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Contact Gayland at 428-1053 or Terry at 864-2272

New Dental Program Launching In Naturita Elementary/Middle School

The Tri-County Health Network (TCHNetwork), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was awarded a 3-year, \$500,000 SMILES Dental Project grant from the Caring for Colorado Foundation and Colorado Health Foundation. They plan to launch Skippy+ at Naturita Elementary School in Naturita and Telluride Elementary School in Telluride during the Spring 2017 semester. These schools were selected due to the high level of need and lack of dental providers that accept Medicaid and CHP+ in the surrounding area. TCHNetwork plans to bring Skippy+ to other schools throughout Montrose, San Miguel and Ouray counties in years 2 and 3 of the grant.

"We are honored that the Tri-County Health Network selected Naturita Elementary as one of the Skippy+ pilot sites. Skippy+ breaks down barriers to dental care for our students by offering state-of-the-art services in our schools," said Superintendent Mike Epright, West End Public Schools District.

TCHNetwork was one of five Colorado organizations selected to receive funding after an intensive, year-long planning process.

With the grant, TCHNetwork will launch Skippy+. Skippy+ builds upon TCHNetwork's existing Skippy (San Juan Kids Cavity Prevention) program, already serving over 1,600 children each year. Though Skippy has provided tremendous preventive dental services for seven years at over 16 regional schools, many of the children treated require restorative care and dentist attention. The children are often unable to receive care due to a number of barriers including lack of insurance, transportation issues, and overall lack of interest in oral health. The next generation of Skippy, Skippy+ incorporates cutting-edge Virtual Dental Home and restorative care services at the Skippy school-based clinics. The virtual dental home model will remove

rural barriers to care and transform how dental care is delivered in our region.

Through Skippy+, children will receive full preventive dental services that include in-person and virtual exams by a dentist, x-rays, cleanings, fluoride sealants, and oral hygiene education twice per year. Specialized, dentists will review all x-rays, develop individualized treatment plans for the children, and ensure children receive necessary restorative care. By providing easier access and a higher level of care regardless of socioeconomic factors, TCHNetwork aims to ensure that all children get the dental care they need.

Tri-County Health Network's three county region is categorized as a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area, a Medically Underserved Area, and a Medically Underserved Population. This signifies an at-risk community with too few dentists and pockets of extreme poverty. Since 2008, TCHNetwork has performed over 100 Skippy clinics in 16 schools, provided over 5,000 treatments to children between the ages of 0 and 13, and referred about one-third of children served for restorative care. Skippy has reduced the percentage of children who have not seen a dentist in our region by almost 50 percent and bridged the gap for those uninsured children to be able to receive preventive dental care.

Formed in 2009, TCHNetwork is comprised of a group of healthcare providers in southwest Colorado within the counties of Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel that are committed to improving the quality and coordination of health and healthcare services in this tri-county region by increasing access to healthcare and integrative health services at lower costs through collaboration and innovation. For more information, visit: www.tchnetwork.org.

Water Days Committee Resumes

The Water Days Steering Committee will carry on as a new committee was formed during their reconstruction night held on October 22. They elected new officers that evening which are as follows:

- Tammy Gillaspay- Chair
- Coleen Preston- Vice Chair
- Dana Saxton- Secretary
- Brandi Geddings- Treasurer
- Members: Jay Saxton, Lee Geddings, Judith Mayersmith, Bryan & Shelley Bishop & family, Dorothy Reed & a host of volunteers.

They initiated the organizing and planning for the 37th year of Water Days 2017 the same night.

They held their second Water Days Steering Committee Meeting on Tuesday, Oct 4, at the Nucla Fire Department just after press time.

The Water Days Steering Committee will have a booth at the Heritage Harvest Festival in Naturita this coming Saturday, October 8. They will be serving a Tamale Dinner. "PLEASE stop by our booth and have a Tamale and Support our 2017 Water Days!"

Visit them on Facebook at Water Days- Nucla, Colorado

The IRS is cutting 7,000 Jobs

According to the Washington Post, because of an IRS employment reduction of 7,000 jobs, the chance of your small business being audited is pretty darn low.

According to this analysis on MarketWatch from earlier this year, small businesses with less than \$10 million in assets who filed a "C-Corporation" return in 2014 faced a 1 percent chance of being audited. That number goes down to 0.4 percent for those of us filing "S-Corporation," partnership or multi-member Limited Liability Corporation or LLC returns.

Could it go lower?

The Daily Mail reports that recently announced planned layoffs at three IRS processing centers would result in a loss of 7,000 jobs or 8 percent of its 84,000 member workforce between now and 2024. The jobs will not be replaced.

Cost savings over five years for shutting down centers in Covington, Ky., Fresno, Calif. and Austin, Texas are projected to total about \$266 million with subsequent savings over \$53 million, the IRS said in another report. This should please the hard-liners in Congress who have been successful in decreasing the agency's budget by \$900 million and 17,000 positions since 2010.

Naturita School Library To Host Scholastic Book Fair Event

Naturita Elementary Middle School will host a Scholastic Book Fair on October 10-20, 2017. Funds raised will help purchase books for the school media center for all students and their families can share. Families, faculty, and the community are invited to attend this fun reading event that helps inspire children to become lifelong readers.

The Book Fair will feature a special Parents and Pastries with refreshments scheduled on October 13, 2016. The book fair will be open during Ag day, Parents and Teacher conferences Drawings for a chance to win a book of your choice or posters are held daily.

When: The Book Fair will be open daily Monday-Thursday, October 10-19 from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM and on the last day Thursday, October 20, 2016 from 7:30 AM to 7:30 PM. Where: Naturita Elementary Middle School Library is located at 141 W. Main in Naturita.

Ute Trail Study Club News

The Ute Trail Study Club will have their monthly meeting Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 12:00 PM at the Redvale Community Building. The hostesses are Linda Kerr and Thelma Archer. Our entertainment will be Getting Acquainted. We will get to know about our old and new friends (this could be very interesting). Some of our members have some very active lives. The public is invited to attend. Lunch will be at 12:00 and is a potluck affair, so please bring a dish. Lunch will be a potato bar, salads and desserts.

The Study Club is always looking for new members so if you would like to join us, we will welcome you. We do have some very enlightening and interesting meetings. Hope to see everyone there.