gentile@hrrmc.net.

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