

## Shorts



Courtesy photo

### Center schools to host anti-bullying speaker

**CENTER** — Anti-bullying speaker and drug prevention specialist Fabian Ramirez will address Center students, parents and community members about the dangers of bullying and drug use on Wednesday, Jan. 29.

The event will take place in the Center Schools Cafeteria from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Dinner and child care will be provided.

Community members are invited to come learn ways to prevent and eliminate bullying and other harmful behaviors.

### VFA meeting Saturday, Jan. 25

**MONTE VISTA** — VFA will meet this Saturday, Jan. 25, at 1 p.m. Come when you can and stay as long as you want.

Bring a project, ideas, questions and a friend or two. Members are going to potentially look at doing some sort of “project” this year. Come and provide your input.

For directions, call Wanda at 719-852-5000 (home) or text her at 719-580-4976 (cell). Looking forward to seeing everyone.

### Colorado Parks and Wildlife cautions anglers to avoid purchasing fishing licenses on fraudulent websites

*The easiest, most secure and best-priced methods of purchasing Colorado fishing licenses are through cpwshop.com, visiting a Colorado Parks and Wildlife park or office, or buying from an authorized Colorado sales agent in person.*

**DENVER**—After being alerted to a fraudulent website claiming to sell Colorado fishing licenses, Colorado Parks and Wildlife urges people to be wary of 3rd party sites offering deals on CPW products. CPW’s online shop and hundreds of license sales agents across the state

*Please see FISHING on Page 12A*

## Official Moffat fire report: blaze began in greenhouse

By TERESA L. BENNS

**LAKWOOD** — Following a preliminary report last month regarding the origin of the Moffat fire and explosion Oct. 15, 2019, the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (CDFPC) released its official report to the Saguache County Sheriff’s Office last week.

The cause of the fire remains undetermined and no indication of an incendiary cause was found. But some of the initial conclusions are contradicted in the final report.

Investigator Dawn Tollis and Chief of Investigations Jerry Means (Adams County Fire Department) were assigned by CDFPC to assess the fire and explosion. According to their report, Means interviewed the owner of a residence located at the

northwest corner of the block, Skip Benson.

Means stated that Benson reported to him he and a female companion smelled smoke from inside the residence, went outside to see where the smoke was coming from, and saw the northeast corner of the structure located at 645 East Moffat Way on fire. “Benson said he heard the propane tank start to ‘whistle,’ recognized that sound as trouble, and told the female companion that they needed to move back. While starting to turn, he witnessed the propane tank explode, and ‘the rest of the world was on fire.’”

This residence, then, “a wood framed structure with a 250-gallon propane tank located at the northeastern most corner of the building, was determined

*Please see FIRE on Page 10A*



## Remembering Tristen Benns



Photo by Teresa L. Benns

Sargent School students wear T-shirts in memory of fellow student Tristen Benns on the one month anniversary of his death. Students helped sell the T-shirts as a fundraiser for Tristen’s family.

## Former Gunnison sheriff helping out Saguache SO

By TERESA L. BENNS

**SAGUACHE COUNTY**—Former Gunnison County Sheriff Rick Besecker has signed on part-time with the Saguache County Sheriff’s Office to help patrol one of the most isolated parts of the county — the Cochetopa Pass area including

Sargents, Vulcan, Gold Basin/Highlands and Doyleville.

Besecker is a good fit for the position. He was raised on a ranch near Cochetopa Pass 12 miles off Highway 285, the Quarter Circle Circle, and knows the geography well. He described the ranch as a working

guest ranch, but minus electricity, running water and telephones. This is what made it so attractive to various Hollywood celebrities who returned year after year to “rough it” on the ranch, he explained.

“They worked themselves silly and paid for the privilege to do it,”

Besecker remarked.

In the early 1970s, Besecker was sworn in as a peace officer in Saguache County. He worked first for the Gunnison Police Department and later for the Gunnison County Sheriff’s Office, serving 24 years as

*Please see SHERIFF on Page 10A*

## County still refusing to vacate CR 59 for annexation

By TERESA L. BENNS

**SAGUACHE** — Commissioners informed town of Moffat Mayor Patty Riegel at their Tuesday meeting they will not reverse their decision regarding the vacation of County Road 59 and questioned the town’s motives for pursuing the “flagpole” annexation.

Moffat had proposed the county

vacate the road to create the one-sixth contiguity necessary to satisfy state statutes in annexing the Potch LLC/Area 420 cannabis cultivation/sales development. Commissioners posed several questions to annexation proponents present at the meeting that went unanswered.

Commissioner Tim Lovato told

Riegel that while the annexation may be beneficial to the town, he doesn’t see much benefit to the residents. He also reminded the mayor that the current operation of Potch LLC/Area 420 is not in compliance with 2017 county regulations regarding commercial and medical marijuana cultivation in subdivisions. Nor has

the development even been properly subdivided according to these same regulations, he observed.

Lovato also pointed out that to date, the county has not even seen the town’s impact statement.

Commissioner Chair Jason Anderson said the annexation sounded

*Please see COUNTY on Page 10A*



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# OBITUARIES

## JW (Bill) Pryor, 100

**MONTE VISTA** — Jones William Pryor passed Jan. 18, 2020, at his home on Adams Street in Monte Vista, Colorado. Bill was born April 4, 1919, and was a lifelong resident of Monte Vista. He served in the Army during WW2 in the South Pacific where he was wounded and received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. After the service Bill went to CSU in Fort Collins and earned a degree in Forestry. Bill met his wife at CSU (Helen Imelda Shea) and they were married in 1948. After Graduation they returned to monte Vista where Bill worked for Sunrise Cemetery and Sinton Dairy. Bill is survived by his four children (Pat Griest, Linda Pryor, Bill Pryor and Michelle Schaefer), eight grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Bill was preceded in death by parents Edwin and Edith Pryor; brothers Wallace and Robert; his wife Helen of 57 years; daughter-in-law, Patti, a grandchild, Erin; and a nephew, Bobby. Bill enjoyed the mountains, fishing, and spending time with family and friends. Bill was an artist and was a longtime member of the Alpine Artists. Bill very much enjoyed sharing his art



in hand painted Christmas cards and his paintings are scattered across the country with family and friends. Bill celebrated his 100th birthday in 2019. Funeral services are being handled by Romero Funeral Home. Memorial Mass will be held at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Monte Vista at 2 p.m. On Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020. Testimonials and Meal to Follow.

## Rebecca (grandma Becky) Marie Martinez, 70

**MONTE VISTA** — Becky Marie Martinez went to her eternal rest with her Heavenly Father early Saturday morning, Jan. 18, 2020.

Becky was born in Monte Vista on Oct. 21, 1949 to Joe Procopio Medina and Eufelia (Felix) Medina (Naranjo).

Becky was a dedicated mother, grandma, great-grandma, sister, aunt, cousin and friend. She loved her family dearly and they loved and cared for her selflessly.

Becky enjoyed listening to her gospel music and sermons. Becky was ready to go to her Lord and savior.

Becky is survived by her daughters Lynette (David), Karen (Juan) Majalca, her grandchildren Olivia, Cristina, Amy, Blanca Cano, Juan (Clarissa), Ben (RyAnna), Nancy (Sam) Montoya and Maribel Majalca, Kenny, Jr., Andrew, Ashley Martinez, Anthony, Angelo and Orion Montoya, step-Grandchildren Brian and Britany Martinez, great grandchildren Mia Majalca, Avery Cano, Manuel Robles, Keile Aaragon, Achilles, Miguel, Leo and Romilo Medina. She is also survived by sisters Juanita Archuleta, Esther (Cecil) Sewell, Annie (Roberto) Segura, Orlinda (Maxi) Ventura and brother Art (Ursula) Medina and very special cousin Joyce (Mark) Renshaw.

Becky was preceded in death by her husband Ben, son Kenny, Mom, Dad, sisters Gloria Montoya, Verna Retana, Carol Campa, Brother Thomas Medina and special friend Leo Montoya.

Becky was a dedicated believer in God and was ready to go with Him. Becky enjoyed helping whenever she could and was a big part of our reunions and made gift bags for her church. Her greatest joy was her family, who took her out with them to their outings. Becky had a sense of humor and lived her life to the fullest and didn't complain about her illnesses.



Becky will be greatly missed by us all but we know she is in a far better place.

There will be a service for Becky at The Door at 1300 West 12th on Highway 285 in Alamosa at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25. A dinner will follow at the Knights of Columbus at 812 8th Street in Alamosa.

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## Coleen E. Hurzeler (McDonald)

**MONTE VISTA** — Coleen E. Hurzeler (McDonald) was born in Oklahoma March 17, 1921. Her parents, Jim and Rhae McDonald, moved the family to Monte Vista, Colorado during the tough economic conditions of the 1930s. She and her brother, Robert Patrick McDonald and her sister Jeannine McDonald (later McKibben/Warmack) attended Monte Vista schools. Coleen graduated from Monte Vista High School with the Class of 1939.

World War 2 interrupted the next part of Coleen's life. She moved to Camp Roberts near San Luis Obispo, California where she married her Monte Vista boyfriend/soldier, Jim Hurzeler. Their marriage lasted 70 years until Jim's passing in 2012.

Jim and Coleen moved to California after the war and resided in Gardena and Hawthorne before moving to Palos Verdes Estates in 1954. Coleen lived in the Palos Verdes home until her last few years. After Jim died, her sister, Jeannie, moved in with her and provided love, support and assistance. By the time Coleen reached 95 years of age, she needed further support and moved to

Sunrise Assisted Living of Palos Verdes, where she lived out the rest of her life until her passing at age 98 Dec. 2, 2019. Her son, Don Hurzeler, was with her the evening before her passing and she was in good spirits...passing quickly of heart failure the next morning. A service was held at Green Hills Mortuary near Palos Verdes Dec. 27, 2019.

Jim and Coleen had two children, Don and Pam...both raised in Palos Verdes Estates. Together, the family were frequent summertime visitors back to Monte Vista, Colorado to visit friends and relatives. Pam died at age 60 of a stroke. Don lives in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. Coleen's parents passed long ago and her brother, Pat passed away in 2003. Her sister, Jeannie Warmack, lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Coleen was known for her smile, her optimistic and caring manner and for her love and support of her husband, Jim Hurzeler. She was a terrific mom, a solid employee when she worked in the credit department of the Treasury retail store and a great neighbor. She never forgot her ties to Monte Vista, Colorado, yet loved her home and



it's terrific view on Via Acalones in Palos Verdes Estates. She is survived by her sister, numerous nieces and nephews, her son Don and beloved daughter-in-law, Linda Hurzeler, two grand-children and five great grand-children. Her newest granddaughter, Julia Coleen Hurzeler, was in attendance at her funeral...born just four days earlier. Think of Coleen smiling... she loved her life, the people around her, Colorado, California and most of all, her husband, Jim.



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# CLIPS FROM THE CLERK

BY SAGUACHE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER TRISH GILBERT

A 2020 candidate's guide to running for an elected office in Saguache County



**Frequently Asked Questions:**  
Q. How do I verify my status and affiliation as a registered voter?

A. You may review your voter registration at [www.govotecolorado.gov](http://www.govotecolorado.gov), click on Find my Registration. You may also call the Saguache County Clerk's Office — 719-655-2512.

Q. Which forms are filed with the County Clerk?

A. Certificate of Designation by Assembly and Candidate Acceptance of Designation provided by the political party at the assembly.

Major/Minor Political Party Primary Designation Petition or Unaffiliated Candidate General Election Designation Petition, Candidate Acceptance of Petition Nomination and Affidavit of Intent for Write-In Designation provided by the county.

Q. Who do I contact with questions about running for county elected offices? How can I get a list of voters in the county?

Please contact the Saguache County Clerk's Office at 719-655-2512, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Access to the Ballot  
• Certificate of Designation by Party Assembly

• Major and minor party candidates may seek nomination at their political party's assembly.

The Democratic and Republican Party caucuses are scheduled for Saturday, March 7, 2020. You must be affiliated with the party no later than 1/2/2020. Contact your political party for caucus and assembly protocol and rules.

Major party candidates nominated by assembly are placed on the Primary Election ballot.

The Certificate of Designation by Assembly must be filed by the political party with the County Clerk no later than four days after the adjournment of the assembly. [1-4-103, 1-4-601, 1-4-604 C.R.S.]

### Political Party/Unaffiliated candidate Petition

The County Clerk must approve all petition formats before circulation. The County Clerk's office will verify the petition signatures and notify the candidate of sufficiency or insufficiency.

Signers will be eligible electors residing within the district. Unaffiliated candidates are placed on the General Election ballot only. For detailed information, please see 1-4-8, 1-4-9 C.R.S.

County Commissioner  
Saguache County has three (3) Commissioner seats. Commissioner Districts 1 and 2 will expire in January 2021. These seats will be

open for election in November 2020. Commissioner District 3 will expire in January 2023. This seat will be open for Election November 2022.

• Term of Office — four years [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 6; 1-4-205(1)(a) CRS]

• Minimum age requirement — 18 years [1-4-501(1) CRS]

• Residency Requirement — Registered elector, U.S. citizen

• Resident of the district for at least one year before the election [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 10; 1-4-205(1)(b) & 1-2-101(1)(a) CRS]

The offices of County Clerk and Recorder, County Treasurer and County Assessor will expire in January 2023. These seats will be open for election November 2022.

• Term of Office — Four years [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 6; 1-4-205(1)(a) CRS]

• Minimum age requirement — 18 years [1-4-501(1) CRS]

• Residency requirement — Registered elector, U.S. citizen

• Resident of the district for at least one year before the election [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 10; 1-4-205(1)(b) & 1-2-101(1)(a) CRS]

The offices of County Sheriff and County Coroner will expire in January 2023. These seats will be open for election November 2022.

Term of Office — Four years [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 6; 1-4-205(1)(a) CRS]

• Minimum age requirement — 18 years [1-4-501(1) CRS]

• Residency requirement — Registered elector, U.S. citizen

• Resident of the district for at least one year before the election [Colorado Constitution Article XIV, Section 10; 1-4-205(1)(b) & 1-2-101(1)(a) CRS]

• Education Requirement — Possess a high school diploma or its equivalent or a college degree [30-10-501.5(b) CRS]

• Other requirements — Submit a receipt evidencing a complete set of fingerprints has been taken by a qualified law enforcement agency at the time of filing his or her written acceptance or candidate affidavit [30-10-501.5(c) CRS]

A person who has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to or entered a plea of nolo contendere to any felony charge under federal or state law is unqualified for the office of unless pardoned. [30-10-601.5(3)(b) CRS]

These references are for guidelines only! Always refer to the Colorado constitution and Colorado revised statutes for applicable laws.

# MOUNTAIN VALLEY PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

BY PRINCIPAL KATHY HILL

I want to take a moment to thank Dean for printing my principal's corner and for sharing articles and events that are occurring at MVS. We know that communication is vital and that many of you enjoy reading about the happenings at Mountain Valley. We appreciate being featured in our *Saguache Crescent* and want to say a heartfelt thank you, Dean, for working articles into the paper for us.

fun STEM activities. All of these STEM Fridays are to support lifelong learning for all!

The Mountain Valley School staff honored each other by passing our staff awards to another deserving staff member.

This month's recipients were: I Love Kids Award: Nutrition Services Cook Autumn Rice.

Autumn always has a smile and a kind word for everyone eating breakfast and lunch at MVS.

The Above and Beyond award was passed to custodian Felisha Pino. Felisha just joined the MVS family and has been a great addition as she works diligently to keep our facility looking brand new and she does her work with a smile.

Our Continuous Creativity goes to our awesome school counselor Lisa Powers. Lisa has a genuine caring heart for all at MVS! Lastly, our Awesome Attitude award was passed to high school science teacher Jody Abeyta. Jody always strives to make the best of things and encourages all of our students to do their best! I am very proud of the staff at MVS as we each do the best we can every day to build relationships support a love of learning.

### Upcoming events at MVS

• Friday, 01/24: HS BB (home in Moffat) 5 p.m. vs. Sierra Grande

• Friday, 01/24: STEM Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



• Saturday, 01/25: HS wrestling at Custer County, HS BB at Primero, 1 p.m.

• Tuesday, 01/28: Knowledge Bowl at ASU, MS Girls BB at Monte Vista

• Wednesday, 01/29: Student of the Quarter Assembly, 2:30 p.m.

• Thursday, 01/30: Grades 3-5 Science Fair, HS BB (home in Moffat) vs. Cotopaxi

• Friday, 01/31: Drum Fit Class 9:15 a.m., HS wrestling Valley Tournament

• Tuesday, 02/04: FBLA District Competition at ASU, MS girls BB (home in Moffat)

• Thursday, 02/06: FREE Community Dinner and Bully Prevention Seminar 4:30 p.m.

• Feb. 11-12: Parent/Teacher conferences

• Thursday, 02/13 and Monday 02/17: No School — President's Week



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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Over the horizon

No week is complete without a challenge and this one was no exception.

A good share of my fans -- and detractors -- of these musings live in places with great views and even better sunsets as El Sol dips into the western landscape.

This week, though, that's not the type of horizon I want to talk about.

Now Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie could be said to be heavy users of the online phone service and in fact, I doubt anyone uses their phones more than us. Miss Trixie can find anything you want and most of what you do not want with those magic fingers of hers. And Ol' Dutch is always looking at the weather. Yeah, just a man thing.

But all that clickety clacking takes a phone and a phone takes service and service takes a provider. Since we travel extensively and depend on phones for everything from soup to nuts, we have found that one certain cell phone carrier works the best wherever we land.

And all in all they have been pretty good except when it comes to replacing a faulty device. Oh, you get one eventually but not without evoking a few Rosaries, prayers of intense fervor and fake tears.

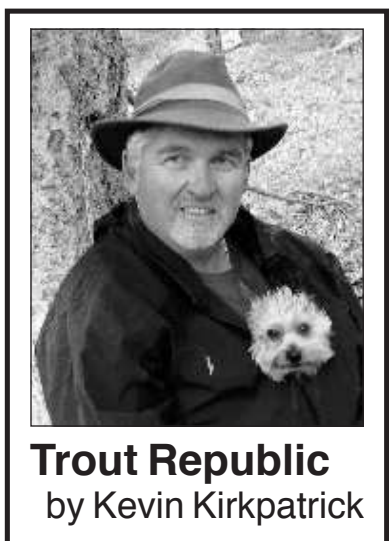
This past year Ol' Dutch has been in the replacement phone circle with my carrier whom we shall now call Horizon. As it has been horrible.

It all began some four years ago when I decided to get a new Android phone. I really liked it but about two years into this deal the battery life began to fade like an old man in his easy chair: he can still get up but really doesn't want to.

This began an almost constant communication between Horizon and my agent, Miss Trixie, and they have sent me so many refurbished phones that I have lost track. For those of you who do not know what refurbished is let me explain it to you.

The carrier takes in an old phone that has issues or has been traded in by some disgruntled customers and puts it through a 101 test regimen. Now what they do not tell you is if it passed said tests or just went through them. Kind of like marriage. Sometimes you just live with what you got.

The batteries in these rehab phones are the same batteries as it came with which means it's just like the one causing me problems. And as the batteries are now built into every phone this requires that you buy a



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

new phone instead of a battery like we used to do. This is called good business for them and bad luck for all of us.

That is some kind of smart right there. So this past year the phones came and went and chargers and cords passed in the mail like ships in the night because each time I had a failure, the company insisted it was a bad charger or cord and so we got new ones. This means we have a cupboard with enough cords to connect Space X with the Earth while in orbit.

Of course it was not the accessories so after much whining on my part new but well-used phones came in the mail. Some lasted months but lately they are lasting anywhere from two days to two weeks and I have had three since Christmas alone.

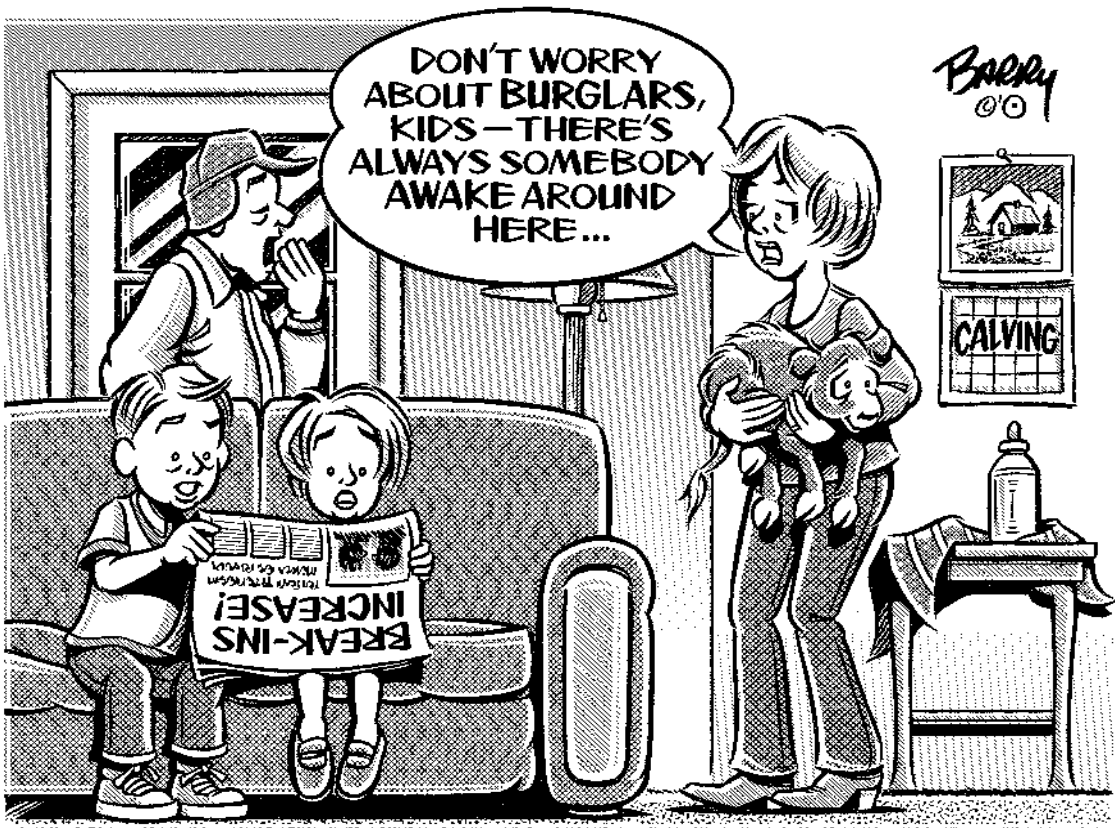
This has led to what is known as a "mad hatter" syndrome as Ol' Dutch is about to lose his mind over the phone quitting every few days.

But as they say, better lucky than good so now good vibes have smiled down on me and I now have a working phone.

I did have some expenses incurred from so much time on the phone like cauliflower ear and Miss Trixie learned a few new swear words as Ol' Dutch would hit the wall every time he called about the phone.

It does appear that Ol' Dutch will eventually have to buy a newer model just like I did when I got Miss Trixie and come to think of it, that worked out pretty well. Yes, pretty well indeed.

*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.*



## 2020 Vision: Implementing the READ ACT

On Jan. 8 at 10 a.m., the Colorado Legislature convened the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly. The Colorado Constitution states that the regular session must begin no later than the second Wednesday in January and must adjourn within 120 calendar days. There are also special sessions that are called to extend the regular session, but that is very rare.

While the legislature commenced Under the Dome, I was Across the Street attending a State Board of Education meeting. This year the board will write rules to accompany the education bills passed in the last session. Senate Bill 199 (SB19-199) or The Reading to Ensure Academic Development (READ) Act was of great interest, not only because all one hundred legislators voted to pass it, but because of my background as a teacher. That bill also addressed the fact that only 40% of our fourth-graders are reading at grade level. Since passage of the bill I've been traveling around the district sharing how the READ act can help students become better readers and what the bill means to parents, teachers and the community.

One of the ways parents/teachers/community members can learn about newer, more reliable, evidence-based methods to teach children how to read

is to take a class. However, who has the time?

I felt the same way until I found a FREE online MOOC. A MOOC is an acronym for Massive Open Online Course. MOOCs are free, and a person only needs an email address to sign up. I wanted to take the course to understand what teachers needed to learn under the READ Act, and I wanted to receive a certificate for taking the class. The Friday Institute out of North Carolina State College of Education offers a MOOC called Teaching Foundational Reading Skills. The course clearly explains what the evidence-based reading program is all about and how adults using the program can successfully raise the reading ability of students from kindergarten through the third grade.

This was the message that I took to schools and libraries throughout the 3rd Congressional District. When students are taught to read, according to the requirements of the READ Act, they will have the most critical component and increased opportunity for success.

When I visited Pueblo, community members in attendance included the Superintendent, school board members, teachers and community members. Dr. Margaret Wright, a



**Across the Street**  
BY JOYCE RANKIN  
State Board of Education

member of the Pueblo 60 school board, attended that session. I recently spoke with Dr. Wright, and she shared an "A-Ha" moment that came about as a result of taking the MOOC course and realizing the importance of proper reading instruction, not only K-3 but as a part of the whole K-12 learning experience. She, too, has become passionate about the importance of evidence-based reading instruction to ensure student success.

As the legislative session progresses, I'll be continuing to meet with communities sharing some of the ways they can support what students should be learning in the classroom.

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# CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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# 'Colorado...it's AgriCultural' photo contest

**BROOMFIELD** - Colorado agriculture provides picturesque landscapes for both amateur and professional photographers. Winning entries in the 22nd annual "Colorado...it's AgriCultural" Photography Contest showcase the state's agricultural diversity, from crops being harvested in dim evening light before a storm and a close-up of a curious cow to aerial views of fields and pollinators at work.

"Judges were excited to see the next generation of Colorado agriculture featured in the winning photo," said Wendy White, marketing specialist at the Colorado Department of Agriculture. "It is encouraging to see young and beginning farmers interested in pursuing a career in agriculture."

The winners were selected based on relation to Colorado agriculture, creativity and technical quality. The grand-prize winner, which best depicts the "spirit" of Colorado agriculture, is Brandee Gillham of **Peetz**, Colorado, with the entry entitled "Pursue the Dream." The winning photograph shows a young cowboy watching his family herd cattle.

Other top finishers from across Colorado include Travis Harvey of **Pueblo**, first place in the ag from above category; Allison Porter of **Cortez**, first place in the crops category; Michael McCaffrey of **Cope**, first place livestock; Ethan Voth of **Monument**, first place urban agriculture; and Bryan Harding of **Loveland**, first place open professional.

Individuals receiving an honorable mention include Shelby Chesnut, **Kersey**; Jennifer Nichols, **Eckert**; Michael McCaffrey, **Cope**; Allison Porter, **Cortez**; Emily Sierra Photography, **Berthoud**; Brandee Gillham, **Peetz**; and Amy Hadden Marsh, **Glenwood Springs**.

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Agricultural" Photography Contest is sponsored by the AgInsights Committee, Colorado Department of Agriculture and Northeastern Junior College. Winning photographs will be displayed in the Beede-Hamil Agriculture Building at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colorado. They are also available online at [www.coloradoagriculture.com](http://www.coloradoagriculture.com).

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# Creede Pond Hockey is fun for everyone

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

**CREEDE-** The warm afternoon sun glistened off the ice rinks north of Creede Saturday while teams from all walks of life took to the ice for the annual Golden Pick Ice Hockey Tournament in Creede. Hockey players from all over the U.S. gathered for a weekend full of fun, friendly competition and winter recreation.

The event began as a way to break up the bleak winter months in Creede and has grown to a full-on festival of sorts for the small mountain town. The tournament brings characters of all different backgrounds to town which give the event that special Creede-like

feel; a uniqueness that can only be found in and around the west end of the Valley.

The weekend started out with 24 teams between two levels of players for the event. Players came from local businesses and organizations as well as hockey enthusiasts from places as far as Michigan to as close as Alamosa. The weekend was a great success and ended with two champions from each level.

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 *Please see HOCKEY on Page 12A*



Photos by Keith R. Cerny  
Hundreds of spectators and more than a dozen teams took to the ice just north of Creede over the weekend for the Golden Pick Tommyknocker Pond Hockey Tournament. Members of the "Bottom of the Barrel" team (gray shirts) representing SLV Rural Electric Co-op are shown in action against "Hard Pass."

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12 PM Live Ice Sculpting  
12 - 3 PM Beach Party Downtown  
2 PM Kiwanis Costume Contest  
3 - 7 PM Grub n' Pub  
7 PM Fire and Ice Bonfire

**Sunday**  
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# Sargent's Van Bibber named to CDCCA Hall of Fame

DENVER —Colorado baseball history isn't complete without a distinguished class of hall of famers. With that in mind, members of the Colorado Dugout Club Coaches Association (CDCCA) decided to construct its own Hall of Fame. Spurred on by a nomination committee, the Colorado Dugout Club was proud to present its 2010 inaugural Hall of Fame class. The process that led to the initial class of 19 was arduous, tedious, exciting and rewarding.

This year the process was every bit as exciting and rewarding. The nominees increased from last year to now a ballot of over 150 men who someday may enter this select group of baseball people and refer to themselves as hall of famers. Along the way, many of these nominees again crossed paths with previous classes inductees, and intertwined with a single purpose--to add their special touch to unify players, coaches and schools. And they did that with an uncanny ability and grace that has helped develop the highest standard for others to follow.

These men, as did the previous year's groups and the inaugural class, have achieved above the norm. Their contributions and influence created legacies along the way that impacted those throughout the state, region, nation and internationally. Their involvement within and outside their respective communities have led others to refer to them as "Baseball Guys"

and "Mr. Baseball". This year's class, joins those who have set themselves apart, made a difference, passed the test of time and left an indelible mark.

Therefore, it is with great honor that we, the Colorado Dugout Club Coaches Association, would like to present the Hall of Fame class of 2020: CHSAA Assistant Commissioner Bert Borgmann, long time former head baseball coach at Colorado University Frank "Chief Prentup, Former head coach at Mullen HS and Metro State University Vince Porreco, Long time baseball coach at Colorado School of Mines Jim Darden, longtime baseball coach and tournament organizer in Pueblo Joe Andenucio, Former head baseball coach in Rifle Gordon Cooper, Current head baseball coach at Sargent HS Terry Van Bibber and Longtime Denver area head and assistant coach Bob Dampier.

The hall of fame dinner and festivities will begin at 7 p.m. January 17 at the Marriott Tech Center, 4900 S. Syracuse St Denver Co. Former players, former coaching colleagues and all their past and current friends please come celebrate the careers of this incredible group of men.

Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased by contacting Mike Letofsky at coloradodugoutclub@comcast.net or 303-809-0132, or by purchasing online at coloradodugoutclub.org.



Sargent's Terry Van Bibber watches his team during 2018 2A state tournament play. Photo by Stephen Jiron

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# SPORTS

## Del Norte girls fend off Center on home court

### Tigers right at home in new school

**By STEPHEN JIRON**  
**DEL NORTE** — The girls basketball squad of Del Norte picked up their second win in the new gym by knocking off Center 57-36.

The Tigers christened the new gym on Thursday night when they took on the formerly tenth-ranked Ignacio Bobcats. Del Norte (8-1) was riding high on a three-game winning streak entering their weekend tilt with Center. The Vikings (6-5) also played Thursday night taking care of business, 42-17, against league rival South Park in a non-league game.

Center refused to back down from the top ten ranked Del Norte Tigers on Saturday night. The Vikings even took a 5-4 lead off a free throw by senior Brandy Almeida. Del Norte would retake the lead with a 4-point run but

the Vikings stuck around closing the first quarter trailing the host Tigers 17-10.

Del Norte continued an 11-point run that spilled over into the second quarter with Kendra Parra and Gabby Jones combining for 10 points during the scoring streak. Center's Almeida would stop the bleeding picking up three points on back-to-back trips to the free-throw line.

Center pieced together a 6-point run with two baskets credited to Alexis Varela to salvage a dangerous situation and close the first half trailing the Tigers 30-21. The Tigers made the most of the opportunities in the first half. While preliminary stats show they only had two more attempts than the visitors they were more accurate hitting 44 percent of their shots from the field to the Vikings 32 percent.

The second half opened with both teams combining for three trips to the charity stripe. After the first

successful field attempt of the half from Center's Elexus Trujillo, Del Norte put together nine unanswered points to go ahead 41-24 late in the third quarter, the Tigers would close the quarter leading 49-28. Del Norte pressed their commanding lead in the final 8 minutes to earn the win.

The league game between Del Norte and Center will take place in Center on February 8th. Kendra Parra paced all Del Norte scorers with 22 points on Saturday night, followed closely by junior Gabby Jones who netted 15 in the win. For Center, it was Brandy Almeida and Alexis Varela combining for 22 points.

The win makes it four in a row for the Del Norte ladies who will stay home for a visit from Sargent (5-4, 1-0 SPL) on Friday, Jan. 24 before departing on a 6-game road trip that will last to Valentine's Day. Center will be home for a meeting with Sanford (5-4, 1-0 SPL) on Friday, Jan. 24.



Photo by Stephen Jiron  
**Center's Alexis Varela (22) defends Kendra Parra (24) of Del Norte during Friday's game. Both girls led their respective teams in scoring.**

## Vikings overwhelm Tigers in new gym debut

**By STEPHEN JIRON**  
**DEL NORTE** — Center boys basketball spoiled the Tiger's first game in Del Norte's new gym with an early flurry from beyond the arc to take a 55-38 win on the road.

Center (6-3, 1-0 SPL) entered Saturday's game going back-and-forth between wins and losses holding a .500 record in their last four games. Del Norte (2-7) entered the weekend affair in need of a win dropping two games in a row before hosting Center.

Del Norte kept pace with Center in the early going of Saturday's game chasing the Vikings to a 10-8 deficit. Center broke the game open with a combination of three-pointers. First a pair from Victor Almeida, then one from Habran De La Cruz, Almeida closed the first quarter with a third to catapult the Vikings ahead 22-8. Almeida finished with 11 points in the win.

The second quarter began with 9 more unanswered points from the visitors and Center extended their lead to 31-8. A 6-4 exchange that saw the two teams combine for 6 visits to the free-throw line, closed out the half with Center ahead 37-

12. The Vikings ended the first half shooting exactly 50 percent according to preliminary stats.

Back from the break, the Vikings picked up right where they left off. Following a basket from Del Norte's Marcos Romero, Center collected an unanswered 8 points to start the second half staying

in control to the tune of 51-17 to start the final chapter. Center's Jesus Miranda began the fourth quarter with a free throw to trigger a running clock.

Del Norte closed the game with a scoring blitz putting up 16 points in the final minutes to close the gap before regulation. Devin

Porres was Center's leading scorer, banking 16 points in the win. Del Norte was led in scoring by Leroy Trujillo who collected 11 points on Saturday.

The win has Center tied for the second-best overall record in the Southern Peaks League (SPL) with Sanford (6-3, 1-0 SPL). Both

Center and Sanford trail Crested Butte (7-1).

The Vikings will go home for a game with Sanford Friday, Jan. 24th. Del Norte will also stay home to take on Sargent (3-6, 1-1 SPL) in what could be a competitive game, before going on the road until mid-February.



Photos by Stephen Jiron  
**Del Norte's new gymnasium, complete with an overhead walking track, keeps an open feel similar to the Tiger Fieldhouse thanks to the south wall's windows to the hallway.**



**With Del Norte's Logan Cestone (2), Christian Velasquez (23) and TJ Sanchez in tow, Center senior Devin Porres (21) attacks the hoop.**

San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2019-2020		
Girls		
Antonito 45.....	CSDB	11
Del Norte 53.....	Ignacio	50
Sargent 35.....	Mancos	32
Cotopaxi 63.....	Creede	20
Center 33.....	Monte Vista	32
Alamosa 47.....	Manzanola	33
Sierra Grande 60.....	Creede	27
Sanford 60.....	South Park	6
Centauri 69.....	Monte Vista	22
Alamosa @ Bayfield Postponed		
Pagosa Springs 49.....	Centauri	35
Alamosa 61.....	Monte Vista	13
Sargent 34.....	Custer County	26
Del Norte 57.....	Center	36
Antonito 57.....	Creede	23
Sierra Grande 69.....	Aguilar	10
COLLEGE		
Colorado Mesa 67.....	Adams State	42
Western State 61.....	Adams State	44
Boys		
Monte Vista 56.....	Center	33
Pueblo East 56.....	Alamosa	52
Antonito 55.....	CSDB	54
Mancos 61.....	Sargent	33
Alamosa @ Bayfield Postponed		
Manzanola 65.....	Antonito	38
Sanford 65.....	South Park	25
Crested Butte 47.....	Del Norte	41
Centauri 55.....	Monte Vista	38
Centauri 52.....	Pagosa Springs	42
Sargent 63.....	Custer County	33
Center 55.....	Del Norte	38
Creede 53.....	Antonito	49
COLLEGE		
Colorado Mesa 88.....	Adams State	76
Western State 88.....	Adams State	85

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# 2019 All-Valley Cross-Country team

Student-athletes from all over the valley were recognized for their cross-country efforts this past fall. The members of the All-Valley Cross-Country team were released. The All-Valley Cross-Country team contains a spattering of runners that qualified for the state finals as well as harriers also on the CHSAA All-State team. Both Alamosa teams qualified for state as well as the girls team from Centauri and the

boys team from Sargent. As far as All-State honors went both Josh Medina and Josh Lopez of Alamosa earned first and second-team All-State respectively. Riley Kenison and Nigel Cortright of Sargent were honorable mentions. For the girls, it was Lilly Lavier of Alamosa and Kendra Sears of Sargent who added All-Valley honors to their First and Second team honors respectively. Emily Lavier picked up on honorable mention.



Photos courtesy of Larry Zaragoza

1. Centauri; from left - Kelcee Coombs, Lizzie Valentine, Abigail Sowards, and Mason Sowards not pictured Bo Cormier. 2. Monte Vista; Heather Prevatte. 3. Del Norte; Ben Parra. 4. Sargent; from left Riley Orr, Riley Kenison, and Nigel Cortright not pictured Kendra Sears. 5. Center, Dolores Estrada. 6. Alamosa boys; from left - Josh Lopez, Gradie Gardner, Isaac Higareda, Cole Schwiezer, and Josh Medina. 7. Alamosa girls; from left - Emily Lavier, Lilly Lavier, Alliyah Molina, Anahi Molina, Whitney Thong and Abby Wubben.



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

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

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## SHERIFF

Continued from Page 1A

undersheriff. Later he served eight years as sheriff.

When Sheriff Dan Warwick asked him to help out with northern Saguache County, Besecker said he was happy to do as he was told. "It's an enjoyable concept for a change," he commented. Besecker so far has helped hash out land and right of way squabbles, help route ambulance calls, serve court summons and even had a brush with some counterfeit money being circulated in Sargents.

As undersheriff, Besecker helped establish the Colorado Police and Fire Games in 1985-86. Eventually the event became the World Police and Fire Games, second in size only to the Olympics, he said. The 1993 World Police and Fire Games were held in Colorado Springs, with 80 some countries and 6,000 athletes participating.

Fort Carson, the Air Force Academy, the Olympic Center and area Colorado Springs high schools helped host the games.

During his time as sheriff in Gunnison, he helped build a public safety center that included both a sheriff's office and detention center. In addition, the county built a new courthouse, road and bridge office and human services

office. But Besecker also related some interesting cases during his tenure there.

One of his outstanding cases involved a missing person report that eventually became a murder investigation. The missing man was found buried on the family ranch two years later. A woman confessed to the murder, admitting she had shot her son while he slept.

The murder was reportedly the result of a family feud that escalated out of control. The mother of the victim insisted she had acted alone, but several other family members were arrested in the case. Besecker said the woman was too frail to have buried the body by herself. She plead guilty but died of cancer before serving her sentence.

On a lighter note, one of the highlights of Besecker's career was a case that easily could have ended tragically but thankfully ended well. A man had purchased a cheap raft to raft the Gunnison River with his two sons, ages six and four. While coursing down the river he encountered a fallen tree that snagged the raft and catapulted his 10 year-old-son into the water.

He did not see where the boy landed and could not leave the six-

year-old to go after him. It was a hard decision, Besecker said, but he stayed with the raft and headed for dry land.

Later the sheriff's office received a report that about a mile downstream from where the boy went into the water, a fisherman had rescued a young boy. The boy told the fisherman he had been thrown into the water further upstream and his dad and brother were still in the raft. An ambulance responded to the location and found the boy had no injuries but just needed warming up.

Soon the father and brother arrived on the scene and thought the worst — that the boy had not survived. "The father was in pieces," Besecker said, "angry with himself and blaming himself." But then he saw his son was alive. "To present the son he thought he had lost back to him is a moment I'll treasure forever," Besecker recalled with emotion.

In addition to his part-time duties in Saguache County, Besecker continues to write adventure novels based on his law enforcement experience and knowledge of the area he knows so well. His first novel, *The Devil's Pin Cushion*, is available on Amazon.

## COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

like a "court issue." He objected to the insinuation made by proponents of the annexation that the town doesn't even have the right to keep its own road, and commented he is a "little concerned" the county is being told by Moffat it must give up a county-maintained road a school bus travels down.

J. Anderson asked Moffat attorneys, not present at the meeting, to present their legal grounds for overriding the county's use of its own road. He requested Moffat try to put together an annexation plan that did not involve CR 59. And he further requested that managers for the cannabis development create a master plan for their project.

Commissioner Ken Anderson raised concerns about health and safety issues.

County Attorney Ben Gibbons said he had been contacted by Moffat attorneys only once, and he told them the county would not vacate the road, calling it "an issue of law." Otherwise, he said, he had received no communications from them. The town is currently engaging three attorneys

to accomplish the annexation.

Gibbons and commissioners noted that the county has not given up road rights of way in Center or Saguache, as Riegel claims. J. Anderson said the only roads the county vacates are abandoned roads, not county roads in use on a regular basis.

In response to J. Anderson's request for a master plan, Potch LLC/Area 420 developer Whitney Justice commented some planning measures are in progress but said it wouldn't matter if the annexation doesn't go through. Regarding water issues, she told the board that the well already operating on the development could handle any water needs.

Justice's associate Mike Biggio told commissioners that the town of Moffat is well-equipped to maintain CR 59 and could even improve the road. He claims many county roads are not well maintained and intimidated the town of Moffat would do a better job of maintaining the road than the county.

Biggio also said he doesn't want "bad blood" with the county but would

like to work with commissioners, suggesting that the town and the county could arrive at a workable alternative regarding the annexation.

Justice informed commissioners that a Boulder attorney named Williamson and the other Moffat attorneys all agree that the county "has no legal premise for thwarting our position" regarding the annexation. Commissioners indicated the laws regarding annexation did not appear to support this and told Justice to be sure to provide case law to support her claim.

## FIRE

Continued from Page 1A

to be the origin of the fire. The structures involved were surrounded by tall grass, which allowed the fire to spread quickly to other buildings on the block."

Part of the propane tank traveled 820 feet southeast of the site of origin and ignited a grass fire.

Means then examined other locations to see what was ignited as a result of the propane tank explosion, later

returning to the 645 East Moffat Way address to examine debris at the site.

"Several large pieces of equipment used for the occupant's business were uncovered," the report states. "These pieces of equipment showed extensive burn patterns, and it was suspected these pieces could be significant in the cause of the fire." The nature of the equipment examined, however, was not identified.

While assessing the excavation site, the owner of the business known as Crystal Stix, Bill Vestil, arrived on the scene. Means asked Vestil what he witnessed at the time of the fire. According to Vestil, he heard one Toby Jones, a friend staying at the business/residence, "screaming that the greenhouse was on fire."

Vestil told Adams he "went out a side door located on the east side of a section of the building that connected a greenhouse to the main building. He stated he saw flames coming from the Northwest corner of the greenhouse. At this time, it was not known by investigators that a greenhouse had been attached to the building." No remnants of the greenhouse remained when the initial assessment was made.

"Vestil states he grabbed a garden hose to try and put the fire out but was not successful in his attempt and had to escape the scene. When Vestil was questioned about the operation of the equipment, he stated those specific pieces had never been operational and were never used."

In the light of this new information, "Chief Means and Investigator Tollis

decided to re-assess the scene, and re-interview Benson for additional details. On re-interview, Benson clarified that the flames were coming from the greenhouse, not the structure. Due to the complete degradation of the greenhouse from the fire, it was determined further layer search of the area was not possible."

Lack of water hindered firefighting efforts

The report continues: "Fire personnel from the local fire department stated they received a call at approximately 4:20 p.m. to respond to a structure fire on 5th Street. Staff responded approximately 11 minutes later and immediately observed a structure located at 645 East Moffat Way with heavy smoke and fire coming from the rear of the building, moving toward the front of the building.

"Personnel stated that they started suppression efforts but were quickly hindered due to the lack of water supply in the area, as no hydrants were installed in the town. Fire personnel from surrounding communities were called to assist. Departments responding to the fire, hauled water to the scene in an effort to provide additional water resources. A well located at the Moffat Consolidated School was also accessed for water."

Law enforcement confirmed the lack of water availability. "There were no water sources to be able to tap into," Saguache County Sheriff Dan Warwick told CBS Oct. 16, 2019. "To pump water, the nearest resources from here are about a 15-mile drive."

The proposed Potch LLC/Area 420 Moffat Annexation 3 has been challenged on the grounds that marijuana extraction operations pose a fire hazard. Without sufficient water to fight potential fires, and Saguache County Commissioners have raised this issue with the town of Moffat, another disaster possibly even worse than the Moffat fire and explosion may not be able to be avoided.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### 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](http://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.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

2020 Presidential Primary Election LAT  
(Logic & Accuracy Test)  
January 29, 2020

Notice is hereby given that a public Logic and Accuracy Test of Saguache County's voting equipment will take place on January 29, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Saguache County Courthouse Election Office, 501 4th St., Saguache. Information about the test may be obtained by calling County Clerk, Trish Gilbert at (719) 655-2512.

### AVISO PÚBLICO

Prueba de lógica y exactitud (LAT)  
para las elecciones presidenciales  
29 de enero de 2020

Por medio del presente se informa que el 29 de enero de 2020, a partir de las 8:30 a.m., se realizará la prueba pública de lógica y exactitud de los equipos de votación del condado de Saguache en la Oficina Electoral del Tribunal del Condado, 501 4th St., Saguache. Puede obtener información sobre la prueba llamando a la secretaria del condado, Trish Gilbert, al teléfono (719) 655-2512.

No. 1553 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020.

## The Changing Seasons of Life

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV) says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." This is true in every area of our lives—in our relationships, jobs, personal growth, our walk with Christ, and even in our hobbies and interests. I've been through many different seasons at this point in my life, and each one has been challenging and rewarding in some way. For example...

As parents, Dave and I have gone through different seasons with our four children. There was a period when we had to help them with everything and give them guidance in every decision. Then, as they grew, we let them begin making decisions on their own. And later on, when it was time for them to leave home, we had to disengage from them so they could pursue their own lives.

We've also gone through different seasons in our relationship. Dave and I used to be together most of the time, building the ministry we have today. Now, after 53 years of marriage, we still love being together and are closer than we've ever been, but we can also give each other more space to do things we each enjoy.

There are friends I used to spend a lot of time with and now I don't see them often or at all. And I've had different jobs through the years with various types of responsibilities to manage.

I like change because life gets boring if everything is always the same. But change isn't always easy, especially when it comes to our inner life and our spiritual growth.

### Knowing When You Need a Change

It's important to be able to discern when it's time for a change. Because if we hang on to something that God is done using—a place He no longer needs us to be or something He no longer wants us to do—then we'll become miserable.

I've discovered that just because I've done something for years, it doesn't mean God won't give me a

new direction in life. And as I've aged the last few years, I've really been impacted by this statement: Only a fool thinks he can always do what he's always done.

I've had to make some big changes in recent years because of issues I was having with my physical health. I was tired all the time and realized I needed to stop doing everything I'd been doing because it was just too much for me.

I'd reached a crisis point and was forced to make some changes. That meant trusting others to take care of some responsibilities I didn't need to keep managing so I could focus on the things God wants me to do.

I remember one instance when the thought crossed my mind, "Well, I guess I'm not really needed anymore." But the truth is I just needed to let some things go so I could be free to do what God has called me to do. And that's a wonderful place to be!

### The Seasons for Your Inner Life

More than any other area of your life, God is concerned about your inner life—your character, godly mindsets and attitudes. 1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV) says, "...The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

We need to pay more attention to our inner life. What the world would be like if every Christian spent more time getting spiritually ready for their day than they did showering, shaving, getting dressed, fixing their hair, putting on makeup, etc.? I remember when I didn't spend time alone with God at the beginning of my day, and although I looked good on the outside, I looked ugly to God because my heart wasn't right. I didn't treat people right, I had bad attitudes and was hard to get along with.

I went through years of waiting on God, letting Him work in my heart and mind to change me from the inside out before He put me in a position to help many people. At the time, it was so frustrating, and I didn't understand what



He was doing. But looking back now, I am so glad that God made me wait until He knew I was ready before He gave me the opportunity to teach His Word to people all over the world. It's scary to think about how I could have hurt people more than helped them had I been given this ministry too soon.

What season of life are you in right now? Are you facing a major change in your family, your friendships, your work, or your health? Are you in a season of waiting on God to work in you so He can do something through you?

Wherever you are today, I want to encourage you to trust God's timing for change, knowing that He will cause all things to work out for your good as you follow His lead. More than anything else, pursue a closer relationship with Jesus, and He'll guide you through every season of your life.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-teaching CD series *When, God, When?* You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

Joyce Meyer is a *New York Times* bestselling author and founder of *Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc.* She has authored more than 100 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *YOUR BATTLES BELONG TO THE LORD (FaithWords)*. She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.



Photo by Trey Spalding

Keep your best friend warm and cozy during the bitter cold.

# Freezing weather and furry friends

BY REBECCA COPLEY

As we enter the heart of the winter season freezing temperatures are the norm in the San Luis Valley. It is not uncommon for temperatures to dip well below zero most nights. This bitter cold can be very dangerous for animals left outside all night. Though they have fur coats it is often not enough to keep the biting cold out. Thankfully there are many ways pet owners can help keep their furry friends warm.

It is a good idea to remove snow, ice, salt and other ice treatment chemicals from their fur and paws. This helps keep them dry and prevents them from ingesting any chemicals found in the ice treatment. You should also check their paw pads for any cracks and make sure there is no redness between their toes. Massaging petroleum jelly into their paw pads before going outdoors can help protect them from salt and chemical agents. Dog booties can also provide extra protection.

Another important pet safety rule is to never leave your animal alone in a car during cold weather. In the winter cars trap cold air and become refrigerators on wheels. Also it is always a good idea to check under the hood of outdoor vehicles before you start them. Outdoor cats often

seek refuge from the cold by huddling against still warm engines.

You shouldn't have your dog too much in the winter as a longer winter coat provides more warmth. If you have a dog with short hair naturally, consider getting a dog coat or sweater. It is also important to make sure you are feeding your animals a little more in the winter and providing them with lots of water. The chilly temperatures will cause them to burn calories faster and make it harder for them to stay hydrated.

At night especially as temperatures hit the negatives the best idea is to just bring them inside, or at least provide them with proper shelter. "We want people that have animals out there to provide a better shelter for them. Shelters that are in good shape. We've visited a couple people that have dog houses without proper insulation," said Monte Vista Code Enforcement Officer Eric Lira. Officer Lira suggested even figuring out ways to put a heat lamp in the shelter to make things warmer. However he shared that bringing them indoors is probably the best option, "I tell people all the time, bring your dogs inside. Bring your pets inside. If it's below zero keep them warm inside," said Officer Lira.

## Registration for Kids Ski Free Program ends Jan. 31

**COLORADO** – Families interested in Colorado Ski Country USA's (CSCUSA) industry leading 5th and 6th Grade Passport Program must register for the program by Jan. 31 in order to enjoy free or reduced-price Passport skiing and riding this year.

The Passport Program is unparalleled with its access to 22 ski areas and Colorado's signature winter sports, skiing and snowboarding. The program is ideal for families of all types including those that have never visited a ski area, are new to Colorado or are lifelong skiing or riding families.

The 5th Grade Passport provides fifth-graders three days of free skiing at 22 CSCUSA member ski areas. The 6th Grade Passport allows sixth-graders four days of skiing at the same 22 ski areas for \$130.

CSCUSA's First Class lesson program complements the 5th Grade Passport Program and provides eligible fifth-graders who have never been on the slopes the possibility of getting one (1) free ski or snowboard lesson and one (1) full equipment rental at a participating ski area of their choosing.

To register for the Passport Program and for more information about First Class Lessons, parents can visit [www.ColoradoSki.com/Passport](http://www.ColoradoSki.com/Passport). The CSCUSA Passport Program enjoys the support of presenting sponsor Christy Sports, which provides one (1) free

equipment rental to all Passport holders per season redeemable at any Christy Sports location.



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## Charitable giving and taxes

Many people donate to nonprofit organizations and other philanthropic groups out of a personal desire to do good for others. Such charitable giving can improve the lives of others and may make donors eligible for tax deductions.

According to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, donors may deduct charitable contributions of money or property made to qualified organizations. These generally include religious organizations, veterans organizations, nonprofit groups qualified under section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, and some other groups as well. The Canada Revenue Agency lists registered charities, registered low-cost housing corporations, national arts service organizations, registered Canadian amateur athletic associations, and some educational universities among the organizations that may qualify donors for tax deductions.

Canadian individuals and businesses generally can claim deductions and gifts of up to 75 percent of net income. In the United States, the IRS states one generally may deduct up to 50 percent of adjusted gross income, but 20 percent and 30 percent limitations apply in some cases.

Giving can constitute cash and non-cash donations, advises the charity watchdog organization Charity Navigator. For example, deductions for donations of clothing and household items that are in "good condition or better" may qualify donors for tax deductions. Donors are advised to bring items to reputable charities that will issue a receipt for their value. An appraisal may be requested for more expensive items.

All donations require a paper trail

and proof of charitable contribution. The Government of Canada states that official donation receipts from registered charities and other qualified organizations should be kept in a safe place. While these receipts need not be submitted at the time of filing (whether on paper returns or electronic filings), they should be kept for five years in the event they are subjected to review.

Timing donations properly is key. The IRS says that contributions made in cash or other property must be made before the close of the tax year to be deductible.

A tax treaty between the United States and Canada allows for some deduction of donations made to charities across the border. Again, it is best to consult with a tax professional in these matters as some con-



Courtesy photo

**Individuals and businesses should speak with a tax professional about the rules governing charitable donations.**

tributions to foreign organizations are not deductible.

Charitable giving has many benefits, including feeling good about oneself, helping the less fortunate and the financial reward of qualifying for some tax breaks. GB17B462



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# HOCKEY

Continued from Page 5A

enthusiast as a round robin format with a three on three team play.

Spectators gathered around bonfires, cheering their favorite teams on from the bleachers or gathered near the ice rink edges to get snapshot photos of the action on the ice. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the opportunity to get out and have some good ol fashioned winter fun.

Level one winners were the Canyon Coolers and level two winners were Weekends Tavern. Congratulations to all the teams that participated and a huge thanks goes out to all of the volunteers, businesses and organizations that helped to make it a great weekend in Creede!



Photo by Keith R. Cerny

There are always plenty of four-legged spectators on hand for the Golden Pick Pond Hockey Tournament in Creede and while they can't compete some find other fun activities in the snow. "Minnow", a yellow lab owned by Lisa Lamb of Buena Vista, was seen repeatedly fetching a stick that was saved from the nearby bonfires.

# FISHING

Continued from Page 1A

are the easiest, most secure and best-priced methods of purchasing fishing licenses.

There is no guarantee that licenses purchased through 3rd party sites will be legitimate products recognized by CPW or that they will ever be delivered to the purchaser. Additionally, fraudulent sites often sell licenses at a significantly marked up price. Fraudulent sites have sold a resident Colorado fishing license for as much as \$134, which is nearly \$100 more than a valid resident license actually costs.

The agency's official product purchasing website is cpwshop.com, which is a secure method of purchasing all CPW products online, including fishing licenses. Fraudulent 3rd party sites may use or sell personal information from the purchaser, including social security or credit card information. The best way to ensure that private data is not maliciously collected from a 3rd party site is to avoid such sites altogether.

Starting March 1, CPW will be selling 2020 13-month fishing licenses. Customers will be able to purchase these valid licenses at cpwshop.com, at a CPW park or office, or from an authorized Colorado sales agent in person.

If you have questions about purchasing a license at cpwshop.com, our Call Center can assist you at 303-297-1192, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. MST (except state holidays). To find an authorized sales agent near you, visit www.cpwshop.com/issuerlist.page.

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# Lifestyles

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Supplement to The Monte Vista Journal, Center Post-Dispatch, The Conejos County Citizen, The Mineral County Miner, The South Fork Times, and The Del Norte Prospector.

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## Rio Frio is back for 11<sup>th</sup> year running

Pond curling to replace popular ice carousel

By KEITH R. CERNY

ALAMOSA— Sub-zero temperatures of late are both a curse and a blessing for the upcoming Rio Frio Ice Fest unfolding Jan. 24-26 in the “coldest place in the nation.”

“Beach Party” is the theme for the 11th annual event which features the Rio Frio 5k on ice with runners traversing the frozen surface of the Rio Grande. The entire weekend is sponsored by the City of Alamosa, Visit Alamosa and the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce with a host of local business sponsors as well.

Jes Jolly with Alamosa Parks and Recreation said this week that staff has tested the river ice and found 8-10” of thickness, literally deep enough to drive a vehicle on.

The downside is that ice at the nearby Blanca Vista Park is around 16-inches thick and will make a popular event difficult to pull off; the ice carousel. With that much ice it would be nearly impossible to saw the oval in the ice and be able to move it with a boat motor as has been done the last few years.

Instead, a new event has been added “pond curling”, a knock-off of the Winter Olympics event, which will precede the ever-popular polar plunge both on Sunday, which also features the fat bike races for the second year running.

Festivities kick-off Friday night with race packet pick up and registra-



Photo by Keith R. Cerny

More than 140 runners and walkers started the fifth annual Rio Frio 5k on Ice last year on the frozen Rio Grande in Alamosa’s Cole Park making it one of the largest turnouts in race history. Participants started southbound towards the Highway 160 bridge, circled back and went west under and past the State Street bridge before turning again for home. Aaron Dewey, 18, Colorado Springs won the event for the second year in a row in a remarkable time of 18:51.16 considering running in soft snow.

tion at Milagros Coffee House with music, games and refreshments from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Participants may also register or pick up race packets 8-9:30 a.m. at the Alamosa Senior Center in Cole Park prior to the 10

a.m. start of the 5k on the frozen Rio. Luminaria cross country skiing is planned for Friday evening as well (6-8 p.m.) at Cattails Golf Course if snow conditions permit, sponsored by the San Juan Nordic Club. Participants

must provide their own equipment.

### Take a run on the frozen Rio

The sixth annual Rio Frio 5k on Ice starts at 10 a.m. Saturday with the uniqueness of running on the frozen

river with spectacular mountain views in all directions.

A highlight of each year’s ice fest kicks off at 12 noon Saturday with live ice sculpting on the south side of **Please see RIO FRIO on Page 8**

## Big Macs and Whoppers

No doubt most of you in the livestock business have a certain “family affection” for the fast food chains. Particularly those restaurants whose main attraction is the often disguised but still All American hamburger. It also is true that each of us has his own particular favorite.

Organizations like the National Restaurant Association have attempted surveys to compare the merits of each burger. Readers, you will be pleased to know that the Coyote Cowboy Co. (me) has conducted its own survey. This survey was taken with an international consultant on had to advise: A Canadian Chinina breeder.

The burgers compared were the Double Whopper (hereinafter referred to as the WHOP), the Big Mac (the MAC) and Wendy’s Double Burger (the BURG). Each was ordered on a rainy night with iced tea.

The highlights of the survey are as follows: Patty Evaluation

1. TRANSPARENCY – The BURG was the



only patty you could see through.

2. YIELD PERCENTAGE (Meat/offal ratio) – The BURG again had the highest yield percentage.

3. PATTY PULL TEST (for tensile strength) – The WHOP showed the resistance to tearing.

4. CIRCUMFERENTIAL PERFECTION –

The MAC displayed the roundest patty.

5. SEAWORTHINESS – Both the WHOP and the BURG sank in the iced tea while the MAC floated.

Condiments

1. COLOR COORDINATION – The BURG showed a certain flair with mustard, tomato and lettuce although style points were given to the MAC for the special sauce.

Bun Evaluation

1. SWILL ASSIMILATION TEST – Measured in BAU (bun absorption units)...the BURG scored well against the others in the second round. With ketchup it rated 8 BAU.

2. SESAME SEED COUNT – The WHOP won hands down with 42 seeds per bun.

3. LIGHT REFRACTION – None reflected light well enough to transmit Morse code messages over long distances.

4. AERODYNAMICS – The WHOP recorded the longest flight distance but was penalized for slicing to the right.

CONCLUSION

In our survey found each hamburger to have its own peculiar advantages. The BURG rated high in BAUs and color coordination but would be less suitable than the MAC if dropped in water. Neither would be as good as the WHOP if there was ever an ALL-BEEF Frisbee throw in the Summer Olympics.

I hope the information presented here will in some small way contribute to the mounds of scientific data now available on the fast food hamburger. I’m forwarding the results to Consumer Reports.

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



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# Hard to hear: the facts of canine ear infections

While ear infections are pesky conditions that affect many species, dogs are especially at risk because of the shape of their ear canals.

Dr. Lori Teller, a clinical associate professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, says that diagnosis and treatment should always be handled by a veterinarian, but dog owners should still be informed on the nature of this condition to keep their furry friend in tip-top shape.

“There are multiple causes of ear infections (otitis externa), including allergies (most common), ear mites, a foreign body (this can include polyps or neoplasia), excess hair in the ear canal, anatomic changes in the ear canal, excess moisture in the ear canal, injury, immune-mediated diseases, endocrine disease and excessive cleaning,” Teller said. “Any of these causes allow for bacteria and/or yeast to overgrow in the ear, leading to the infection.”

Symptoms of canine ear infections include head shaking, scratching at or rubbing the affected ear, discharge, bad odor, redness inside the ear, swelling of the ear canal, pain, itchiness, and crusts or scabs inside the ear or along the ear margin. Owners who suspect that their dog may be suffering from an ear infection should seek veterinary help immediately, as these infections can become more severe if left untreated.

Once diagnosed, your dog’s treatment plan will depend on what caused the ear infection in the first place.

Teller said that topical ointments

may be used to treat bacteria and yeast present in the canal. Severe infections or those involving the middle or inner ear canal may be treated with oral antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs. Medicated ear cleansers to clear away discharge and debris from the infected canal may also be prescribed.

“Dogs that develop ear infections frequently will need to have the underlying cause addressed,” Teller said. “Some may require therapies to control allergies. If a food allergy is a cause of the problem, then switching to a hypoallergenic or limited-ingredient diet may prevent future problems. It is very important to work with your veterinarian before switching your dog’s diet.”

Dogs that swim frequently are also more prone to ear infections, and special care should be taken by owners to appropriately clean and dry their pet’s ears after being in the water. Cotton swabs should never be used in the inner canal of a dog’s ear. Teller also advised that dog owners should not allow other dogs to lick their pet’s ears.

To diagnose your pet, a veterinarian might sample ear discharge or look through the ear canal to observe the state of the eardrum. Your dog may need to be sedated for this procedure, depending on the situation.

Although the prospect of a canine ear infection may be daunting, timely veterinary intervention can prevent permanent damage from occurring. Proper care will have your pooch back to their super-hearing self in no time!



## Something in the sky

Over the past weeks, our neighbors in eastern Colorado have been fascinated, perplexed and perhaps even a bit alarmed by a number of sightings of moving lights in the skies overhead. Several of these reports have been of possible drones flying in coordinated formation. Others believe these are a new breed of satellites in low earth orbit, looking like a string of pearls in the sky. Either way, it’s another example of technology changing our world. Drone technology has become an integral part of our social, industrial, economic and governmental fabric. Children are fascinated by them, hobbyists use

them to capture spectacular aerial photos. Real estate agents utilize the technology to help sell homes. Farmers and ranchers employ them to better monitor crops and herds. Utility workers rely on drones to surveil high tension wires. The behemoth corporation, Amazon, publicly touts its vision of package delivery via a fleet of drones. Recent events in Iran involved a US military drone taking out a high ranking general. In short, drones seem to be everywhere and the technology is here to stay. This presents a wonderful opportunity for enterprising individuals to **Please see DRONES on Page 7**

  
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**\*\*\*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 borders 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 beautiful location and abundant wildlife.

## Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.

**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 1/4 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 and medical care facility. Wolf Creek Ski Area

## Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.

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

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

## Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.

**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, garden tools and more. This enchanting

## Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.

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**

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

**Steffens & Company Realty, INC** Cell 719-850-1993 • Office 719-873-1700 **Bernadette Gingrass, Broker Associate** 30635 US Hwy 160 • South Fork bernadette@steffenscrealty.com www.steffenscrealty.com



## 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
- Be more active and healthier
- Love life again

## Medicare

Certified Provider

Medicare Will Pay

up to \$10,000 towards your treatment\*\*

Other patients have had 30-50% of surgical procedures covered.

\*\*Standard Medicare restriction may apply. Medicare covers oral surgery medical necessity only. Medicare deductible rules apply.

Credit Cards Accepted

**A Courtesy for You at No Charge ...**

Courtesy Consultation (regularly \$172)

Courtesy CT Scan (Regularly \$300 both arches)

FREE REPORT

New Teeth in One Day™ All-on-4 Implants Offer Expires January 31, 2020



BEFORE



AFTER

"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.

Call to schedule today **970-444-1298**

**William F. Thornell** DDS, MAGD, DICOI

Pagosa dental **implant Center**

**Medicare** Certified Provider

pagosadentalimplantcenter.com

189 Talisman Dr., Suite E • Located above Higher Grounds Coffee • 970-444-1298

## Rated 5 Stars

"The pizza was amazing, garlic bread was delicious. The staff was also very friendly and helpful. We will definitely be coming back again while on vacation." -Monica J., Google

## \$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 8 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**  
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02 CARD OF THANKS  
03 MEMORIALS  
04 LOST & FOUND  
05 NOTICES/BAZAARS  
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**FOR RENT**  
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60 CLASSIC CARS  
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63 TRUCKS  
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**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 montevisaclass@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](mailto:MonteVistaClass@gmail.com)

## Easy Payment Options

We accept Visa, Master Card, American Express, Discover, Checks, Money Orders & Cash



### 05 Notices

**WE BUY ANTLERS:** 5 miles west of Del Norte on US 160 at Elk Ranch. 719-657-0942. (01/22 TFN)

### New Inspirational Book Club:

Looking for 8-12 interested adults to start an inspirational book club. Organizational meeting in February with paramaters of Tuesday or Thursday evening meetings of approximately 1.5 hours. For more information please call (719)849-0310 (02/05)

### 07 Help Wanted

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR AIRPORT ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE MONTE VISTA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT**  
The City of Monte Vista, CO as sponsor of a public use airport facility, is soliciting qualification based sealed Statements of Qualifications for the selection of a principal airport consultant to provide Engineering Services for the Monte Vista Municipal Airport. A complete SOQ packet can be requested via email at [rvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us](mailto:rvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us). Submittals will be accepted until 2:00 p.m. (local time) on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 in the office of: Robert Vance, City of Monte Vista, 95 W. First Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144. 719-852-8281. The Sponsor plans to award a five-year contract for airport engineering services subject to review on an annual basis for any and all engineering projects subject to federal assistance under the Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, as amended, or other sources of funding. The contract will be for the basic airport

engineering consulting services as defined herein. The City of Monte Vista reserves the right to inquire into the prospective proposer's ability to provide professional services, as defined below. The City of Monte Vista also reserves the right to amend the Schedule of Projects and contract Scope of Work at the sole discretion of The City of Monte Vista on behalf of the Monte Vista Municipal Airport. Our selection process is intended to be in compliance with the current version of FAA Advisory Circular AC-150/5100-14, "Architectural Engineering and Planning Consultant Services for Airport Grant Projects (1/29)

**Wolf Creek Ski Area** is seeking full and part time positions in the following positions: **Snow Reporter** – Must have interactive web experience, strong organizational and communication skills. Hours 6am to 3pm. willing to work weekends. **Ski School Instructor** – Duties include teaching guests in a group setting, customer service and other duties assigned by supervisor. **Shuttle Bus Drivers** – Part-time. Experienced driver looking to make extra money during Christmas, Presidents Day, MLK, Jr. and Spring Break holidays. A Commercial Drivers License is not required, however pay is commensurate with professional experience and licensing. **Professional Baker/Food & Beverage** - Line/grill cooks, bakers and baristas. **Ticket Office Cashier** – Part-Time - Must have prior experience in POS system. Friendly, hard working, flexible, organized with good communication skills.

**Winter seasonal positions with competitive wages.** Applications can be downloaded from [WolfCreekSki.com](http://WolfCreekSki.com) employment page. Send resumes and applications to [wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com](mailto:wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com) or P.O. Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. (1/29)

**The Center Fire Department is looking to hire a board secretary. Individual must be self-motivated and QuickBooks proficient.** Duties include: Payroll, setting up budgets, taking minutes at

monthly meetings, filling state requirements, and some department business. Grant writing experience or desire to learn to write grants a plus. 50-60 Hours per month. Pay will be determined from experience. If interested send resume to Center Fire Department P.O. Box 845 Center CO 81125. (1/29)

**WANTED: Saguache County Landfill is Hiring for an additional Full Time Attendant. REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must fill out and submit an ap-**

**plication, 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

SLV

# Lifestyles

Serving the entire San Luis Valley

## Is your business looking for qualified employees?

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

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

**Email your ad to [MonteVistaClass@gmail.com](mailto:MonteVistaClass@gmail.com)**

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

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

\*Based on average readership of 2.1 persons per copy.



Colorado Statewide Classified Advertising Network

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

### WANTED

### COLORADO PRESS ASSOCIATION NETWORK

#### Cash for Mineral Rights

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

Call: 720-988-5617

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

Email: [opportunity@ccmresourcesinc.com](mailto: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

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)

**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. (01/20/20)

**17 Real Estate For Sale**  
**11 circles in Center area with excellent potato ground, excellent wells and water rights, high production, sandy soil, 2 homes, shop, potato storage, first time ever on market and sold as full unite.** Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, LLC 719-580-0770. Serious inquires only (02/13)

**125-150 cow/calf ranch 1154 acres with top water rights, production, 1.2 miles of Rio Grande River and ½ mile of Conejos River.** \$1,750,000. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc 719-580-0770 (02/13)

**Pasture Land, 397 acres in north of Monte Vista Airport on County Line Road with good grass and location.** Also contains a huge amount of gravel on the property \$525,000.00 call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc 719-580-0770. (02/13)

**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 (01/29 TFN)

**SOLAR PANELS! 240 WATT AND SMALLER.** We Stock Inverters, Charge Controllers, and Batteries In Brand Names of Outback, Magnum, Rolls, More. We Also Carry Cable and PV Wire. Thank you for Buying at Bontrager's Variety Store. 9726 S. CR 3E Monte Vista. 719-852-0500. (TFN) (1/22)

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

**SPRING SPECIAL! 235-Watt Solar Panels. \$210.00 Each.** Good

Quality. Bontragers Variety Store. 719-852-0500.(02/13)

**38 Machinery, Tools, and Equipment**

**Rockwell 10" table saw/w wheels blade in saw plus 10' and 12" blades** 719-588-4995 Leave Message. (2/12)

**Snow Blower Craftsman 32" drift breaker gas powered power propelled** 719-588-4995 Leave Message. (2/12)

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

**41 Farm Equipment**

**One, 8' airmotor windmill with 30' tower and suction pipe.** \$1,500 OBO. (719)221-0061 (02/05)

**42 Feed & Seed**

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

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

**48 Pets & Supplies**

**Border Collie, Blue Heeler Cross Puppies.** Ready 2-5-2020. 719-852-0500 Good Potential! (2/13)

**Full-Size Australian Shepard Puppies Ready December 12,** 2019 Call 588-3561. (01/22)

**3 female, 1 male Shiba Inu.** 3 brown, 1 black. Born 10/5/19. **2 white: 1 female, 1 male.** Born 10/13/19. (518) 651-1451 (02/05)

**Lab Puppies Chocolate, Black, Yellow and Silver.** Starting at \$300.00 Current Vaccinations, Vet Checked and out of Registered Stock Call 719-588-3687. (01/29)

**58 Business**

**AUGMENTATION WATER FOR LEASE:** TransMtn water, fully severed for Wildlife or AG use anywhere off the Rio Grande. \$100/acft, OBO 719-580-0661

**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. (07/01/2020)

**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.

## Colorado child abuse and neglect hotline marks its five-year anniversary

*Colorado has received more than 1 million calls leading to the safety assessments for nearly 275,000 children and teens.*

**COLORADO** - In January 2015, the Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline ☐ **1-844-CO-4-Kids** ☐ was launched to provide one easy-to-remember phone number for individuals to use statewide to report their concerns about possible child abuse and neglect. In that time, 1,068,107 calls have been made to the state's hotline system, and local county human/social services have assessed the safety and well-being of 274,193 children and teens in Colorado. The hotline serves as a direct, immediate and efficient route to Colorado's 64 counties and two tribal nations, which are responsible for accepting and responding to concerns about a child or teen's safety and well-being.

"More than 1 million calls means that more and more people in Colorado recognize their role in strengthening families," said Minna Castillo Cohen, director of the Office of Children, Youth and Families at the Colorado Department of Human Services. "Even if no child abuse or neglect has occurred, counties and Tribal nations are often able to provide additional services that can help the family. That's why it's important to call."

Please see **ABUSE** on Page 7



Courtesy photo

# Write your own Classified Ad

**Regular Classified Ad Deadline-Thursday 5 p.m.**  
**15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications**  
**\$19<sup>50</sup> + 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>

**Words:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Times:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Price:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Start Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Check One



**Card#:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiration Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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**

# 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. 24-26

**ALAMOSA** - Subzero temperatures of late are both a curse and a blessing for the upcoming Rio Frio Ice Fest unfolding Jan. 24-26 in the "coldest place in the nation." "Beach Party" is the theme for the 11th annual event which features the Rio Frio 5k on ice with runners traversing the frozen surface of the Rio Grande. The entire weekend is sponsored by the City of Alamosa, Visit Alamosa and the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce with a host of local business sponsors as well.

## Jan. 28

**ALAMOSA** - The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) works to improve the health of low income persons at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods. Individuals must be at or below 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. Food packages include a variety of foods, such as nonfat dry milk, UHT 1 percent low-fat milk, juice, farina, oats, ready-to-eat cereal, rice, pasta, peanut butter, dry beans, canned meat, poultry or fish, and canned fruits and vegetables. This food box is free to those who meet the income guidelines. Costilla County Commodity Program will be in Alamosa Tuesday Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1112 8th Street, Alamosa. Please bring a picture ID.

## ONGOING

- ALAMOSA** — Pregnant? Need Help? Call the San Luis Valley Life Center at 589-6698 for free and confidential pregnancy testing; earn while you learn parenting program; post abortive support STI testing and more. Office open Monday-Thursday 2-5:30 p.m., 3211 Main Street, Alamosa
- ALAMOSA**—Circle of Parents in Recovery provides a safe, supporting, confidential, non-judgmental environment where parents can openly discuss the successes and challenges of parenting in recovery. Circle of Parents in Recovery values reciprocity and the development of leadership among participants. The group will meet every first and third Tuesday from 4-5:30 p.m. at Living Water Bible Fellowship 2019 Clark Street Alamosa. Contact Mary Lambert for more information (719)587-6965 or mlambert@slvbhg.org

- CONEJOS**— Bingo, 7 p.m. every Monday and Thursday, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall
- DEL NORTE** - The Peace Education Program, PEP, will be presented at Wildwood Sounds, 850 Grande Ave. in Del Norte, on Thursdays beginning Nov. 7 through Jan. 23 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Wildwood Sounds in Del Norte. This free media based program presents a unique perspective on life. It is nonreligious and nonsectarian presenting 10 themed sessions. The themes are peace, appreciation, inner strength, self-awareness, clarity, understanding, hope and contentment.
- DEL NORTE** — Tuesdays and Saturdays at the Ruth Marie, or by appointment: Piano and music lessons with professional pianist, Allan Stuart (719-754-2576; greenshadowmusic@gmail.com) Call for more info.

- WEDNESDAYS** at the Ruth Marie: Yoga with Leigh Anne Lobato from 5 to 6:15 p.m. donation fee of \$5-\$6 to The Ruth Marie. Phone 850-0750, lobato@myamigo.net
- THURSDAYS** at the Ruth Marie: Kundalini Yoga with Milcah (849-1954, milcahhawk@gmail.com) from 5:30-6:45 p.m., \$8-\$10 donation to the Ruth Marie
- HOMELAKE** — The Homelake Veterans Museum is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-noon and 1 to 3 p.m. until the end of October. Info. 580-0023
- MONTE VISTA** — Exercise class every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.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. 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**— 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  
*Continued on Page 7*

# Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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# SUDOKU

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

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!

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

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# Valley Calendar

## Continued from Page 6

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

• **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](http://www.theruthmarie.com) or contact [theruthmarie@gmail.com](mailto: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** — TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) chapter meetings, 6

to 7 p.m. Thursdays Gateway Church, 975 Grande Ave. The first meeting always free. bring a friend. Info, Julie, 719-206-2741

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

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

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

## ABUSE

### Continued from Page 5

A consistent increase in calls to the hotline shows that more people understand that all Coloradans play a role in strengthening families. In the five years since the hotline launched, child welfare agencies were able to ensure the safety and well-being of 63,986 children and teens who experienced abuse or neglect. Additionally, 60,190 families received voluntary support from their county human/social services.

When parents have what they need to be strong in the face of stress, a network of friends and family, and the ability to meet their own basic needs, they are better able to ensure the safety and well-being of their children.

"We know that parents love their children and want the best for them. Calling the hotline is one way community members can share their concerns and help local social service agencies connect parents with the support they need," said Castillo

## DRONES

### Continued from Page 2

capitalize on this opportunity. What has emerged is a large and growing demand for qualified drone pilots to meet the needs of industry and government alike.

Trinidad State - Valley Campus in Alamosa, recognizes the importance, benefit and potential of drone technology for the citizens and the economy of the San Luis Valley. Trinidad State now offers a certificate program specifically designed to prepare students for careers in this fast growing and well-paying field. The Federal Aviation Administration estimates demand for commercial drone pilots will more than double over the next five years, to 350,000 slots by 2025. At present, starting pay in the United States ranges from \$40,000 to \$72,000 and can be double that overseas. The Trinidad State drone certificate program further benefits from the unique features of the Valley. In 2015 the FAA approved the San Luis Valley as a designated UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) testing site allowing commercially licensed drone operators and researchers to fly unmanned aircraft up to 15,000 feet rather than the standard 400 feet. Given our unique terrain and weather conditions, SLV is the ideal locale to learn and perfect your drone piloting skills, all while earning a valuable credential from Trinidad State.

While we anxiously await who is behind the sightings in the eastern part of the state, it certainly is clear that well-trained, highly disciplined and responsible drone pilots will find themselves in great demand over the next several years and beyond. Trinidad State - Valley Campus is here to help!

Sincerely,  
James Kynor,  
Vice President, Trinidad State  
Valley Campus

Cohen. "In the majority of cases, children and teens stay safely at home while their families receive services."

In 2019, of the 19,598 Colorado children and their families involved in an open child welfare case:

69% of children and teens stayed safely at home while their family received services

31% of children and teens were

placed in an out-of-home placement, including with a kinship or foster family or in a congregate care facility.

Call 1-844-CO-4-Kids to report concerns about child abuse and neglect. If a child or teen is in immediate danger, dial 9-1-1. Calls to the hotline are routed to the appropriate county through the Hotline County

Connection Center in Lamar, Colorado and all callers are able to speak with a call-taker 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Visit [CO4Kids.org](http://CO4Kids.org) to learn more about the signs of child abuse and neglect and other ways you can help children, teens and families in your community. The Colorado Department of Human Services

CO4Kids campaign encourages all Coloradans to strengthen families and communities. To learn about the signs of child abuse and neglect and for information about how to become a foster or adoptive parent, visit [CO4Kids.org](http://CO4Kids.org). Call 1-844-CO-4-Kids to report concerns about child abuse and neglect. If a child or teen is in immediate danger, dial 9-1-1.

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# RIO FRIO

Continued from Page 1

Main Street between Hunt and Edison avenues. Award-winning artists from Colorado Ice Sculptures return and will be creating beach party themed sculptures. The featured attractions will be built throughout the day but will be given final touches between 12 and 3 p.m.

The beach party continues downtown during that same time frame with a variety of interactive activities for the whole family at San Juan and Main, highlighted by the annual Kiwanis costume contest at 2 p.m. and character “meet and greet” to follow at the SLV Brew Pub.

Children are encouraged to dress in their best beach or fantasy-themed costume. There is no fee to participate, but parents must sign a liability waiver with registration beginning at 1:30 p.m. on site. The first 50 kids are guaranteed a participation award and prizes will be awarded to the top winners in each age division.

### Grub ‘n Pub, fire-in-ice are back

The annual “Grub ‘n Pub” event will run from 3-7 p.m. Saturday at various downtown restaurants. A limited number of tickets are available for the Alamosa Convention and Visitors Bureau sponsored event and may be purchased at the Depot welcome center or by calling 589-9386. Tickets are good for food sample and/or beverage at each participating restaurant.

A spectacular annual Ice Fest highlight will come to life at 7 p.m. with the fire and ice bonfire on San Juan Avenue.

“Witness these two elements battle it out as the Alamosa Fire Department oversees the burning of a large chimney made of ice,” stated a news release from the city. “Do not miss this spectacular and unique event that celebrates the glory of the day.”

### Polar plunge marks Sunday

Sunday’s festivities kick off with the second annual Kristi Mountain Sports Fat Bike Races at Blanca Vista Park just north of town at 10 a.m. Participants should bring their fat bike to the park, or rent one on site, to take part in the timed event over a course of snow and ice.

Style points are available for dressing “for a day at the beach.” Sign up at [www.alamosarec.org](http://www.alamosarec.org).

New this year, pond curling will be featured at 11 a.m. at Blanca Vista Park. “Stones” will be provided but participants need to bring their own brooms to try out this new, free event for all ages.

Last, but certainly not least is the annual polar plunge at 12 high noon Sunday, again at Blanca Vista Park. Watch some local celebrities take a dip in the icy waters or come prepared to try it yourself as it is open to the public. Clothing changing facilities will be available on site.

The Rio Frio Ice Fest is sponsored by the City of Alamosa, Visit Alamosa, the Alamosa Chamber of Commerce, First Southwest Bank, SLV Health, Valley Courier, Valley-Wide Health Systems, Body Tune-Up, First Insurance Services, SLV Federal Bank, SLVREC/CIELLO, Valley Publishing, Viaero Wireless, Adams State Adventure Program, the Alamosa Senior Center, Alcon Construction, Arby’s, Comfort Inn & Suites, Fairfield Inn & Suites, Great Sand Dunes Lodge, Hampton Inn, IHOP, Kristi Mountain Sports, Milagros Coffee House, Rio Grande Savings & Loan, Skiball’s Running World, and SLV Sports & Wellness.

For more information, contact Alamosa Parks & Recreation at (719) 589-2105 or find us online at [www.riofrioice.com](http://www.riofrioice.com) or Rio Frio on Ice on Facebook.



Photos by Keith R. Cerny

Alamosa Mayor Ty Coleman was the final participant in the 2019 Rio Frio polar plunge and drew a large crowd with his pirate appropriate attire. He leaped from the plank and cannon-balled into the icy waters below. Alamosa firefighters assisting in the pond were Joe Heredia, left, and Mike Abeyta.



Eighteen-year-old Aaron Dewey of Colorado Springs (18:51.16) is ready to get a “high five” from Rio Frio 5k organizer Jeff Owsley as winner of the race on the frozen Rio Grande for the second time in a row in 2019. He has participated in all five Rio Frio races and has been a top five finisher every year so far. A total of 137 runners were timed and a handful more participated without being timed, making it one of the biggest turnouts ever. On the women’s side, Cassy Medigovich was the 2019 winner in 22:44.37, followed by Amber Arellano (23:37.72) and Carmille Garcia (24:40.50). Nicholas How (19:28.80) was second in the men’s, followed by Joe Aguirre (20:35.96) and Josh Lopez (20:58.75).

Five fat bike racers qualified for the men’s final during the Rio Frio Ice Fest’s inaugural event last year won by Daniel Boyes (far right) in 6:52 on the approximately 1 ½ mile course around Blanca Vista Park in Alamosa. Grantly Showalter



(7:30) was second, followed by Erich Schwiesow (8:04), Adam Moore (8:08) and Jonathon Mosar (8:20). Kristi Mountain Sports of Alamosa provided fat bikes for the races.

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*San Luis Valley*

2020

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# PROGRESS Agriculture



January 22, 2020





File photos

# 2018-2019 good years for Valley alfalfa

By **TERESA L. BENNS**

**CENTER** — Center farmer and rancher Dick Ramstetter, a longtime alfalfa grower, owns property along County Road C and CR 44 and other ground from Highway 285 to Highway 112 and La Garita.

In 2018, he said that if the Valley had sufficient snow, it would keep expenses for 2019 down. Alfalfa ran “a little higher” in 2018, with the crop selling around \$210 a ton last year. He explained that hay prices were a little lower for 2019 because while the market was reasonably good and the demand is there, more alfalfa was grown.

Hemp seems to be replacing some alfalfa fields, Ramstetter observed last year. But as a general rule, the average alfalfa producer must invest about \$2.5 million in equipment needed to harvest alfalfa. So given equipment depreciation, it is not easy to move over to other crops.

“We raise some of the best alfalfa in the world here,” he pointed out, explaining that good-quality alfalfa sold to dairies in Colorado, New Mexico and other states makes for good-quality milk and milk products, too.

When asked about the renewed prospect of selling Valley water to the Front Range, Ramstetter noted that would-be exporters “have a long, hard road” to travel before their proposition could become a reality, estimating they will spend “years” in water court.

## Growing alfalfa

According to Merlin Dillon’s research article Lifeblood, written for CSU Extension, “Alfalfa is a perennial crop; the stand usually lasts five to seven years before being replanted. After the establishment year, it is usually harvested three times per year. The first cutting is mid-June; the second in late July; and the third anytime from

early September to early October.

“The second cutting usually gets some rain on it and tests the lowest; the third is cut immature and tests highest. Often, the third cutting will have a relative feed value over 200. Much of the lower quality alfalfa hay is used to support the local beef cow herds or is trucked to feedlots for grinder hay.”

Hay sellers in the Valley

The Colorado Hay directory was published in August. For more information or to receive a Colorado Hay Directory listing form, contact the Markets Division at (303) 869-9175, email Loretta.Lopez@state.co.us or visit [www.coloradoagriculture.com](http://www.coloradoagriculture.com). The following is the hay directory listing for 2018, some of which will change, but much will remain the same.

## Conejos County

Salazar Ranches — Alfalfa, 4,000 tons, 3x4 1,250 lb. bales; native meadow grass, 1,000 tons, 3x4 1,000 lb. bales and peas and oats, 300 tons, 3x4 1,100 lb. bales. Lab analysis available and certified organic on all. John Salazar, 20616 County Road M, Manassa 81141 (719) 937-1591 [johntsalazar@gmail.com](mailto:johntsalazar@gmail.com) [www.salazarranches.com](http://www.salazarranches.com)

Valdez, Vergil — 207 tons alfalfa, 4x3 bales, packed in shed, rain free. Lab analysis available La Jara 81140 (719) 274-5680

## Rio Grande County

E Q C Ranch — Alfalfa, 400 tons, 3 x 4 bales, lab analysis available; oats 600 tons, 3 x 4 bales, lab analysis available; alfalfa, 200 tons, 16 x 18 bales. Gary Dickey 4725 W Road 8 N Center, 81125 (719) 850-1722

Matthews Farms — Alfalfa, 3 x 4 bales, lab analysis available; Brome/Garrison grass, grass/alfalfa Mix, grass Sainfoin grass mix, all available in 14x18 65-70 lb. bales; grass/alfalfa mix, Sainfoin grass mix, 3 X 4 bales, all barn stored Steve Matthews 2350 W. County Road 1 S. Monte Vista, 81144 (719) 852-5494

Michael Jay Schaefer Farms — Alfalfa, 3

x 4 1,250-pound bales, lab analysis available; alfalfa/grass mix, 3 x 4 1,250 pound bales, lab analysis available; native meadow grass, 3 x 4 1,100 pound bales, certified organic on all, delivery available Michael or Brady Schaefer 1604 County Road 28 Monte Vista 81144; (719) 588-4648 or (719) 242-3324 [MJSFarms@gmail.com](mailto:MJSFarms@gmail.com)

Orth Limousin Ranch — Native grass, 50 tons, 55-65 lb. 14” small bales certified weed free; native grass, 60 tons, 55-65 lb. 14” small bales. Ed Orth, 1086 County Road 29 Monte Vista 81144 (719) 852-3069

Quartermoon Hay Co., LLC — Native grass, 50 tons, 55-65 lb. 14-inch small bales certified weed-free; 60 tons of 55-65 14-inch small bales; alfalfa/grass and alfalfa/ premium equine grass mix, alfalfa 50-60-lb. small bales plastic-wrapped small bales in 18-inch bundles

## Saguache County

Mineral Hot Springs Farm — Alfalfa, 1,700 tons, 3x4x8 1,200 lb. bales; oat hay, 170 tons, 3x4x8 1,200 lb. bales — certified organic on both. Jeremy Uhlenbrock, 58919 County Road EE.2, Moffat 81143; (303) 444-4333 ext. 16 [Jeremy@bouldervalleyre.com](mailto:Jeremy@bouldervalleyre.com)

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Ramstetter Farms — Alfalfa, 6,000 tons, 4x4x8 1,900 lb. bales; oat hay, 500 tons, 4x4x8 1,400 lb. bales, lab analysis available; straw barley, 2,000 tons, 4x4x8 1,100 lb. bales, certified weed free; straw barley, 1,000 tons, 16x18 50 lb. bales, certified weed free; straw barley, 1,000 tons, 16x18 50 lb. bales. Richard Ramstetter 5519 E Road 9 N Center 81125, (719) 580-3329 [ramfarm@gojade.org](mailto:ramfarm@gojade.org)



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# CFVGA Sixth Annual Conference Feb. 24-25

*Small Farms Workshop Track to be Featured*

**COLORADO** - The Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association (CFVGA) will feature a small farms workshop track throughout its sixth annual conference Feb. 24-25 at the Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel. Workshop sessions will include produce pricing strategies, developing & implementing a farm food safety plan, farm labor management best practices and recordkeeping & farm management.

«Most who are new to farming will tell you there is so much to learn and that they greatly appreciate opportunities to learn and be mentored.» said Adrian Card, CFVGA founding Board member and chair of the conference committee. «This special track for small farmers provides four and a half hours of training on some fundamental principles for successful farming. It also provides an opportunity for small farmers to meet others at a similar place in their careers and continue networking after the conference concludes.»

To emphasize its focus on including beginning growers, CFVGA is offering a free, annual membership to growers who join for the first time and attend conference. When joining at <https://coloradoproduce.org>, new members may use the code first-timer to claim their free membership, before completing conference registration.

Also featured will be new technologies and products offered by an expected 50-plus exhibitors and the grower-buyer networking session, which introduces farmers to produce buyers in a fast-paced, «speed-dating» style format.

In addition to the small farm track, conference sessions will include produce marketing trends, agricultural labor, organic rule changes, new market opportunities, biological pest control, produce safety and more. Also part of the



Courtesy photo

conference is CFVGA's annual member meeting to be held following lunch Feb. 24.

More information on the small farm workshop track and all CFVGA conference topics is available at: <https://cfvga.org> Those companies and organization that want more information on the grower-buyer networking session or on being an exhibitor can find details at this same site, or they can contact CFVGA directly at 303.594.3827 or [admin@coloradoproduce.org](mailto:admin@coloradoproduce.org)

The CFVGA is comprised of more than 250 members, including growers of all sizes and types of production throughout the state, as well as representatives of allied industries. The Colorado fruit and vegetable growing sector contributes nearly \$485 million to Colorado at the farm gate and is multiplied as it goes through the distribution chain. Over 90,000 Colorado acres are in fruit and vegetable production.

## Potato Council welcomes phase one agreement signing

*Industry hopes agreement brings new export opportunity to China*

**WASHINGTON** - On Jan. 15, 2020, the National Potato Council welcomed the signing of the Phase One Agreement reached between the United States and China by President Trump and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He at the White House. The agreement is expected to reduce tariffs and boost Chinese purchases of American farm, energy and manufactured goods.

«The U.S. potato industry welcomes the signing of this Phase One Agreement and hopes the agreement will bring new opportunities for the export of United States fresh and processed and potatoes to China,» said Larry Alsum, President of the National Potato Council.

The U.S. potato industry comprises a total

annual value of \$3.7 billion and exports 20 percent of its overall crop to international markets. China is currently a top 10 export market for potatoes, primarily in processed products. With a combination of competitive tariffs and enhanced market access, China could become a top five market in the near future.

«This signing, coming on the heels of the new Japan free trade agreement and the anticipated ratification of the USMCA, creates trade momentum for our industry and sets the stage for future increased market access that may result in substantial gains for U.S. growers,» said Jared Balcom, vice president of Trade Affairs for NPC.


The National Potato Council represents the interests of U.S. potato growers on federal legislative, regulatory, environmental and trade issues. The value of U.S. potato production is over \$3.7 billion annually and supports hundreds of thousands of jobs both directly and indirectly.



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# Saturated market leaves little room for growth in hemp

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

**SAN LUIS VALLEY-** "There is one thing that I always try to stress to my clients. Know your farmer. It is so easy nowadays to be sold fake products. Especially now that the hemp industry has been saturated with 'fake CBD,'" said owner of Green Acres Hemp Farm Jim Strang. "What we really need now is some regulations or licensing requirement to cut out the fake product."

Strang has been growing hemp for CBD extraction for well over 10 years and his plans to continue have not altered much since the plant became federally legal in early 2019. "We really anticipated a drop in sales once the laws passed to make hemp federally legal to grow but, in all honesty, our online sales increased because people were no longer afraid to have it shipped to them. Most of the growers here in the



Valley underestimated the market and grew too many plants. Now, they don't know what to do with their surplus product. You have to know these things before jumping in."

Strang and his wife Lisa grew about an acre and a half of hemp in the 2019 season and had just enough to make the products they sold all year. The business focuses on the medical benefits that have been proven time and time again through the testimonies of hundreds of clients. "Everybody and their brother jumped in to start growing hemp, but the problem is they know nothing about how to do it correctly and it's the people who buy the fake products that will suffer for it. I cannot stress it enough to know your farmer. Know where and how your products are made and make sure the company or business doing it has their hemp tested."

Strang stated that new laws are coming into effect later this year requiring hemp growers to allow labs to come to their fields and have their plants tested. "I am really glad about the changes that are coming because as I have said before it will help weed out the harmful, fake

plants and stop it from getting on the market. People are getting burnt out because they are using the wrong stuff and if anything will hurt our business it will be that."

On the other side of the Valley in Del Norte SLV Hemp is also starting the year off with some struggles due to the over saturated market. According to owner Monte Robertson SLV Hemp will be starting from scratch this season and will aim their focus toward growing hemp for edibles and animal medicinal products. "It is where our heart lies. There is two parts to the hemp plant that are used for two purposes. The green leafy part is used to extract the CBDs and the seed can be used for grain or edible products. We plan to really push our animal product line and grow for grain," explained Robertson.

Though they are off to a rough start, Robertson who is one of the founding growers of hemp in the San Luis Valley does not plan to let the over saturated market deter him from doing what he loves. "We got into this business to help people and animals and that is what we are going to do."

Robertson and others have watched the industry explode over the course of a year and seasoned farmers such as himself are disappointed with how things are starting off. "From what I have seen and heard, 60 to 70 percent of the product grown in the San Luis Valley this last year is not going to the market. It is being disposed of as far as I know and when you over produce like that, market prices drop."

Robertson will have a booth at the coming Agricultural Conference in Monte Vista this spring and hopes to interest local ranchers in growing hemp as a cleanser crop in rotational fields or to use for livestock grain. "What some people don't understand is that if you grow hemp in a field that has been contaminated by insects or pesticides, it will cleanse the soil so ranchers can continue their rotational planting. The plant also makes for great grain and feed for livestock animals."

# United States-Mexico-Canada agreement Senate approved

**COLORADO** – On Jan. 16, 2020, the United States Senate passed the United States-Mexico-Canada agreement by an 89-10 vote. The following statement is attributed to Don Shawcroft, President of the Colorado Farm Bureau:

"The long-awaited ratification of the United States-Mexico-Canada agreement will provide necessary stability and vital opportunity for the agriculture industry to thrive by increasing U.S. exports by \$2 billion. Colorado itself exports over \$1.4 billion and \$2.8 billion worth of goods to Canada and Mexico, respectively, which is why it is so incredibly important to have this agreement finalized. For over a year, farmers and ranchers from across the country have written letters, made phone calls and reached out to their elected officials urging them to make USMCA official. While the process has taken longer than we hoped, we are thankful for today's news and are excited to strengthen our relationships with our neighbors to the north and south."



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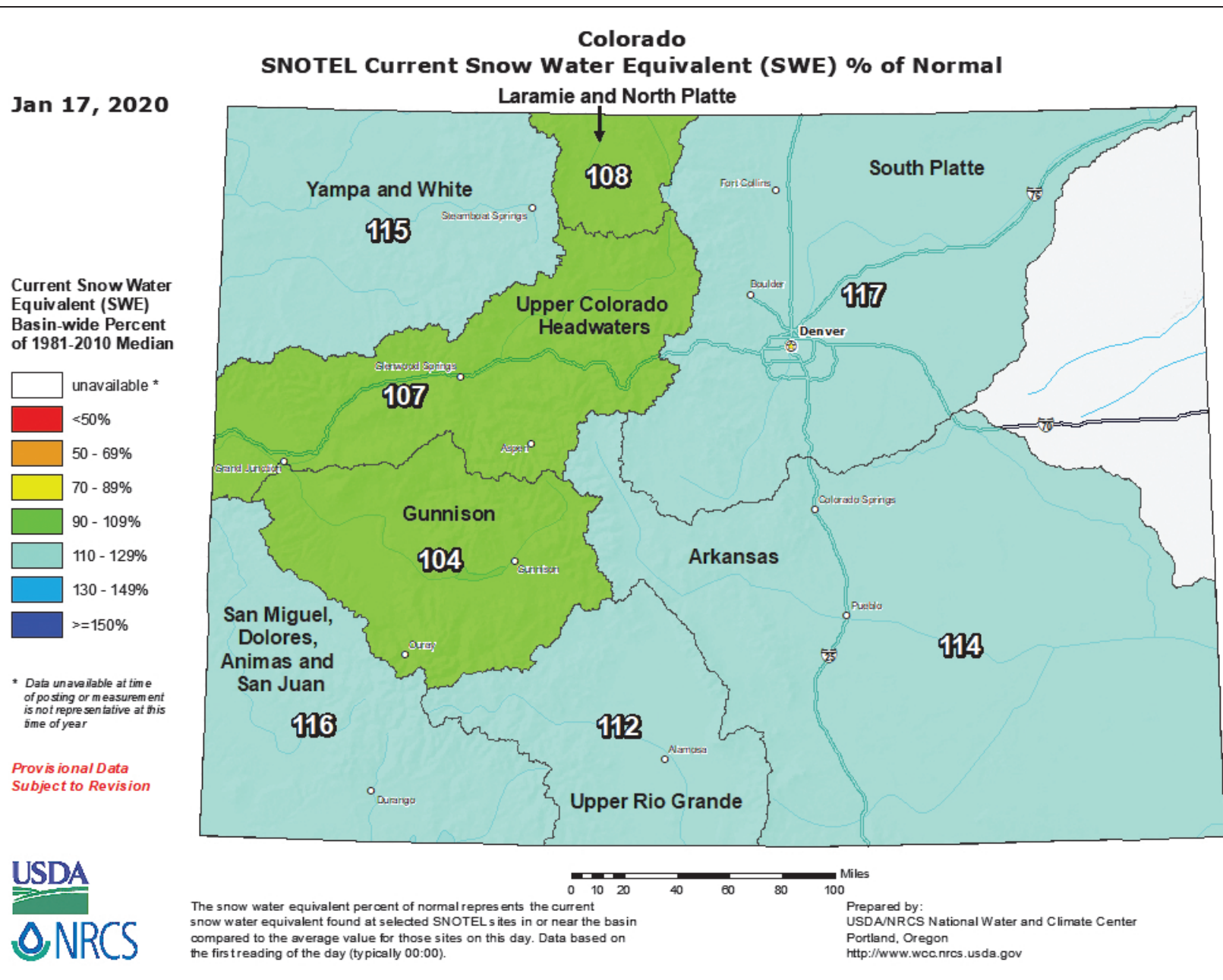
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# Snow pack is looking good for 2020



Snowpack levels for the Upper Rio Grande basin were 12 percent above normal for Jan. 17, 2020. The long-term winter 2020 forecasts for the San Luis Valley watershed are for normal precipitation with below normal temperatures.

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## San Luis Valley barley

**BY TERESA BENNS**  
**SAN LUIS VALLEY** - This area was once the major barley-producing region for Colorado, producing over 85 percent of the state's barley. Much of the barley grown here is malt barley, some of which is contracted to MillerCoors Brewing Co. It is planted with certified seed and must meet MillerCoors' stringent quality requirements for purchase. Barley also is grown in the Valley for several of the craft breweries operating here. Farmers plant malt barley in early April then harvest the in early August. Barley is planted early ensure harvest before the valley's monsoon rains. Malt barley is usually swathed for more uniform

ripening, then later combined with a pickup attachment. If the barley does not pass muster it is generally sold for feed barley at a much lower price. Farmers learned that planting barley every other year, rotating it with potatoes, helps replace nutrients in the soil and reduce weed growth. MillerCoors' barley is tested for moisture, protein, skinned and broken kernels, mold, foreign materials and many other criteria. A high minimum germination rate is required because of the brewing process. Barley is steeped in a malt house to germinate it and turn the starches to sugars, then is toasted and ground into barley malt.

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## 2019 Valley crops faced hard weather

By REBECCA COPLEY

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** - The San Luis Valley is known for its fertile farmland. Although potatoes are certainly its biggest crop there are also several other crops grown in the Valley. Alfalfa, barely, wheat, hemp, quinoa, canola, carrots, and vegetables like lettuce are some of the other crops raised in the Valley. During last year's growing season late frost and cooler than normal temperatures made things challenging for all crops.

"They were slow in developing, because May and June were pretty cool," said Marvin Reynolds the area director at Colorado State University's San Luis Valley extension office. "The hemp was definitely set back because of the cooler weather in May and June. The alfalfa was set back somewhat too." Barely and wheat were also impacted although they did reasonably well considering the colder than normal weather they faced.

The cooler weather effected the potatoes' size and there weren't as many big potatoes this year. But many farmers reported that they had a greater number of potatoes even if they weren't as large in size. There were about 49,000 acres of potatoes planted in the Valley in 2019 which is about 3,000 acres less than what was planted in 2018. Potato farmers last year thankfully enjoyed better prices than in 2018. This is due in part to other potato production areas across

the country were also impacted from cooler temperatures in their growing seasons. This added to the supply and demand and drove prices up helping farmers.

The lettuce crop suffered due to a lack of available labor. "Demand was awesome. We ended up having quite a shortage on labor, which held us back from being able to harvest more than what we could of," explained lettuce farm owner Richard Frazier. Frazier is one of the few remaining large scale lettuce growers in the Valley.

Hemp growers also struggled with late frosts on their maturing crops. "The growing part was good but then we got some of that frost early. It changes the way you harvest things. Because that plant dies out so fast and then you're going to lose a lot of the value when you go to harvest. You have to be gentle. That was an issue, we lost some stuff there. Most of the crops looked really good in the Valley until that point," said hemp farmer Shannon Wright. The quality of the crops negatively impacted this year's hemp prices. "The quality goes down if you don't harvest it in the right way. What hurt quite a bit is the quality of it was low," explained Wright.

Although the weather was not easy last year for many of the Valley's estimated 150,000 acres of farmed land, they managed to tough it out. Farmers are hoping for an easier season in the 2020 new year!

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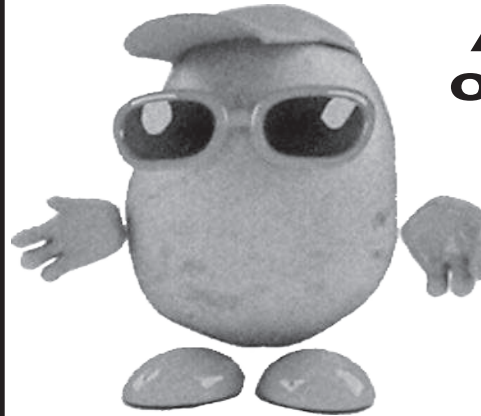
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# Safety tips for parents of young farmers

People who live in cities, exurbs or suburbs may not come across farms very frequently. But millions of people, including children, still live on farms. In fact, in 2009 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention noted that more than one million children under the age of 20 lived, worked or had a regular presence on farms in the United States.

Protecting children from injury on farms, especially those who perform work on farms, is of paramount importance. The American Society of Safety Engineers offers the following safety tips to parents of children who will be spending time on farms.

• Know and obey the laws. Various state and federal laws are in place to protect young chil-

dren from farm-related accidents and injuries. Age requirements dictate which jobs children can perform on a farm, and parents should adhere to those requirements. Asking children to do more than they're physically capable of can lead to accident, injury or even death.

• Review equipment operation instructions. Before assigning children a task on the farm, parents should review the equipment operation instructions. Doing so can help parents reacquire themselves with tools and equipment they may not have used in awhile, and that can make it easier for them to teach kids how to use such equipment. In addition, reviewing equipment instructions may provide insight to

parents unsure if their children are old enough to use certain tools.

• Inspect equipment. Before children perform any tasks on the farm, parents should inspect the equipment their children are likely to use to make sure each tool is safe. Make sure tools are in proper working order, as broken or poorly working equipment increases the risk of accident or injury.

• Enroll children in farm safety camps. The ASSE recommends that parents contact their local Cooperative Extension and Farm Bureau offices to enroll children in farm safety camps. Such camps can teach kids safe farming techniques and the proper ways to use age-appropriate tools.

• Set a positive example. Another way for parents to protect their children on the farm is to set a positive example. Parents can do so in various ways. Using equipment properly, removing tractor keys from ignitions when tractors are not in use and exercising caution when using hazardous materials shows kids the importance of caution when working on farms.

Hundreds of thousands of children perform jobs on farms across the country. Parents who

want to teach their kids to farm should always do so with safety in mind. TF185005



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## Protect livestock in extreme weather

Extreme weather is seldom fun for anyone. Although people often have the means to escape inclement weather, animals are at the mercy of their caregivers.

Protecting animals during extreme weather is not restricted to domesticated pets. Those who have livestock on their properties must recognize that these animals will need various levels of care as well. Animals such as chickens, cattle, goats, and llamas can be adversely affected by extreme weather. Individuals can heed these safety guidelines to avoid subjecting such animals to the stress, discomfort and illness that can result from exposure to extreme weather.

### Suitable shelter

One of the best ways to safeguard livestock from extreme weather is to ensure they have a place to escape the elements. Animals can get sunburned and may overheat, so make sure shelters can block the sun's rays on hot days while also allowing for air to circulate through the dwelling.

It's also key that the shelter be capable of accommodating all of the animals at the same time.

Livestock shelters do not have to be complicated. They can be as elaborate as a barn or as simple as carpports or tarps and shade cloth.

### Fresh water

Access to fresh, clean water is also essential. Dehydration can set in, particularly for animals with thick coats or those that are young or elderly. Animals tend to expend a lot of energy to cool down or stay warm, so they will need an ample supply of water to remain hydrated and healthy.

Standing water can become a breeding ground for parasites and insect larvae. Therefore, change water frequently to make sure it is sanitary. Some farm experts advise aerating troughs to help prevent algae growth or mosquito infestations. A small amount of raw apple cider vinegar may help as well. However, always discuss water sanitation methods with a veterinarian before testing them out on farm animals.

### Mold-free feed

Hot, humid temperatures can cause mold to grow on hay and other feed sources. Cows do not like to eat moldy hay and it can make horses ill. The University of Minnesota Extension says horses are particularly sensitive to dust from mold spores and can get a respiratory disease similar to asthma in humans called recurrent airway obstruction, or RAO, which is often referred to as heaves.

Hay needs to be dried out before it is fed to animals. Any feed should be stored in cool, dry conditions and inspected before being dispersed to livestock.

### Hair cut

Wooly animals may benefit from a shear prior to the onset of hot weather, advises the Maryland Small Ruminant group. Do not shear too short. For instance, a one-inch fleece can dissipate heat and help the sheep keep cool.

### Rest

Livestock should not be worked and handled during the heat of the day. Their productivity levels may be diminished, and the extra exertion may affect their health. Rest will help them stay happy and healthy until the extreme weather has subsided. TF177164

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# Potato Growers select Mattive to NPC leadership

**LAS VEGAS** – The National Potato Council’s (NPC) 2020 annual meeting in Las Vegas, Britt Raybould of Rexburg, Idaho was elected to serve as NPC’s 2020 President and to lead the council’s Executive Committee.

Raybould serves as chief financial officer of Raybould Brothers Farm. She previously served the NPC Board as First vice president and vice president of the Legislative and Government Affairs Committee. She is the third generation of the Raybould family to serve as NPC President and the first female president in NPC’s 72-year history. As president, Raybould will host the 2020 NPC Summer Meeting in Boise, Idaho, June 24-26. The Executive Committee holds office for one calendar year.

- NPC delegates also approved:
- Dominic LaJoie of Van Buren, Maine as First vice president and vice president of the Environmental Affairs Committee;
  - R.J. Andrus of Idaho Falls, Idaho as vice president of the Legislative Affairs Committee;
  - Jared Balcom of Pasco, Washington as vice president of the Trade Affairs Committee;
  - Bob Mattive of Monte Vista, Colorado as vice president of the Finance and Office Procedures Committee; and,
  - Ted Tschirky of Pasco, Washington as vice president of the Grower Outreach and Industry



**NPC 2020 Executive Committee (left to right): R.J. Andrus, Jared Balcom, Bob Mattive, Britt Raybould, Dominic LaJoie, Ted Tschirky and Larry Alsum**

Courtesy photo

Research Committee.

The 2019 President, Larry Alsum of Friesland, Wisc., will continue to serve on the Executive Committee as the Immediate Past President. The 2020 Executive Committee will meet at the Potato D.C. Fly-In, Feb. 24-27 in Washington, D.C., to continue their work for

the industry. This includes leading more than 150 growers and industry partners to Capitol Hill to meet with members of Congress, staff, and key administration officials to communicate industry priorities. Policy issues to be addressed this year include trade, agriculture labor reform, nutrition, access to crop protec-

tion tools, and research for potatoes. The National Potato Council represents the interests of U.S. potato growers on federal legislative, regulatory, environmental and trade issues. The value of U.S. potato production is over \$3.7 billion annually and supports hundreds of thousands of jobs both directly and indirectly.

## Potato Council applauds House passage of Farm Workforce Modernization Act

### Agriculture labor reform measure goes to Senate

**WASHINGTON** – The National Potato Council today welcomed U.S. House passage of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act (H.R. 5038). The bill, sponsored by Reps. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Dan Newhouse (R-WA), and Mike Simpson (R-ID), now goes to the U.S. Senate for consideration.

“Representatives Lofgren, Newhouse, and Simpson are commended for reaching across party lines to create and pass a bipartisan bill that will benefit both growers and laborers. Even during these highly partisan times, the passage of an agricultural labor reform bill demonstrates how Congress can work together to do what’s best for farms, families, and communities” said Kam Quarles, CEO of the National Potato Council. “The U.S. potato industry is proud to work with our partners on Capitol Hill to promote solutions to address American agriculture’s labor crisis. As the bill moves through the legislative process, will continue to work with the Senate and in conference committee to improve the measure and enact long-term labor solutions that support the health of our industry.”

“The House should be commended for taking the crucial step of starting the legislative process to stabilize our agricultural workforce and contribute to the future success of the U.S. potato industry. The Farm Workforce Modernization Act seeks to enhance the efficiency of the H-2A program for seasonal workers while creating a new long-term solution for year-round agricultural labor, including necessary strong enforcement measures,” said NPC First Vice President of Legislative and Government Affairs Britt Raybould of St. Anthony, Idaho.

The National Potato Council represents the interests of U.S. potato growers on federal

legislative, regulatory, environmental, and trade issues. The value of U.S. potato production is over \$3.7 billion annually and supports hundreds of thousands of jobs both directly and indirectly. NPC is a member of the Agricultural Workforce Coalition that speaks for American agriculture on labor reform legislation.



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