

VALLEY IN BRIEF

Daily staff reports

newsroom@vaildaily.com

CMC offers options for fall semester

With guidance from state and local public health orders, Colorado Mountain College is accepting registrations for fall classes. Some classes begin Aug. 24 and others will start throughout the semester.

In light of COVID-19, the college has designed flexible, in-person and virtual course options, all while keeping students, employees and communities as safe as possible. Please visit coloradomtn.edu/trailmap for a full explanation of CMC's plan.

Registering for classes, both credit and non-credit, is best accessed online. Visit coloradomtn.edu/registering-information/ for registration information, and coloradomtn.edu/classes/ for classes.

Colorado Mountain College is located in Aspen, Breckenridge, Carbondale, Dillon, Vail Valley at Edwards, Glenwood Springs, Leadville, Rifle, Spring Valley at Glenwood Springs, Steamboat Springs and Salida. For more information, call 800-621-8559.

\$1.2M distributed in Eagle, Pitkin and Garfield counties

Pitkin and Garfield counties

LaMedichi has distributed more than \$1.2 million to over 1,200 families (more than 5,000 people) through the Manaus Emergency Fund in three counties (Eagle, Pitkin and Garfield) since the beginning of COVID-19.

LaMedichi is responding to meet the needs of thousands of immigrant families by distributing emergency cash assistance. The program for rapid deployment of emergency financial aid to those without access to traditional public funding was created by Barbara Freeman, Ph. D., with

fundraising support by local consultant, Robin Thompson.

Undocumented workers who play an important role in Colorado's tourism and construction economy and who lost their jobs or had their hours reduced during this pandemic are unable to collect unemployment benefits.

LaMedichi (a program of MANAUS) stepped up to provide aid early in the pandemic. Before the coronavirus, the LaMedichi Savings-Credit Club worked with clients to provide a vehicle for the most vulnerable populations to save money, receive financial literacy education, and receive low interest loans. However, when the ski industry shut down in mid-March and stay-at-home orders affected nearly every business, Freeman saw a growing need for immediate funding.

"We were able to launch the Manaus Emergency Fund very quickly," Freeman said. Robin Thompson added, "Nonprofits like LaMedichi that can pivot to serve an urgent community need, while staying within their stated mission, are the most effective and efficient ways to provide targeted aid."

Grants are given in \$1,000 increments by LaMedichi. These grants come in two payments: \$950 in immediate cash assistance and a \$50 deposit into each recipient's personal LaMedichi savings account. Educational support on financial literacy, goal setting, budgeting, and emergency savings is included.

At first, the most pressing need was helping families pay their rent. Now, medical expenses related to COVID-19 have emerged as an equal burden for many families and individuals.

"We are dealing with the most vulnerable of the vulnerable," Freeman said.

Those interested in supporting LaMedichi to help these most vulnerable populations,

visit www.lamedichi.info/donations-covid/ or contact Robin Thompson at Fundraiser@RobinThompson.com.

Vail Sponsors Virtual

Lunch with the Locals

The town of Vail will host a special webinar with Darcy Gaetcher, the first woman to kayak the Amazon River from source to sea and author of the book "Amazon Woman." The webinar will begin at noon Tuesday, Aug. 25. Gaetcher will be sharing the story of her trip down the Amazon, including Class V white-water in the Andes of Peru and continuing down through the miles-wide portions of the Amazon Delta where she combated tides and wind while navigating a river too wide to see across.

The town environmental sustainability team is organizing the event. For the Zoom meeting link or details about this and other upcoming activities, contact Pete Wadden, watershed education coordinator, at 970-479-2144 or pwadden@vailgov.com.

Holy Cross Energy named Electric Cooperative of the Year

Holy Cross Energy has been named Electric Cooperative of the Year for 2020 by the Smart Electric Power Alliance, recognizing utilities, industry partners and other stakeholders working on the front lines of the U.S. clean energy transition.

"Holy Cross Energy is taking strong steps towards achieving its goal of 70 percent renewable supply by 2030. Holy Cross also contributed to the innovative Basalt Vista microgrid project, and they provide industry-leading support for their member-customer's installation of on-site renewables and storage," said Julia Hamm, president and