

# With grants, River Valley increases farmworker access to care

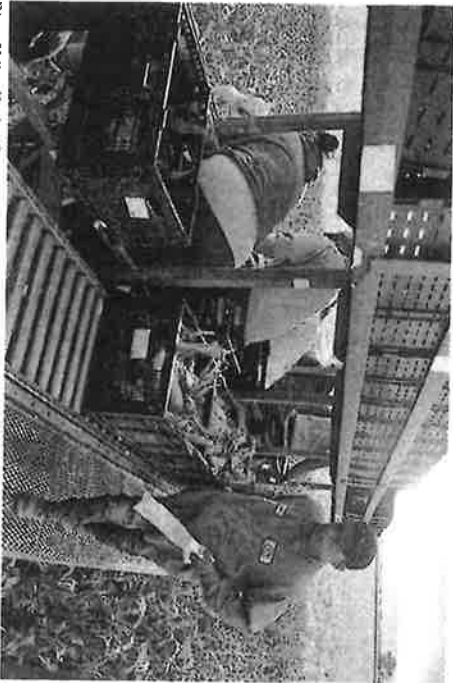
By KATHARINA HERBERICH  
KATHARINA.VAID@MONTROSEPRESS.COM

As seasonal farmworkers arrive on their visas, River Valley Family Health Center is working to make sure those who produce local food are protected from COVID-19.

Caring for Colorado awarded River Valley about \$40,000 through the Together We Protect Vaccine Equity Fund. River Valley also received \$10,000 from the Western Colorado Community Foundation to help fund mobile vaccine clinics for the farmworkers.

"The focus of this is to increase access to COVID vaccines for migrant and seasonal workers, low-income and Hispanic and Latino populations in Montrose and Delta counties," River Valley CEO Jeremy Carroll said, of the first grant. "We're really focused on the equity piece."

Migrant workers face barriers to care that include languages, understanding America's health care system, money and transportation.



River Valley Health Centers is using grant support to provide COVID-19 vaccines and other care to migrant farmworkers, like those seen here working in one of John Harold's fields last summer. (Montrose Daily Press/She photo)

"Health care is very expensive," Carroll said. "We don't want them to go without, just because they can't afford a copayment."

The mobile clinics are free to the farmworkers; if they come into River Valley later on, they enter the sliding-scale fee program, with a payment of at least \$15, just like any other patient. As a federally qual-

ified health center, River Valley accepts people with or without insurance and offers a sliding payment scale to everyone.

Last week, River Valley providers, nurses, health care navigators and outreach team members visited two area farms, administering first doses of Moderna's COVID vaccine, as well as conducting

basic health screens for cholesterol and diabetes. River Valley will return to administer second doses 28 days after the first.

Smaller farms are also reaching out and efforts are being made to incorporate them into the clinics. River Valley Chief Operating Officer Kaye Hosenpfler said.

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# Probation ordered in sexual exploitation case

Man told viewing child porn is not a victimless crime

By KATHARINA HERBERICH  
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Every time an explicit photo or video of a child is viewed, it victimizes the child yet again, Jeffrey Allyn was told Monday, when he was sentenced to probation for sexual exploitation of a child, as stipulated to in a plea agreement.

Allyn seemed not to understand this, prosecutors said, reading out the statute, but he later told District Judge Keri Yoder that he has begun making the connection between viewing and victimization.

Allyn was arrested last year after Google alerted authorities that an account associated with him contained illegal images. Detectives at the time reported finding more than 100 images depicting children in sexual situations,

including sexual situations with adults.

Prosecutors on Monday sought a sentence of three years of intensive supervised probation, as well as a substance abuse assessment because Allyn's substance abuse appeared to coincide with his viewing of explicit materials.

Public defender Daniel Lavriška argued two years was sufficient for Allyn, who scored at low risk across the board. He said his client takes responsibility and nothing suggests that more than two years would be needed to address his issues.

Yoder told Allyn that, without an audience, there is far less incentive for people to sexually exploit children. His conduct, she said, perpetuates their victimization.

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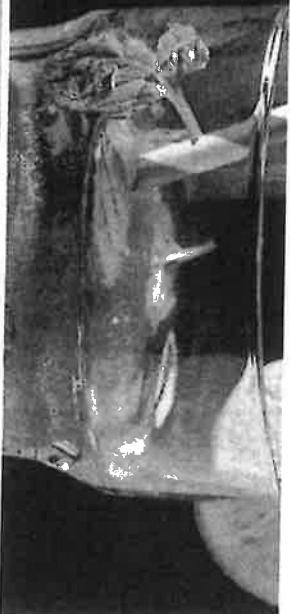
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# DMEA power pole inspections begin

SPECIAL TO THE MONTROSE DAILY PRESS

Starting April 19, Delta-Montrose Electric Association will begin inspecting and recording all telecommunication attachments on its power poles. The work will take place across the co-op's entire service territory in Montrose and Delta counties and is expected to last until October.

DMEA is contracting

with Osmose to conduct the work. During the inspection process, Osmose inspectors may need to enter members' properties to access the co-op's power poles. In addition to inspecting the condition of the telecommunication equipment and cables attached to the power poles, the inspectors will also catalog these items by taking photos.

All Osmose vehicles will be marked and identified

with DMEA contractor labels. DMEA asks for its members' cooperation in allowing contractors access to poles located on private property. Over the next six months, DMEA and Osmose will inspect approximately 40,000 poles.

For more information about DMEA's pole inspection process or property access, contact Nathan Trujillo at 970-497-8741 or nathan.trujillo@dmea.com.

## CLINICS

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"The farm owners are calling us. We're trying to meet them where they're at, to be as flexible as possible, to not only offer COVID vaccines, but the physicals, and ensuring our workers are healthy and able to work," she said.

Olathe sweet corn farmer John Harold's crews began arriving in the last two weeks and received vaccines through River Valley. He said he hopes all of the workers will be willing to get the shot, having spent last season anxiously watching for the virus among his workers, as well as battling COVID himself.

"My plan is that they all get vaccinated. It was a struggle last year. We had two or three that we were concerned about and they work close together. If one of them gets it, then we've got a problem," Harold said.

He said he appreciates River Valley's efforts and responsiveness.

The mobile clinics build on last year's efforts, which served 555 migrant farmworkers. In 2020, River Valley partnered with All Points Transit, which picked up workers from local farms and took them to clinics for testing and basic health screens.

"This year, our goal is to get them vaccinated within 10 days of them being here," Carroll said. "We want to make sure anybody who wants access to a vaccine can have a vaccine. This year, we have to be very flexible

with farmers' schedules and when workers are coming. That's why this funding is so helpful."

The money allows for more flexibility in getting staff to the farmworkers. The efforts of local farmers, who help organize the clinics, cannot be overlooked, Carroll also said.

"They want to make sure their workers are safe and healthy. We're even getting calls from small farms we've never worked with before," he said.

River Valley operates entire programs to assist farmworkers by taking medical, behavioral and dental health providers to the farms to conduct health screens and get the workers access to the care they might need.

"We're utilizing that same system to be able to provide them vaccines. This is a program we've had for years. Every year, it gets a little bigger and we serve more patients," Carroll said.

Vaccinating farmworkers benefits the community, because it reduces the overall spread of COVID-19 and the cost of taking care of that, Hotsenpiller said.

"That's what River Valley really wants to do. We don't want anyone to have a barrier to their health care. We're going to do what we can to eliminate those barriers," she said, encouraging everyone who needs care to come into River Valley to explore options.

One piece of the recent grant also helps with in-house vaccines and in allowing River Valley to continue its regular vac-

cine clinics, held weekly in Olathe and Delta. In Montrose, the plan is to begin offering a vaccine clinic in May one day a week. River Valley has already partnered with Montrose County and others to put on a vaccine equity clinic that served more than 950 people.

"We still want to focus on those who are low-income, who don't necessarily have access to health care, but at the end of the day, those vaccines are really available to anyone," Carroll said.

As of last week, River Valley had, within its own facilities and excluding its work with the county, administered 1,088 doses.

Throughout the pandemic, 3,434 COVID tests were performed through River Valley.

The center previously funded a stand-up COVID care center, which operated four months, serving 750 patients who had COVID or suspected COVID, but did not require hospitalization. It closed in March, as cases dropped. The same location, in River Valley's Montrose facility, will be used for the weekly vaccine clinic here that is slated to start in May.

River Valley Family Health Centers has facilities in Montrose at 1010 S. Rio Grande Ave. (970-497-3333 or pharmacy, 970-787-2044); 308 Main St. in Olathe (970-323-6141) and 107 W. 11th St. in Delta (970-874-8981).

Katharhynn Heidelberg is the Montrose Daily Press assistant editor and senior writer. Follow her on Twitter; @kathMDP.

- need reprogramming:
  - Private branch exchanges
  - Internet dial-up numbers
  - Mobile or other wireless contact lists
  - Call forwarding settings

It's also recommended to check your website, business or personal stationary, personal and business checks, contact information, your personal or pet ID tags and advertising materials to make sure the area code is included.

Some items will remain the same, like a customer's telephone number, including the area code. Price of a call, too, won't change, and for all long-distance calls, customers will still dial 1 plus the area code and telephone number.

Here are other services that won't see a change:

- Dialing the prefix "9" when in an office building, hotel or other that is using a multi-line telephone system will continue
- People can continue to use three digits to reach 911 (emergency services) and 711 (relay services)
- Local calls now will remain local regardless of the number of digits dialed.

For more information on the change, visit [fcc.gov/suicide-prevention-hotline](http://fcc.gov/suicide-prevention-hotline). For a full list of affected area codes, visit [national-nanpa.com](http://national-nanpa.com).

To reach the Suicide Prevention Hotline, call 1-800-273-8255. The Colorado Crisis Services line is 1-844-493-TALK (8255), and The Center for Mental Health Crisis and Support Line can be reached at 970-252-6220.

Josie Perez is a staff writer for the Montrose Daily Press

ized by his treatment team; and cannot use alcohol or drugs.

Yoder left a substance abuse evaluation to the discretion of the probation department.

She also imposed about \$4,800 in costs and fines.

Katharhynn Heidelberg is the Montrose Daily Press assistant editor and senior writer. Follow her on Twitter; @kathMDP.

**MONTROSE ROTARY CLUB PROJECT TIME LINE**



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