

## Shorts

### Ribbon cutting for Regency Bookkeeping Feb. 16

MONTE VISTA — A grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for Regency Tax and Bookkeeping Services is scheduled for noon on Feb. 16, at 260 Adams St., Monte Vista.

### Kiwanis Club Pancake Supper is Feb. 19

CENTER — The Kiwanis Club of Center's 68th annual Presidents Day Pancake Supper is from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 19, at the Center School Cafeteria.

The cost is \$9 for adults, \$5 for children and free for children younger than 6 years old. Package sausage will be available for \$5 a pound.

### SLV Health free lunch and learn Feb. 2

ALAMOSA — SLV Health is having a free lunch and learn that will provide information about the patient portal and telehealth at noon on Thursday, Feb. 22, at the Education and Conference Center, 1921 Main St., Alamosa. There will be hands-on training and Q-and-A with a provider. To attend, RSVP to Donna Wehe at 719-587-1209 or email donna.wehe@slvrmc.org.

### Saguache County Republican caucus is March 7

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The Saguache County Republican party will be conducting a caucus at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, at two locations in the county.

• Precincts 1, 2, 6 and 7 will meet at Mountain Valley School cafeteria in Saguache.

• Precincts 3, 4 and 5 will meet at Moffat School cafeteria in Moffat.

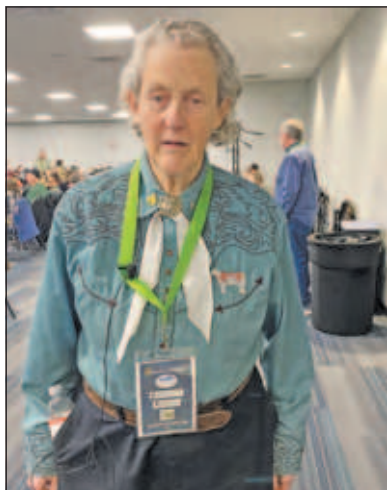
Registered Republicans can call to find out what precinct they are in.

"We'll give you that information and answer any other questions you may have about the caucus and upcoming County Assembly," organizers stated.

For more information, call 719-530-1257 or email mkc@accentusa.com.



## SRMAC keynote speaker Grandin advocates several ways of thinking



By JOHN WATERS

MONTE VISTA — Colorado State University (CSU) professor and renowned expert on autism, Dr. Temple Grandin, gave the keynote address at the 42nd Annual Southern

Dr. Temple Grandin, Colorado State University professor and expert on autism, at the 42nd Annual Southern Rocky Mountain Agricultural Conference and Trade Show held at the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista on Feb 7.

Photo by John Waters

Rocky Mountain Agricultural Conference and Trade Show in Monte Vista on Feb. 7, "Visual Thinking: The hidden gifts of people who think in pictures, patterns, and abstractions," to a packed audience.

Grandin gave a similar talk at Society Hall in Alamosa the night before. Grandin herself has autism.

Advocating new directions for the way people who have autism should be taught, Grandin said, "A lot of kids are not learning how to work," and suggested they learn job skills early including working at a dollar store, church volunteer jobs, or cleaning

stables as she had done at a young age.

"Do you know how you get them off the video games? Introduce them to car mechanics, and introduce them to fixing center pivot sprinklers. They're gonna find that stuff is a lot more interesting," she said.

Grandin added that instead of eliminating the use of video games, limit their use to an hour a day on weekdays and two hours daily on weekends.

Grandin said there are visual thinkers, music and math thinkers, and verbal thinkers, and we need to have

Please see GRANDIN on Page 2A

## Cost to water crops could nearly quadruple as San Luis Valley fends off climate change, fights with Texas and New Mexico

By JERD SMITH  
The Colorado Sun

Hundreds of growers in Colorado's San Luis Valley could see their water costs nearly quadruple under a new plan designed to slash agricultural water use in the drought-strapped region and deflect a potential legal crisis on the Rio Grande.

A new rule approved by the area's largest irrigation district, known as Subdistrict 1, and the Alamosa-based Rio Grande Water Conservation District, sets fees charged to pump water from a severely depleted underground aquifer at \$500 an acre-foot, up from \$150 an acre foot. The new program could begin as early as 2026 if the fees survive a court challenge.

"It's draconian and it hurts," said Sen. Cleave Simpson, a Republican from Alamosa who is also general manager of the Rio Grande water district.

The region, home to one of the nation's largest potato economies, has relied for more than 70 years on water from an aquifer that is intimately tied to the Rio Grande. The river begins high in the San Juan mountains above the Valley floor.

Both the river and the aquifer are



Photo by Hugh Carey, The Colorado Sun

The Rio Grande River flows through agricultural lands near Monte Vista, Feb. 6, in the San Luis Valley.

supplied by melting mountain snows, but a relentless multi-year drought has shrunk annual snowpacks so much that neither the river nor the aquifer have been able to recover their once bountiful supplies.

And that's a problem. Under the Rio Grande Compact of 1938, Colorado is required to deliver enough water

downstream to satisfy New Mexico and Texas. If the aquifer falls too low, it will endanger the river's supplies and push Colorado out of compliance. Such a situation could trigger lawsuits and cost the state tens of millions of dollars in legal fees.

Subdistrict 1 has set state-approved Please see WATER on Page 4A

## Four months late, Farm Bill still in negotiations

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

MONTE VISTA — Dan Waldvogle, director of External Affairs for the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, provided updates on federal legislation for an audience of producers at the Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show on Tuesday with two takeaways put forth in his presentation.

Aside from "not a lot happening right now, there are still "a lot of programs," benefiting farmers and ranchers that are being rolled out with funding from three pieces of legislation passed earlier in the Biden Administration.

But as far as the "big" bill — the

Farm Bill — Waldvogle says not much is known. Negotiations are ongoing, but they're taking place within a larger political atmosphere that can be best described as volatile and significant differences remain in key areas.

For background, the Farm Bill is renewed every five years. The bill passed in 2018 expired on Sept. 30, 2023, more than four months ago. At that time, as part of a continuing resolution, Congress granted an extension until Sept. 30, 2024, allowing most programs to continue uninterrupted until, hopefully, a new bill can be passed in time.

As a way to provide context, Waldvogle highlighted some of the funding

Please see BILL on Page 7A



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Dan Waldvogle, director of External Affairs for Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, updated an audience of producers on federal legislation at the 2024 Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show held at the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista on Tuesday.

## National Potato Council at the forefront of advocacy

By JOHN WATERS

MONTE VISTA — At the Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show on Tuesday, Kam Quarles, Chief Executive Officer at the National Potato Council, gave a presentation updating farmers of what the council is doing for them.

At the forefront is maintaining recommendations to the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee that potatoes are indeed horticulturally a vegetable.

"Right now, the federal government is going through a five-year process where they review and revise the Dietary Guidelines for Americans... this basically sets the foundation for all nutrition policy in the U.S. If they get it right, it is like a tailwind, if they get it wrong it is like a ball and chain around your ankles," said Quarles. He added that one of the first issues the committee considered is if potatoes are a vegetable or a grain.

Please see COUNCIL on Page 2A



# COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

In 2023, the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture appointed 20 nutrition and public health experts to serve on the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee to review nutrition science and base recommendations to those agencies to assist in determining policy. The guidelines assist in shaping nutritional policy and school cafeteria menus.

According to Quarles, a December 2023 Wall Street Journal article, "Does That Potato Count as a Vegetable? The New Polarizing Food Debate," sparked serious consideration of reclassifying spuds as a grain. Keeping potatoes classified as a vegetable is good for demand. Keeping demand high is good for farmers. According to the USDA's Economic

Research Service, the potato is the most commonly consumed vegetable in the country.

In 2023 Quarles testified before the committee and said, "The Committee should focus on strategies to increase vegetable consumption and maintain recommendations for servings of what are often referred to as starchy vegetables.

"Americans do not eat enough vegetables and potatoes are key to addressing this gap. Potatoes are a versatile, affordable, and popular nutrient-dense choice across socioeconomic groups and cultures. Prepared in any form, potatoes provide essential, under-consumed nutrients such as potassium and fiber. Potatoes also play a key role in federal feeding programs such as National School Lunch and School Breakfast

Programs. Here, potatoes serve as a 'springboard vegetable,' which introduces children to other types of less-consumed vegetables, increases participation and decreases food waste. We encourage the Committee to maintain recommendations for America's favorite vegetable."

Quarles warned of the danger the Canadian PEI [Prince Edward Island] Potato Ward poses to American producers. The potato wart is a soil-borne fungus that can remain dormant in a field for decades and can spread rapidly when soil is moved or disturbed by farm equipment. According to the Canadian Food Inspection Service the wart can lead to field losses of 50% to 100%. In 2021, PEI potato exports to the U.S. represented 92% of seed potatoes, 97% of seed potatoes and 89% of processed



Photo by John Waters

**Kam Quarles, CEO of the National Potato Council, provided the NPC Political Update on Tuesday at the Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show at the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista. The conference is Feb. 6-8.**

potato products. Currently the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, under certain circumstances, bans the importation of seed potatoes from the province.

The 2024 priorities for the NPC are to spend \$200 million annually for the Market Access Program, \$9 million for Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops that funds substantial work on access to Mexican Markets, and \$80 million for Specialty Crop Research Initiative.

"Mexico has been open for more than a year now and we actually have Mexican inspectors come up in the last six months and gave a tremendously

clean bill of health to the activities that are happening in the United States...a very positive thing and really positive for Colorado," said Quarles.

In describing the potential of potato exports to Japan, Quarles said, "Japan, we have had a lot of bipartisan focus, the Senate Finance Committee the Agriculture Committee in getting Japan open, our next big battle."

The NPC expects Japan to become a massive market for American fresh potatoes. If the market opens, American producers may experience exports of up to \$200 million annually. Quarles added that talks between the U.S. and Japan are stalled.

# OBITUARIES

## Charles Everett Preas

**DEL NORTE** — Charles Everett Preas, 83, a cherished family man and friend, passed away Feb. 4, 2024, in Del Norte, Colo., leaving behind a legacy of caring, generosity to those struggling in life, and an unquenchable zest for life. Born on June 15, 1940, in Big Spring, Texas, Charles's journey through life was marked by his intelligence and his love for his family and community. His handy nature showed through in many aspects of life, with an innate problem-solving ability and insights into how hard jobs could be accomplished.

A proud graduate of Lakeview High School in San Angelo, Texas, Charles carried the lessons of his youth throughout his life, embodying the values of hard work and dedication in everything he did. His life was shared with his beloved wife of 64 years, Ellen Preas, who stood by him as a pillar of love and support. Together they raised a beautiful family, including daughters Stefanie (Tom) Walton of Linton, Ind., Cindy Valdez of Boise, Idaho, and Donna (Mark) Huebner of Signal Mountain, Tenn. Charles's legacy extends to his loving 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren, who will



carry forward his stories, wisdom, and the light of his presence.

His natural ability to engage with people made him well known and likable; whether on his frequent bike rides or just a casual walk around town, he never missed an opportunity to share a conversation or a smile. Children throughout the town fondly recognized him as "The Candy Man," a testament to his love for bringing joy to others, especially in witnessing the delight of children as he handed out treats.

A man of the great outdoors, Charles

found solace and excitement in the embrace of nature. Hunting and fishing were not just hobbies but a way of connecting with the environment he so dearly loved. The mountains were his haven, a place where he could roam freely, and connect with God's creation around him. His woodworking, unique carpentry skills and eye for business helped many families in the valley throughout the years.

Preceded in death by his parents, VG Preas and Nellie Ruth McCarty Preas, and his brother Glen Robert Preas, Charles's spirit is now reunited with his loved ones who have gone before him. His passing leaves a void in the community of Del Norte and in the lives of his family, but his indomitable spirit will forever remain a guiding light.

A memorial service is set for Thursday, Feb. 15, at 10:30 a.m. at Gateway Baptist Church, 975 Grand Ave., Del Norte, Colo. Memorial contributions may be directed to the charity of the donor's choice.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online words of comfort, remembrances, or condolences for Charles' family, please visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com).

## Ronald Gale Rounds

Ronald Gale Rounds, 86, of Creede, Colo., passed away peacefully on Jan. 25, 2024, at Sundance Hospital surrounded by his loved ones. He was a beloved father, grandfather, and friend who will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Ron was born on May 7, 1937, in Sturgis, S.D., to Phillip and Ollie Rounds. He was one of four children. Ron attended high school in Belle Fourche, S.D., graduating on May 22, 1956.

While living and working at a repair shop in Belle Fourche, Ron married Flora May Westland in April 1957. Of this marriage came their firstborn son Clint Jay Rounds, daughter ReNette Wray Rounds (Penning), and son Donald Dale Rounds.

In 1959, Ron and Flora May moved to Hulett, Wyo., so Ron could work at the Hauber Homestake Mine as a mechanic. While working at Homestake, he was a field artillery crewman in the Army National Guard from 1960 to 1962. Ron worked at the Homestake Mine until its closure in 1966, the family then moved to

Creede, Colo., for Ron to work as a mechanic at Homestake Silver Mine.

Divorcing in 1967, Ron continued to work, and make a home in Creede, working at the Homestake mine until its closure and reclamation was completed in July of 1994.

Throughout his time in Creede, Ron was a proud volunteer firefighter which he later retired from. After his time at Homestake Silver Mine, he ran a tire and small engine repair shop out of his shop called Ron's Repair. There wasn't a job too big for Ron and he took great pride in his work. It was during this time that Ron began racing at Thunder Valley Speedway. He fixed up a 1972 Chevy pickup and had the time of his life racing around the track every Friday night.

In addition to his love of mechanics and racing, Ron loved to hunt and fish and took every opportunity he had to do so. In closing, we have to mention Ron's love of walking. As many of us can attest to there was nothing Ron enjoyed more than taking his daily walks around town.

Ron is survived by his two brothers



Harley (Colleen) Rounds of Belle Fourche, S.D., and Tom (Peg) Rounds of Sturgis, S.D., and three children Clint Rounds of Carlisle, Wyo., ReNette Penning of Hulett, Wyo., Donnie (Kindra) Rounds of Monte Vista, Colo., eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister.

# GRANDIN

Continued from Page 1A

them all at the table in any decision-making. She proposes educating, employing, and collaborating with visual thinkers who she says are essential for their perspectives.

Noting that many successful people think differently, Grandin said, "Michelangelo, filthy, dirty, naughty, 12-year-old. He dropped out of school because he didn't want to become a lawyer, yuck, learning all that Latin. He was running around all those churches that were commissioning all that great art; that's exposure."

Grandin used that as an example of how to cultivate the promise of a young person with different thought processes.

According to the CSU website Grandin has said, "You think about the number of students that are forced to become a lawyer or a doctor, and then they find out they hate it later on. There's a lot of people today that are going down that track, you know, and that's a bad one to go down. It's important to find out the things you hate doing."

Neurodivergent and neurodiverse are terms used to describe people like Grandin and others whose brain

differences including autism, affect how they think and how their brain works. The term was introduced in the 1990s by sociologist Judy Singer who is autistic. People with autism are on a broad spectrum. Today, people on this spectrum are understood to be part of all normal human experience.

Often, autistic people are delayed in speech and visual processing remains primary. According to The New York Journal of Books, Einstein did not speak fully until age 7. He wrote, "Thoughts do not come in any verbal formulation. I rarely think in words at all. The psychological entities that serve as building blocks for my thoughts are certain signs and images, more or less clear, that I can reproduce or recombine at will."

Grandin says the world is increasingly focused on verbal thinkers and people need to refocus on visual thinkers and synthesize the three types of thinkers into education and policy making.

"Visual Thinking: The hidden gifts of people who think in pictures, patterns, and abstractions," is available in both hardcover and paperback

## PROTECT

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# GENERAC

# SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

## Janys Ruth Jones

On Dec. 1, 2023, Janys Ruth Jones, loving mother and friend to many passed away. Please join us for her celebration of life on Feb. 23, 2024, at the Sargent Community Church, 10 a.m. with a reception to follow.



# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Smoke and mirrors

It has long been thought that a lot of what goes on in the world is manipulated by those in charge. They are thought to use a technique called smoke and mirrors to draw attention away from what is really going on behind the scenes and keep us focused on something really unrelated and often mundane.

It appears to me that this is happening more and more as social media and access to the public's eyes has developed so quickly and completely.

I got to thinking — a dangerous endeavor for Ol' Dutch according to Miss Trixie — that probably everything around us, sans your church bulletin, is used to keep us entertained while evil abounds around us. And having said all that, I can see that even the Holidays are probably a ploy to keep us from seeing what the politicians and other world leaders are really up to. Take Valentine's Day. And I wish you would, please. The stores and advertisers start in about Christmas promoting the love god's day of celebration with strategically placed candy and hearts and then later flowers galore adorn their shelves in abundance.

For many years I had thought that this was just an advertising ploy to skin me out of a few more dollars trying to appease some female of the species but now Ol' Dutch is starting to wonder if a more sinister plot is actually at hand.

In all the years I have known Miss Trixie she has insisted that I not get her anything for Heart Day. And Ol' Dutch, ever the one who wants to please her, obliged her request religiously.

I had gotten her cards at least but one year changed all that, too. This particular year we were down at South Padre Island missing the wintry mix normally found up North. On this particular day, Miss Trixie had gone into a department store to shop and said she would meet me in the car. So, Ol' Dutch took it upon himself to sneak into the Dollar Store and pick out a nice card that would express my undying love and tender appreciation for all things Trixie.

Of course, not one to leave Ol' Dutch unsupervised for many minutes in a day, Miss Trixie found me at the register, corny card in hand and the gist was up. So, I did the only thing I could do at the time and showed her the card, told her I loved her and put it back on the shelf. No use throwing good money after bad I always say.

But seeing how this one Holiday is used to keep us focused on the mundane while other deeper things are afloat around us, I began to



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

really look to find other events that lead us astray of the actual secrets transpiring daily in our lives.

The latest infatuation with Swift and Kelce is just one such diversion as they are now thrown at us like yesterday's garbage that is so prolific it starts to cover us head to toe in no time at all. You cannot turn on a television or computer or phone without being inundated by news about these two people. One of which has a beard and the other wears her clothes off the shoulder no matter if it's a coat or blouse or football jersey. You would think being a billionaire she could find something off the rack that would stay on that left shoulder but even fame has its drawbacks, I guess.

It's a little concerning to Ol' Dutch that these two people came into such popularity so quickly but the powers that be had to do something because they had worn out Megan and Harry completely and the public was ready for something else to take their minds off the real problems at hand.

So, we are led, so it seems, down a path of least resistance and are distracted to the point that we have let others put us so far in debt we can never pay it off. They have gotten us into wars we had no business being in, pocketed untold millions of dollars from public office and hundreds of other things like that while we watch the clowns in a three-ring circus entertain us.

But rest assured, soon Taylor will spit out Travis like a bad street taco and they will have to find something else to keep our minds off of what is really going on.

In the meantime, please look in your bulletin and sing with me #428. I wonder what else is going on there now too.

*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.*

## Farewell Kelly Garcia

The fire engine bay was packed. A testament to the person, I'd say. They were all there to celebrate the man and bid him farewell as he embarks on a new Forest Service adventure that will surely mark the end of a fulfilling and respectable career. But he is not retiring yet. Certainly not before we say so long at this party, and he takes the helm of a new Ranger District for a while. Kelly Garcia, the Rangeland Management Specialist for the Conejos Peak Ranger District for the last 20 years was celebrated in an exciting potluck breakfast party on Wednesday, January 24th, just days before leaving the Rio Grande National Forest's employment.

"It has been a great career here on the District," said Garcia, after numerous stories of Kelly adventures were told by current and retired employees alike. And, after 35 years of working on the Rio Grande National Forest, you can bet those stories were plentiful!

District Ranger, Andrea Jones, fondly requested I add these words: For anyone who knows him, Kelly (or Mr. Kelly as he prefers to be called) is an "old school" Forest Service worker. He has a heart for taking care of the public resources and feels honored to have the career that he has.

There's no place he would rather be than all alone, deep in the rugged mountains. He truly cares about the people who use and depend on the forest, and while his career has been primarily in range management, his interests and efforts spanned every resource area. He isn't afraid to put in hard work on anything from botany to firefighting to trail building. He's committed and professional — the kind of person that you want to have in your corner.

Last week, I called an old friend and District Ranger of mine to tell him about Kelly's next step. Paul Crespin advised me he "hired Kelly as a seasonal employee way back in the mid 80's and (while laughing) never regretted it!" Crespin relayed numerous good times working together including a story about dealing with a military helicopter crash near Blue Lake in the South San Juan Wilderness.



Funny, Kelly never mentioned it to me when he recommended the trip to Blue Lake, which I wrote about in

the column last year. Maybe Paul wasn't supposed to mention it. I expect all was in order. Right?

Garcia's wife Sylvia attributed his fulfilling career and life partially to his love and draw to Mt Blanca and his annual trek up it for water sampling over the past 30 years with sometimes more than one trip a year.

According to Sylvia, the sacred mountain whispers his name, calling out to him. Sylvia also tells me that Kelly is inspired by the movie "The Greatest Good." He also gets a good chuckle during the scene in "A River Runs Through it" when the father suggested a career with the Forest Service was a poor option. Garcia would have much different advice.

Jones told a few Kelly stories and offered this to the intent listeners: Kelly will spend a long day in the woods on a horse or hiking with the best of them. He knows the terrain

of the Conejos Peak District better than most anyone and has the route of every trail burned into his mind. Just like everything else in life, Kelly doesn't do anything halfway, so if you venture out with him be prepared for a twelve-hour day. Occasionally, he may decide to take you on a "shortcut" which, (if you fall for it) will plunge you into a good fourteen-hour day afield! To his new co-workers and permittees, she muses - be ready!

Garcia is the new District Ranger of the Tres Piedras Ranger District on the Carson National Forest. Kelly and his wife plan to stay in the area as his new duty station in Tres Piedras is just not that far away. "We are proud of our roots. But I do look forward to connecting more with the people of Northern New Mexico," Garcia told the group.

I reluctantly packed up and left the party but kept this quiet glow within me for the rest of day. It's easy to say that I am fortunate to have met Kelly Garcia and work with him for the last four years of his distinguished career on the Rio Grande National Forest.

*Gregg Goodland is the Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest. As an avid outdoor enthusiast, he encourages individual stewardship and responsible use of our public lands.*



**Land Water and People**  
By Gregg Goodland

## LETTER

### Family of John Cossel grateful for community support

Editor,  
The family of John Cossel would like to take this opportunity to thank our family members,

friends, and church family for their support with the calls, cards, food, flowers, visits, thoughts, prayers, concerns, and

condolences upon his passing. With deepest appreciation.

*Doris and Gerald Cossel  
Monte Vista*

# CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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Photo by Hugh Carey, The Colorado Sun

Crestone Peak and Sangre de Cristo Range, Feb. 5, near Alamosa.

# WATER

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goals to comply with the compact. Within seven years, it must find a way to restore hundreds of thousands of acre feet of water to the aquifer, a difficult task.

An acre-foot equals nearly 326,000 gallons of water, or enough to cover an acre of land with water a foot deep.

The specter of an interstate water fight is creating enormous pressure to reorganize the Valley's farming communities in a way that will allow them to use less water, grow fewer potatoes, and still have a healthy economy.

For more than a decade, Valley water users have been working to reduce water use and stabilize the aquifer. Many have already started experimenting with ways to grow potatoes with less water by improving soil health, and to find new crops, such as quinoa, that may also prove to be profitable.

They have taxed themselves and raised pumping fees, using that revenue to purchase and then retire hundreds of wells. In fact, the district is pumping 30% less water now than it was 10 years ago, according to Simpson.

But the pumping plans, considered innovative by water experts, haven't been enough to stop the decline in aquifer levels. The Rio Grande Basin is consistently one of the driest in the state, generating too little water to make up for drought conditions and restore the aquifer after decades of over pumping.

With the new fees, the region will likely have some of the highest agricultural water costs in the state, said Craig Cotten, who oversees the Rio Grande River Basin for Colorado's Division of Water Resources.

Perhaps not as high as water in the Colorado-Big Thompson Project on the northern Front Range, where cities and developers and some growers pay thousands of dollars to buy an acre-foot of water.

Still, it is much higher than San Luis Valley growers and others have paid historically. Fees at one time were just \$75 an acre foot, eventually reaching \$150 an acre-foot. The prospect of the fee skyrocketing to \$500 is shocking.

"That is high," said Brett Bovee, president of WestWater Research, a consulting firm specializing in water economics and valuations. Typically, such fees across the state have been in the \$50 to \$100 range, he said.

But Bovee said the water district is taking constructive action while giving growers opportunities to find their own solutions to the water shortage. "It's putting the decision-making power into the hands of growers and landowners, rather than saying 'everybody take one-third of your land out of production.'"

Subdistrict 1 is the oldest and largest of a group of irrigation districts in the Valley, according to Cotten. Its \$500 fee has triggered a lawsuit by some growers, who believe the district is applying the new fees unfairly.

"The responsibility for achieving a sustainable water supply is to be borne proportionately based on (growers') past, present and future usage," Brad Grasmick, a water attorney representing San Luis Valley growers in the Sustainable

Water Augmentation Group and the Northeast Water Users Association, said, referring to state water laws. "But we believe the responsibility is being disproportionately applied to our wells."

Those growers are now trying to create their own irrigation district and they are suing to stop the new fee.

"I think that more land retirement and more reduction in well pumping is needed and that is what my group is trying to do," Grasmick said. "No one wants to see the aquifer diminish and continue to shrink. If everybody can do their part to cut back and make that happen, that is the way forward. My guys just want to see the proportionality adhered to."

To date, tens of millions of dollars have been raised and spent to retire wells in the San Luis Valley, with Subdistrict 1 raising \$70 million in the last decade, according to Simpson. And in 2022 state lawmakers approved another \$30 million to retire more wells.

But it's not enough. With each dry year, the water levels in the aquifer continue to drop.

### Similar issues loom for Eastern Plains irrigators

The San Luis Valley is not the only region faced with finding ways to reduce agricultural water use or face interstate compact fights. Colorado lawmakers have also approved \$30 million to help growers in the Republican River Basin on the Eastern Plains reduce water use to comply with the Republican River Compact of 1943, which includes Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado.

Lawmakers are closely monitoring these efforts to reduce water use while protecting growers.

Sen. Byron Pelton, a Republican from Sterling, said the combined money that is going to the Rio Grande and Republican basins is critical. But the

potential for legal battles, he said, is concerning.

"Agriculture is key in our communities," Pelton said. "But the biggest thing is that we have to stay within our compacts. Sometimes you're backed into a corner and that is just the way it has to be. I hate it, but we have to stay in compliance."

How much irrigated land will be lost as wells are retired isn't clear yet. Simpson said growers who have access to surface supplies in the Rio Grande will still be able to irrigate even without as many wells or as much water, but the land will likely produce less and farms may become less profitable.

And it will take more than sky-high pumping fees to solve the problem, officials said. The Division of Water Resources has also created another water-saving rule in Subdistrict 1 that will force growers to replace one-for-one the water they take out of the aquifer, instead of allowing them to simply pay more to pump more.

Cotten said the hope is that the higher fees combined with the new one-for-one rule will reduce pumping enough to save the aquifer and the ag economy.

Valley growers are already shifting production and changing crops, said James Ehrlich, executive director of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee in Monte Vista, an agency involved in overseeing and marketing the region's potato crops.

Still the new fees could jeopardize the entire potato economy, Ehrlich said.

"There are a lot of creative things going on down here," Ehrlich said. "But we have to farm less and learn to survive as a community together. And Mother Nature has not helped us out. We've stabilized but we can't gain back what (state and local water officials) want us to gain back. It is just not going to happen."

## BEBOP Studio promotes local wellness

CONTRIBUTED

SAGUACHE — BEBOP Studio is offering OLE exercise and free motion and chair yoga in February.

The studio is sponsored by Saguache Works and is located at 317 San Juan Ave., Saguache, right behind the First Southwest Bank on 4th Street and San Juan Avenue.

OLE exercise involves stretching, gentle bar balance board and more, ending up with floor exercises — or you can sit in chairs. This exercise is for all ages and the counters are Wilma Lewis and Kathy Geddes. They count while exercisers visit and stretch. OLE days and times are

Monday and Wednesday at 4 p.m. and Friday at 9 a.m. For more information, call or text Kathy Geddes at 719-221-6893.

Free motion and chair yoga will be joining the BEBOP space starting Wednesday, Feb 21. It will be led by certified instructor Kathy Rose, who received instruction at the Shoshoni Ashram in the Nederland. All are welcome as she teaches "gentle yoga with a sprinkle of other modalities to enhance well-being."

Days and times are Wednesday starting Feb 21 from 10 to 11 a.m. For more information, call or text Kathy Rose at 719-580-5720.

## San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2023-2024

### BOYS

<b>Centauri 62</b>	<b>Ignacio 31</b>
<b>Centauri 47</b>	<b>Alamosa 42</b>
<b>Centauri 65</b>	<b>Bayfield 43</b>
<b>Montrose 54</b>	<b>Alamosa 39</b>
<b>Alamosa 51</b>	<b>Montezuma-Cortez 42</b>
<b>Sangre de Cristo 50</b>	<b>Moffat 36</b>
<b>Sierra Grande 69</b>	<b>Centennial 43</b>
<b>Sangre de Cristo 45</b>	<b>Sierra Grande 43</b>
<b>Sangre de Cristo 62</b>	<b>La Veta 28</b>
<b>Sanford 58</b>	<b>Cotopaxi 26</b>
<b>Sargent 41</b>	<b>South Park 28</b>
<b>Crested Butte 64</b>	<b>Del Norte 36</b>
<b>Sanford 56</b>	<b>Sargent 32</b>
<b>Crested Butte 46</b>	<b>Center 29</b>
<b>Monte Vista 64</b>	<b>South Park 24</b>
<b>Center 36</b>	<b>Trinidad 25</b>
<b>Monte Vista 44</b>	<b>Custer County 32</b>
<b>Monte Vista 56</b>	<b>Del Norte 43</b>

### GIRLS

<b>Centauri 27</b>	<b>Ignacio 24</b>
<b>Centauri 60</b>	<b>Alamosa 38</b>
<b>Centauri 72</b>	<b>Bayfield 9</b>
<b>Montrose 53</b>	<b>Alamosa 28</b>
<b>Monte Vista 44</b>	<b>Del Norte 37</b>
<b>Center 46</b>	<b>Trinidad 41</b>
<b>Creede 43</b>	<b>Bayfield 39</b>
<b>Sierra Grande 42</b>	<b>Centennial 23</b>
<b>Sangre de Cristo 58</b>	<b>Moffat 22</b>
<b>Sierra Grande 48</b>	<b>Sangre de Cristo 46</b>
<b>Sangre de Cristo 40</b>	<b>Custer County 27</b>
<b>Sangre de Cristo 57</b>	<b>La Veta 19</b>
<b>Sanford 40</b>	<b>Cotopaxi 21</b>
<b>Monte Vista 43</b>	<b>South Park 15</b>
<b>Crested Butte 40</b>	<b>Del Norte 35</b>
<b>Sanford 39</b>	<b>Sargent 26</b>
<b>Center 40</b>	<b>Custer County 26</b>

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# VIAERO WIRELESS



# CDOT updates rockslide, avalanche mitigation along Wolf Creek Pass

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

**WOLF CREEK** — On the morning of Jan. 29, many travelers heading west up Wolf Creek Pass came to a full stop when a rockslide closed the pass in both directions for almost the entire day. During that week, weather patterns had caused the ground to shift after temperatures warmed and then cooled almost overnight.

In an interview with CDOT Region 5 Communications Manager Lisa Schwantes, it was confirmed that the pass and the roadway were in good condition.

“After the rockfall, we had our Geotech CDOT team inspect the area and after the debris was cleared from the roadway, the mountain and road were deemed safe. Teams performed immediate mitigation and underwent a thorough inspection, and we will continue to monitor the area and mountain for any changes,” she said.

Schwantes explained that most roadways that have the potential for rockslides in Colorado are inspected regularly.

“If we do identify an area that needs further mitigation or scaling, we either do the work using in house crews or we put the work out to bid and have it completed as fast as possible,” said Schwantes.

Rockslides like the one that happened on Jan. 29 are not uncommon and are part of routine inspections that occur along mountain passes throughout the state. Wolf Creek is a pass that has been engineered for higher speeds of travel but still poses a danger to anyone who travels the pass during the winter.

“Travelers should always use caution along the pass in any time of year. Whether it is avalanche danger, dangerous road conditions or rockslide, high mountain passes should be traveled with care,” she said.

In the week following the rockslide on Wolf Creek Pass, CDOT crews closed the pass on Feb. 7 in the early morning hours for avalanche mitigation. During that time, crews found a semi-trailer stuck on the pass and had to spend a good portion of the morning removing the semi from the road so they could continue their avalanche mitigation work.

“It’s things like this that cause a closure along the pass for something like avalanche mitigation to be longer than normal. It hinders traffic, but our crews work as quickly as possible to ensure the safety of travelers,” she said.

According to CDOT Traffic and Safety Program Manager Jen Allison, accidents along Wolf Creek Pass have declined significantly over the past several years since CDOT did a major amount of work to improve safety features, roadway caution painting and signs.

“From 2015 to 2018, an average of nine commercial truck crashes occurred on the west side of the pass each year. After the completion of two significant projects and the launch of the ‘Beware the Wolf’ campaign (aimed at commercial vehicle drivers), big rig crashes have been reduced to an average of two per year,” said Allison

Allison added, “We are continuing to improve driver experience on the pass, we will be finishing up a current fiber optic project this summer. This extends fiber from the eastside tunnel to Pagosa Springs. The project will allow us to install additional high-tech features on the pass and will bring Wolf Creek Pass to life!”

Plans to finish the fiber installation along the pass are underway for the coming summer season, “Fiber is the bloodline and connectivity for all devices we are planning to install this summer. The three technologies described below (DMS, VSL, and CVRU) are the voices of Wolf Creek.”

CDOT plan to install DMS (Dynamic messaging sign): an electronic sign able to display messages in color, dynamic (moving) images, and provide the ability for more text messages, VSL (Variable Speed Limit Signs): electronic

signs that display the enforced speed limit and can change the limit to more appropriate speeds based on data collected for road conditions, weather systems, and traffic volumes, CVRU (Connected Vehicle Roadside Unit): This technology provides in-cab or in-car communication for vehicles that have that technology. This will allow messages sent directly to drivers in real-time for information such as: the pass is closed, chain law is in effect, or crash ahead.

“Additionally, three other high-tech features, described below, will also be installed. These are the heartbeat and health status of Wolf Creek Pass,” Allison said.

(MVRD) Microwave Vehicle Radar Detection: These technology units provide data collection. This will give CDOT feedback on the speed of vehicles and the types of vehicles traveling.

WMS (Weather Monitoring System): This will give CDOT feedback on current weather conditions.

Cameras: CDOT will add more web-digital cameras that will be used by operations centers, maintenance personnel, and the public. The cameras provide more “eyes” on Wolf Creek Pass to allow observation of current road and weather conditions.

These improvements and more are on the docket for the coming year. For more information or to check road conditions, visit [www.COtrip.org](http://www.COtrip.org).



Courtesy photos

**CDOT crews have worked clearing rockslide debris from the roadway and have had to navigate significant snowfall with springtime temperatures changing from one extreme to the next.**



Over the last few weeks, Wolf Creek Pass has been a hotspot for winter weather, avalanche control and improvements that will ensure the safety of travelers along the pass.

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# Teacher appears in court on sexual assault charges

## Castillo was arrested on Jan. 25

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Luis “Enrique” Castillo, a 50-year-old former physical education teacher at Del Norte High School and resident of Alamosa, appeared in court on Tuesday morning related to accusations of sexual assault on a child by one in a position of trust, a class three felony, and aggravated incest, also a class three felony. Castillo was employed at the high school until the days immediately following his arrest on Jan 25.

According to documents obtained from the court, on Jan. 6, the Alamosa Police Department became aware of a report of “cold assault” that had allegedly taken place 15 years ago involving a victim who was a child at the time. The incident had just recently become known to some members of the victim’s family.

Over the next two weeks, several interviews were conducted with members of the family and the victim, ultimately leading to Castillo’s arrest on Jan. 25.

Castillo was subsequently taken to the Alamosa County Detention Center, after which the judge set bond at \$60,000. Castillo was later released on a surety bond of \$20,000.

Prior to this incident, Castillo was working at Del Norte High School with the Upper Rio Grande School District C7. According to Superintendent Aaron Horrocks, he resigned from his position on Jan. 29.

“Though we were informed of Mr. Castillo’s arrest on January 25, 2024,” Horrocks told the Valley Courier, “we were not aware of the specific criminal charges filed against Mr. Castillo until [Tuesday].”

When asked why the district had not made any statement since the time of Castillo’s arrest, Horrocks said, “We did not have sufficient information about this matter to make a statement. Now that we are aware of the specific charges, we will be making notification to parents in accordance with district policy and applicable law.”



Luis Castillo

Superintendent Horrocks went on to say, “Student safety is one of our highest priorities. It is our understanding that the events giving rise to the charges did not involve the school or its students.

“If parents or students have any information to report concerning this former employee or have any additional questions or concerns, we encourage them to reach out to the Alamosa Police Department or the 12th Judicial District Attorney’s Office.

“If parents have any district-related questions or questions or concerns specific to their child’s educational experience, we encourage them to contact us at 719-657-4040.”

Castillo is scheduled to appear again in court on March 15 prior to a preliminary hearing that will be held after that date.

**Public Notice**  
**Rio Grande Water Conservation District Appointment**  
The Saguache County Board of Commissioners is again accepting letters of interest for appointment to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board from an individual who would like to serve as the Saguache County representative to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board who resides NORTH of Saguache County Road L. This is a three-year term ending in April 2026.  
Letters of Interest may be addressed to the Board of County Commissioners and submitted to the Saguache County Administration office – 505 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Saguache, CO 81149 or mailed to PO Box 100, Saguache CO 81149, letters may also be emailed to wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov.  
The deadline for letters of interest is Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 3PM, for an interview with the Commissioners on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. The Board of County Commissioners will make an appointment to this board during their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2024.  
**No. 1692 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, January 25 and February 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2024.**

**Request For Proposal (RFP) Trash and Rubbish Removal**  
In response to the Saguache County Nuisance Ordinance, Saguache County is seeking contractors for the removal of and disposal of trash, rubbish, debris and assorted waste materials from land located in Saguache County. This shall include, but not be limited to, the removal and disposal of vehicles, trailers, building materials, trash, debris, and various materials that require removal. This position shall be on call or as needed. Bids should include, but not be limited to, hourly rates, and the rate for special material removal that may not be allowed for disposal in a land fill or conventional waste facility. Salvageable materials (excluding vehicles) may be kept by the contractor. Any salvaged vehicles must be taken to the designated vehicle area that will be located at the Saguache County Landfill. If hazardous materials are located, it will be up to the County to contract for that service.  
For questions, please email Amber Wilson at atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov or call 719-655-2321. Proposal may be emailed, mailed or hand delivered. Email RFP to atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov, mail to PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or hand deliver to 505 3rd Street, Saguache, CO 81149.  
**No. 1696 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, February 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2024.**

**Saguache County Board of Commissioners**  
**Seeks Saguache County Planning Commission Members**  
Saguache County Board of Commissioners are seeking members and alternates from:  
La Garita/Center area – member and alternate  
Town of Center and surrounding area – alternate  
Moffat and surrounding area – alternate  
Hooper and surrounding area – member and alternate  
At Large for All of Saguache County – alternate  
Crestone and surrounding area – alternate  
The representative must be a property owner or property manager and reside in the area they are interested in representing. Regular member terms are for three years and the alternate terms are for one year.  
Saguache County Planning Commission meets on the last Thursday of each month in the Road and Bridge meeting room. The Planning Commission may also have work sessions throughout each month to work on the Saguache County Master Plan and different items.  
Saguache County Planning Commission members and alternates are paid \$100 for every regular meeting they attend, plus mileage reimbursement.  
If you are interested, please send a brief letter of interest stating qualifications and interest to: Saguache County Land Use, Attn: Amber Wilson, PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 prior to Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. All applicants will be interviewed by the Board of County Commissioners. Should you have any questions please call Amber Wilson at 719-655-2321.  
**No. 1696 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, February 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2024.**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
District Court, Saguache County, Colorado  
Case No. 2023 CV 30024  
**Plaintiff:** AFC LIMITED, LLC, a Washington limited liability company  
**Defendants:** JAMES P. JENKINS, MICHAEL L. PARRAVANO A/K/A MICHAEL R. PARRAVANO, BENJAMIN B. VALTE A/K/A BENJAMIN V. VALTE, JR., JOCELYN A. VALTE, NOEL C. AQUINO, PORTIA E. AQUINO, S.P. BALTAZAR, CATALINA S. BALTAZAR, JAMES CRANDALL, DEBORA CRANDALL, ALBERTO G. OLACO, ALMA OLACO, STEVEN DAMIANI, LUKE ADAMS, THOMAS R. STEVENS, JR., WENDY L. CLEAL, JOHN F. MITCHELL, ROBERT DOMAOAL and ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION  
*Attorney for Plaintiff:*  
Tracie J. S. Hulbert, #33058  
The Hulbert Law Office, LLC  
P.O. Box 7278  
Breckenridge, CO 80424

**SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**  
**The People of the State of Colorado**  
**To the Defendants named above:**  
You are summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Complaint filed with the Court in this action, by filing with the Clerk of this Court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within thirty-five (35) days after service of this Summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the Clerk of the Court.  
If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within thirty-five (35) days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be entered against you by the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint, without any further notice to you.  
This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiff in and to the real property situate in Saguache County, Colorado, more particularly described as follows:  
**Parcel 1:**  
Tract 113 of Section 33, Township 44 North, Range 9 East, N.M.P.M., County of Saguache, State of Colorado.  
**Parcel 2:**  
Lot 1617, The Baca Grande, Chalets Unit One, County of Saguache, State of Colorado.  
**Parcel 3:**  
Lot 150, The Baca Grande, Mobile Home Estates Unit One, County of Saguache, State of Colorado.  
**Parcel 4:**  
Lot 1292, The Baca Grande, Grants Unit One, County of Saguache, State of Colorado.  
**Parcel 5:**  
Lot 1096, The Baca Grande, Grants Unit One, County of Saguache, State of Colorado.  
**Parcel 6:**  
Lot 3264, The Baca Grande, Chalets Unit Two, County of Saguache, State of Colorado.  
**Parcel 7:**  
Lot 1114, The Baca Grande, Grants Unit One, County of Saguache, State of Colorado.  
**Parcel 8:**  
Lot 3727, The Baca Grande, Chalets Unit Two, County of Saguache, State of Colorado.  
**Parcel 9:**  
Lot 1166-C f/k/a Lots 1166 and 1167, The Baca Grande, Grants Unit One, as shown on the Vacation/Consolidation Plat thereof recorded on June 15, 1999 at Reception No. 327105, County of Saguache, State of Colorado.  
**Parcel 10:**  
Lot 4453, The Baca Grande, Chalets Unit Two, County of Saguache, State of Colorado.  
**Parcel 11:**  
Lot 699, The Baca Grande, Grants Unit One, County of Saguache, State of Colorado.  
**Parcel 12:**  
Lot 287, The Baca Grande, Grants Unit One, County of Saguache, State of Colorado.  
**No. 1693 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, January 25 and February 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2024.**

## Be The Friend You Want to Have

Whether you realize it or not, your thoughts, words, and attitudes have a tremendous impact on your relationships.

A positive attitude will help build your relationships and make you so much more enjoyable to be around. Likewise, someone with a negative attitude is fighting an uphill battle if they hope to make and maintain quality friendships.

Romans 12:2 (AMPC) was a game-changer for me. It says, “Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind...”

I’m not exaggerating when I say this one scripture changed my life. How? When we fill our minds with God’s Word and learn to think like He thinks, then these positive, faith-filled thoughts flow through our words and attitudes to the people around us.

I don’t think negative people even realize how their attitude affects their relationships. I sure didn’t. But the truth is, anyone who is happy and positive quickly discovers that being with a negative person doesn’t bring them joy.

I believe it’s important to occasionally ask ourselves, Am I the kind of person other people want to be around? Am I a good friend?

Take a few moments to really think about it. Think about the people in your life. How do you think they would describe you? Would they consider you to be a good friend...someone they like to be around? This exercise isn’t designed to make you feel bad, but it’s meant to help you take an accurate inventory of where you are.

I’ve reached a place where I really want to be a good friend. If someone runs into me at the coffee shop, I want them to be glad to see me and take a few minutes to talk. I want my attitude to add to their joy!

Most of us are familiar with the law of sowing and reaping. The Bible clearly tells us that we reap what we sow (Luke 10:27-36; Galatians 6:7). If you want

more friends, then sow a seed and choose to be a good friend to someone else.

Nothing happens by accident. If we want to be well-liked, we can choose to be likeable. If we want friends, we can choose to be friendly!

I once heard something that really got my attention. Someone said that even if people don’t remember what you say to them, they do remember how you made them feel.

For example, I have an exercise coach who is extremely positive. He encourages me throughout the routine, so I always look forward to seeing him. His attitude makes the entire experience!

However, on the other hand, a few years ago I was going to a trainer who wasn’t very encouraging. He often came across as negative and condescending. I know he thought he was helping me, but he was really discouraging me!

Isaiah 50:4 (AMPC) says, “...The Lord God has given Me the tongue of a disciple and of one who is taught, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary...”

Encouraging people has not always come easy to me, but years ago I made a commitment to God to start doing it on purpose. Every day I ask the Holy Spirit to show me who I can encourage.

Encouragement is powerful. It can actually make a person feel better. I remember one time when I got a text message from my youngest son. All it said was, “I love you, Mommy!” At that moment, I literally felt refreshed by his words. They gave me the extra dose of courage I needed that day.

First Thessalonians 5:11 tells us to encourage one another and build each other up. Think about the people and friends you will see and ask God to put something in your heart that you can say to them that will be uplifting.

It can be as simple as saying something positive to someone you work with or letting them know how much you appreciate them. Sometimes I will take a moment to tell someone how much God loves them and wants



to bless them.

Proverbs 18:21 (AMPC) says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue...”

Your words are powerful, and a word of encouragement at the right time can literally transform someone’s entire day. Really, it’s pretty simple: If you want friends, be a good friend. Be the kind of person that other people want to be around. Be positive, encouraging and uplifting.

Maybe you are where I was years ago. If you realize you are negative, the greatest thing you can do is ask the Lord to begin changing you. Begin renewing your mind with God’s Word and allow Him to help you become positive in your thoughts, your words, and your attitude.

As you do, you will become a person others want to hang around. You will become someone they want to call “friend.”

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s four-part teaching resource *Enjoying Successful Relationships*. 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 140 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (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.

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# Sargent FBLA advances to state competition

The Colorado Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) District 8 Leadership Conference was held Feb. 6 at Adams State University.

The entire Sargent School District FBLA Chapter qualified for state in either an individual or group presentation. They will be participating in Colorado FBLA State Leadership Conference at the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Conference Center on April 1-3 in Aurora. Pictured back row, left to right, Stephanie McBarlett-Adviser, Lyza Davis, Kaitlynn Roberts, Amelia Ford, Mia Stickens, Dio Camacho, and Danny Willis. Pictured front row, left to right, Makayla Brown, Emma Sewell, Sylvia Daugherty, Catie Deacon, Makenzie Consaul, Mayan Stephens, and Josiah Yocom.

Photo courtesy of Sargent School District



## BILL Continued from Page 1A

streams that have gone to agriculture over the last few years, starting with the Market Facilitation Program, instituted by former President Trump to offset some of the impacts of tariffs that were imposed under his administration on products from China. There was also funding directed toward agriculture in the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program and the Paycheck Protection Program that granted loans and were ultimately forgiven.

Early in the Biden administration, the American Rescue Plan Act allocated funding to agriculture and, Waldvogel said, "a lot of programs and funds are still coming out."

As an example, he cited the application window that just closed for the Farm Labor Stabilization pilot program where \$65 million was allocated to support H2A employers as they enter into "some new practices on farms and ranches related to their workforce."

The H2A visa is a non-immigrant visa program that allows employers to sponsor foreign workers to work in the United States in temporary or agricultural jobs.

The Infrastructure and Job Acts also includes funding for large initiatives including investments in bringing broadband to rural areas and big investments in western water infrastructure, just to name a few. Those are just "rolling out" as well.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) includes funding of significant benefits to agriculture but "there is a lot of uncertainty in how that's going to play out in this next election cycle."

Waldvogel further highlighted Ad Hoc Disaster programs that provided revenue streams to farmers impacted by disasters, acknowledging differences in opinion around how funding was distributed but also

crediting some of those programs with his own operation being "able to stay out of the red."

Data was then presented on net farm income that shows "records have been shattered in net farm income over the past three years. But," he went on to say, "if you talk to people, we're not necessarily feeling it. It's more expensive than ever to produce food, fiber and fuel. Just because you have more money coming in doesn't mean more money is going into your retirement account."

Waldvogel then cited sobering numbers shared with him by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack in a recent conversation: 89% of net farm income is now shared by less than 8% of farmers and ranchers.

"That means that 11% of net farm income," Waldvogel explained, "is being shared by the rest of us - 92% of farmers and ranchers. [In a single generation], we've lost one in five farms, half of our ranches, and over 141 million acres of ag land. We have some big problems, big challenges and, in my humble opinion, that needs to be addressed in the Farm Bill."

But when that bill will be passed is anyone's guess.

After the Farm Bill left the Agriculture Appropriations Committee and went to the floor of the House of Representatives, there were a number of issues brought up that ultimately resulted in the failure of the bill.

One of those issues was a call to halt the USDA rulemaking and updates for the Packers and Stockyards Act, a 102-year-old bill that the USDA has been working to modernize to reflect the original intent of "true competition in that sector."

Another issue involved calls for big cuts to Women, Infants and Children

(WIC) as well as access to prescription abortion — also a "big deal" involving "big cuts." There were also calls for deep cuts to rural energy grants and cuts from IRA funding that was meant to go to distressed borrowers.

Another cause for uncertainty around the Farm Bill is the 2024 election, he said, where five seats are needed for Democrats to retake control in the House and only one or

two seats are required in the Senate for Republican to be in the majority.

In the executive branch, if there is a leadership change, he predicts that will slow down what comes out of the USDA. Also, he added, the Vice President casts the tie-breaking vote in the Senate.

"There's a lot of power imbalance that's going to happen so it's hard to say what that will do to the Farm Bill."

In terms of when the Farm Bill might pass, Waldvogel said, it's being speculated that, if something isn't passed in the next few months, "it will be held over until after the next election."

Waldvogel also stressed that agriculture, especially related to conservation initiatives, has a strong advocate in Senator Bennet, who is part of the negotiations.

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# Wrestling Preview 2024

## Center wins Class 2A Region 4 Tourney and has nine state qualifiers

*Monte Vista is third with six qualifiers*

By KEN HAMRICK

**MONTE VISTA** — The fifth-ranked Center High School boys wrestling team won the Class 2A Region 4 Tournament which took place last Friday and Saturday at the Monte Vista High School gym.

The Vikings had four individual champions and nine total state qualifiers. "We're super happy about how we finished the tournament," said Center coach Angel Chavez. "We were four out of five in the finals matches so that was excellent. Early in the day was a little disappointing, but we were able to bounce back."

The Vikings' first championship was won by Jordan Duran who defeated top-ranked A.J. Jaramillo of Dolores Huerta at 113 pounds. Jaramillo took a 4-2 lead but injured his shoulder. He continued in the match but eventually had to forfeit the match. Duran was leading 6-4 when the match was called.

Andre Meraz then won the championship at 138 as he scored an 8-4 decision over Colorado Springs Christian's Forrest Craddock.

Aaron Valadez, the top-ranked wrestler at 144 pounds, won his weight division as he recorded a 3-2 decision over Mancos' Levi Martin.

The final Center championship was won by Martin Palma who won by a 2-1 decision over Monte Vista's Jacob



Photos by Ken Hamrick

**Center High School's Aaron Valadez (top) breaks down Mancos' Levi Martin in the 144-pound championship match. Valadez won by a 3-2 decision.**



**Monte Vista High School's Ethan Wolfe (top) takes down Merino's Aiden Sherman in the 132-pound title match. Wolfe won by 7-5 decision in sudden victory.**



**Center High School's Jordan Duran (right) hooks up with Dolores Huerta Prep's A.J. Jaramillo in the 113-pound championship. Duran won by injury default. Pacheco at 165 pounds.**

The Vikings had one more finalist in Jesus Valadez at 175. However, he lost by a 5-3 decision to Mancos' Cole Dainty-Guilfoyle.

Center's remaining state qualifiers include Nicolas Palma who was third at 120, Francisco Villa who was third at 132, Caden Ruggles who was third at 150, and Devin Thompson who was fourth at 190.

The state wrestling tournament begins on Thursday at Ball Arena in Denver. Chavez is looking to place high in the team standings.

"That's the goal," Chavez said. "Hopefully in the Top 5. That's our expectation. If we can do better than that, I will be extremely Pleased."

### Monte Vista

The host team, ninth-ranked Monte Vista, finished in third place and the Pirates qualified six wrestlers for the state tournament.

"That's actually the highest we've placed as a team in a regional in the last five years," said Monte coach Omar Gonzales.

Monte won two championships.

First Ethan Wolfe defeated Merino's Aiden Sherman by a 7-5 decision at 132 pounds in sudden victory. Kevin Cisneros also scored a sudden victory win over Mancos' Brandon Vannest by a 3-1 decision at 150 pounds.

In addition of Pacheco, the Pirates had two more regional runners-up. Elijah Baumgardner was second at 126 as he lost to Merino's Coen Schmidt by a 17-2 technical fall at the 4:53 mark. Baumgardner's brother, Jeremiah, was second at 157 as he was pinned by La Veta's Brayden Nix in 5:18.

The Pirates' final qualifier was Jose Zamarripa who was fourth at 215.

"We had two champions and they wrestled their butts off the whole time," Gonzales said. "We had three finish second and another guy place fourth. So we have six going to state."

Gonzales said the Pirates are looking forward to the state tournament.

"We're going to go wrestle," Gonzales. "we're going to represent Monte Vista the best that we can."

### Sierra Grande/Centennial

The Panthers finished in ninth place and they had two state qualifiers. Bryant



**Center High School's Martin Palma (top) breaks down Monte Vista's Jacob Pacheco in the 157-pound championship match. Palma defeated Pacheco by a 2-1 decision.**



**Monte Vista High School's Kevin Cisneros (top) breaks down Mancos' Brandon Vannest in the 150-pound title contest. Cisneros won by a 3-1 decision in sudden victory.**

Tijerina was third at 126, and Jesus Reyes was fourth at 132. Reyes had to win a wrestle-back against Sargent's Matthew Voss by a 9-6 decision at 132 to qualify.

### Sargent

The Farmers were 10th and they had one state qualifier in Jaycian Sierra who finished third at 138 pounds.

### Del Norte

The Tigers placed 14th and they will have one wrestler going to state as Paul Neal finished fourth at 150.

### Antonito

The Trojans finished 15th. However, they did not have any state qualifiers.

### Team scores

Center 190 ½, Mancos 166, Monte Vista 154, Merino 146 ½, Dolores Huerta Prep 102 ½, Las Animas 97, Colorado Springs Christian 91 ½, Rye 82, La Veta 65, Sierra Grande/Centennial 63, Sargent 47 ½, Golden View Classical Academy 33, Manzanola 33, Del Norte 22, Antonito 21, Peyton 13.

## Girls wrestling state qualifiers

By KEN HAMRICK

**ALAMOSA** — Alamosa High School's Sarah DeLaCerde won a championship at the Region 4 Tournament this past weekend at the Lamar Community Center.

DeLaCerde's title came at 110 pounds as she defeated Mesa Ridge's Isabella Cross by a 4-1 decision.

Two more Lady Mean Moose wrestlers also qualified for state. Gizelle Meraz finished third at 115 as she pinned Palmer Ridge's Kylee Woodward in 2 minutes and 52 seconds, and Samantha Meastas was third at 120 as she defeated Fountain-Fort Carson's Valeri Wolf by a 17-0 technical fall at the 2:48 mark.

### Monte Vista

The Lady Pirates also had three state qualifiers. Alyssa Campos was third at 130 pounds as she pinned Discovery Canyon's Claire Donohue in 1:20, and Mikaela Molina was third at 170 as she pinned Mesa Ridge's Alijnae Wallace at 3:15. Torriona Herrera qualified as she was fourth at 120. She defeated Wolf in a wrestle-back by a 5-1 decision.

### Team scores

Discovery Canyon 185, Loveland 181, Lamar 140, Palmer Ridge 132, Coronado 112 ½, Fountain-Fort Carson 105 ½, Mesa Ridge 98 ½, Severance 90, Alamosa 64 ½, Lewis-Palmer 62, Manitou Springs 55, Woodland Park 55, Widefield 52, Monte Vista 50, Walsenburg 41, Doherty 30, County Line 27, Sierra 24, Las Animas 23,

Harrison 22, James Irwin 21, Florence 20, La Junta 15, Del Norte 3, Liberty 2, Antonito 0, John Mall 0, Limon 0.

**Mountain Valley qualifies one wrestler**

The Mountain Valley High School girls wrestling team competed at the Region 3 Tournament last weekend in Grand Junction and they qualified one wrestler in Shaina Young who was third at 155. She pinned Regis Jesuit's Zoe Kohrs in 3:43.

### Team scores

Central Grand Junction 277, Regis Jesuit 127, North Fork 114, Gunnison 107, Vista Ridge 107, Olathe 105 ½, Durango 88, Calhan 70, Rifle 69 ½, Ignacio 65, Battle Mountain 43, Basalt 33, Bayfield 33, Soroco

32, Arvada West 25, West Grand 25, Pagosa Springs 23, Falcon 22, Middle Park 22, Mountain Valley 17, Platte Canyon 16, Dolores 7, Eagle Valley 4, Grand Valley 3, Nucla 0. Mountain Valley boys finish season

The Mountain Valley boys team wrestled at the Class 2A Region 3 Tournament in Rocky Ford last weekend. However, the Wolves did not qualify any wrestlers for state.

### Team scores

Meeker 265, North Fork 229, Rocky Ford 190 ½, Swink 117, County Line 109, Trinidad 91 ½, Holly 90, Crowley County 79 ½, Primero 60, Ellicott 47 ½, Custer County 43, Calhan 41 ½, Baca County 35, Simla 17 ½, Kiowa 16, Hanover 15, Mountain Valley 10.

## Centauri wins Class 3A Region 3 title

By KEN HAMRICK

**ALAMOSA** — The sixth-ranked Centauri High School wrestling team won the championship at the Class 3A Region 3 Tournament this past weekend in Gunnison.

The Falcons qualified nine wrestlers for the state tournament.

Four of the Centauri state qualifiers were individual champions. Matthew Salazar won at 106 pounds as he defeated Delta's Cha Pla by forfeit. Caden

Casias was the 113-pound champion as he pinned Gunnison's Damyon Funk in 1 minute and 26 seconds. Parker Buhr took the 157-pound title as he pinned Montezuma-Cortez's David Vreeken in 1:08. Josh Polkowske won at 190 by pinning Grand Valley's Camden Neal in 1:26.

The Falcons had three more finalists who took second place. Aundre Chavez was the 120-pound runner-up as he was pinned by Gunni-

son's Cody Casebolt in 3:32. Riley Valdez was second at 126 as he lost to Bayfield's Keaton Pickering by a 5-4 decision. Aaden Quintana was the runner-up at 175 as he was pinned by Steamboat Springs' Henry Dismuke in 3:08.

Centauri's final three state qualifiers include Spencer Smith who was third at 165, Skylar Montague who was third at 215, and Troy Munson who was fourth at 150.

Centauri will compete at the Class 3A State Tournament this Thursday through Saturday at Ball Arena in Denver.

### Team scores

Centauri 232, Gunnison 193, Grand Valley 158, Rifle, 139 ½, Mofat County 124, Delta 109, Bayfield 108 ½, Salida 101, Coal Ridge 96, Montezuma-Cortez 84, Steamboat Springs 49, Middle Park 48, Summit 31, Basalt 10.

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## Author, professor Gulliford to speak about 'The Woolly West'

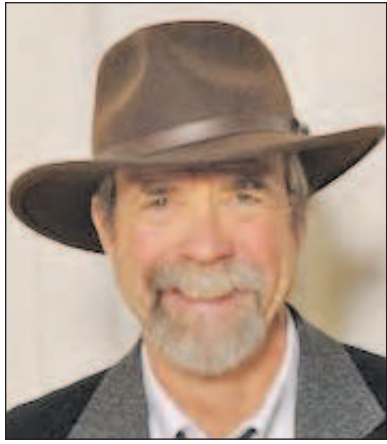
Event set for March 29 at the Rio Grande County Museum

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — The Rio Grande County Museum recently announced that its first program of 2024 will highlight some of the origin stories about the San Luis Valley through innovative writing done by Andrew Gulliford, professor of History and Environmental Studies at Fort Lewis College in Durango.

Gulliford has been a patron of the Rio Grande County Museum for several years and has come to this location to research his book, "The Woolly West." On March 29 from 5:30 to 7 p.m., the museum will feature stories about the shearers who were some of the first settlers of the San Luis Valley and other activities that will be announced as soon as details become available.

Gulliford teaches popular college courses in wilderness and environmental history and is the author



Andrew Gulliford

of "America's Country Schools", "Sacred Objects and Sacred Places: Preserving Tribal Traditions", and "Boomtown Blues: Colorado Oil Shale", which won the Colorado Book Award. He also edited "Preserving Western History", which was voted one of the best books on the Southwest by the Tucson-Pima County Library. His articles and photographs have appeared in national publications, including High Country News, Preservation, Please see MUSEUM on Page 7

## Nine mission churches in Costilla County named as most endangered places in Colorado

By JOHN WATERS

DENVER and COSTILLA COUNTY — Colorado's Most Endangered Places, a program of Colorado Preservation, Inc. which works with communities across the state to save threatened or endangered historic places, announced that several sites have been added to Colorado's Most Endangered Places list.

The announcement was made on Thursday at the Most Endangered Places luncheon, during the Saving Places Conference held in Boulder. Included in this list are nine churches in Costilla County.

"This year Colorado Preservation, Inc. celebrates 40 years of saving places, and for 27 of those 40 years, Colorado's Most Endangered Places program has aided local stakeholders in rethinking, refining, and reviving historic places that continue to be indispensable resources to communities both big and small," said Endangered Places Director Katie Peterson.

"The churches, parishes, and irrigation ditches [acequias] embody communal living in the San Luis Valley. Please see PLACES on Page 2



Photo courtesy Colorado Preservation

Iglesia de San Pedro y San Pablo (Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul), in Costilla County is one of nine churches in the county named as a most endangered place by Colorado Preservation Inc.

## 2024 District History Fair winners announced



By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — Middle and high school students competed in the annual District History Fair, part of the National History Day Competition. The event was in the Adams State University Student Union Building Saturday, Jan. 27. Hosted by the Adams State history department, the event's theme,

The annual District History Fair, hosted by the Adams State history program, included individual and group exhibits.

Photo by Jenna Sinclair

"Turning Points in History," included individual and group entries.

According to Ed Crowther, Ph.D., Adams State emeritus professor of history and event organizer, 152 contestants from nine middle schools and four high schools competed in the event. Winners will proceed to the state contest, hosted by the University of Colorado, Denver, on April 27.

The following students received award certificates:

Senior Division Senior Papers

First place: Durea Naranjo, Sargent High School; second place: Makayla

Brown, Sargent High School.

Senior Individual Website

First place: Madeline Mitchell, Sargent High School; second place: Celeste Chacon, Monte Vista High School.

Senior Group Website

First place: Jesus Aguilar and Tyler Alley, Monte Vista High School.

Senior Individual Exhibit

First place: Emma Sewell, Sargent High School; second place: Jessica Buser, Sargent High School; third place: Joshua Ortiz, Centauri High School.

Senior Group Exhibit

Please see FAIR on Page 8

## New funding may bring Sanchez Reservoir closer to original promise

By JOHN WATERS

COSTILLA COUNTY — The Sanchez Reservoir was built in 1912 and designed to impound approximately 103,000-acre feet of water by the construction of a large earthen dam. It has always leaked. In 2015, the Colorado Division of Water Resources restricted storage to 20% of capacity due to safety issues caused by seepage through the dam.

The Sanchez Ditch and Reservoir Company recently secured over \$646,000 to study the deficiencies at the dam as a step towards repairing it to the intended capacity.

The Sanchez is the largest reservoir in Costilla County, the Mountain Home and Smith were all constructed by the Costilla Estates Development Company.

The modern history of the Costilla Estates

dates back to the Territorial Governor of Colorado, Willian Gilpin, who was a promoter of Costilla real estate and banked on cheap land and the promise of endless water. In 1862, he and a consortium of foreign investors bought the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant for about 4 cents per acre. \$41,000. Gilpin fared well, the following year he sold part of his interest in the land for \$162,000.

Gilpin and his associates formed the Colorado Freehold Land Association in 1868. That would soon become the United States Land Freehold Land and Emigration Company which encouraged land purchases

Please see SANCHEZ on Page 8

The Sanchez Reservoir in Costilla County is captured in this 2021 photo.

Courtesy of Nicole Langley







Photo courtesy Colorado Preservation

The interior Capella de Viejo San Acacio.

# PLACES

Continued from Page 1

Valley. For generations, people have relied on these churches. These resources have become increasingly difficult to maintain with a dwindling population in Costilla County. The churches are owned by the Diocese of Pueblo and they are in varying conditions. The limited access to funding has increased concerns over the longevity of these important resources. We are thankful to Carlos Atencio and Frank Vigil and the other mayordomos for all of their devotion to these churches," according to Peterson.

These sites have become increasingly difficult to maintain with the dwindling population. As part of the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant, a Mexican land grant to help establish efforts to settle the northernmost regions, Costilla County is home to the oldest permanent settlements in Colorado. These pobladores, or settlers, brought their religious and social customs north, many of which are still practiced in the Valley today. Many towns established during this mid-19th century period were named after Catholic saints for protection.

The churches constructed in the few years after settlement soon formed the backbone of the mission towns and still reflect the continuity of community. The nine churches associated with this listing are all owned by the Diocese of Pueblo and are in varying degrees of condition. Mayordomos, or caretakers of the town's irrigation ditches and churches, do everything they can to protect these buildings and make repairs as they are needed. In cases like the Iglesia de San Pedro y San Pablo (Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul), minor repairs can unfortunately only go so far. Last October, the Diocese of Pueblo issued a statement that stated it has become, "increasingly difficult", to care for the churches in Costilla County and, "It must be noted that all Catholic Churches in the San Luis Valley struggle financially and from a shortage of priests, endemic throughout the Diocese."

Frank Vigil, the longtime parishioner at San Pedro y San Pablo/St. Peter and St Paul told the Valley Courier, "I've lived here all my life, and over the last ten years the stucco has started to crack and there has been water damage at the church. It has closed because it is not really safe so we have to fix it up so we can continue to use it. It has been a church in San Pedro since 1857 and we want to keep it." The church has some of its stained-glass windows that include the names of his grandparents.

Carlos Atencio, who has been the mayordomo at the church for 30 years said of the naming of the churches to the list, "I think it is great, this is absolutely great we have been put on the list. Hopefully, we can get the funding to restore the churches back to where we can use them. The church has been closed for about four years. We hope to get it stabilized to where we can use

our church not only for ourselves, but for our children and our grandchildren. I also have great-grandchildren that I hope can enjoy and experience the beauty of the church."

Atencio said a GoFundMe account has been set up and he and others from the churches are working with the Costilla County Economic Development Council.

Due to a crumbling bell tower, the building has been condemned and its furnishings removed. The roof of the Iglesia de la Inmaculada Concepción (Church of Immaculate Conception) is in failing condition, and water damage has caused sections of the adobe wall to collapse. Apart from the Capilla de Viejo San Acacio (Chapel of Old Saint Acacius), the Mission Churches of Costilla County have never gone under large-scale rehabilitation.

In a statement from the Diocese of Pueblo, Joe De Young said, "Bishop Berg made a personal visit on Oct. 18, 2023, to the missions. His time was spent visiting with the priest, Rev. John Farley, and members of the parish community."

De Young added that Berg is currently travelling and will be back in about a week. The Valley Courier will contact Berg for additional comment at that time.

Also named to the endangered list are the Kit Carson Museum Complex in Bent County, Valmont School in Boulder County and the Victor Bowling Alley in Teller County.

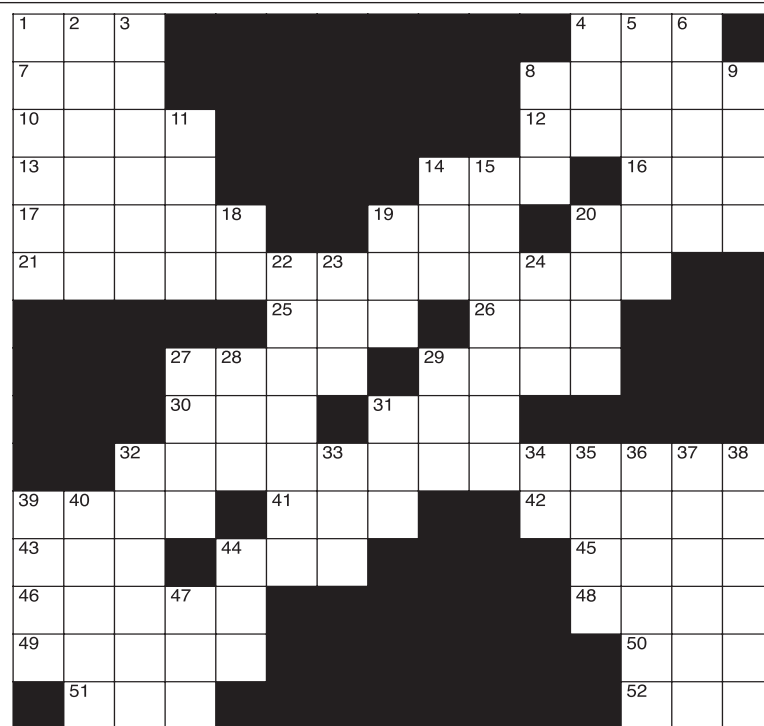
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## CLUES ACROSS

1. Basics
4. Swiss river
7. Constrictor snake
8. Building occupied by monks
10. Discount
12. Deal a blow to
13. Relating to the ear
14. Thyrotropin
16. Loud, unpleasant noise
17. Large intestines
19. Move with a curving trajectory
20. Witnesses
21. You need both to live
25. Dash
26. Network
27. Dig
29. C. European river
30. Supplement with difficulty
31. Corporate executive
32. Carroll O'Connor's onscreen wife
39. No variation
41. Airborne (abbr.)
42. "Heidi" author
43. Affirmative
44. Pie \_\_\_ mode
45. W. Asian country
46. Grotesque or bizarre



48. Delicacy (archaic)
49. Textile
50. Denial
51. Electronic data processing
52. Attempt
23. Arrest
24. Check
27. Past participle of be
28. Alias
29. A major division of geological time
31. Kids programming channel (abbr.)
32. Joked
33. Helps little firms
34. Roman numeral 50
35. Impressive in size or scope
36. Domineering leader
37. A person who delivers a speech
38. One after 89
39. Young hawk
40. The scene of any event or action
44. A team's best pitcher
47. Integrated data processing

## CLUES DOWN

1. Engulf
2. Waterside hotel
3. Printed cotton fabric
4. Defensive nuclear weapon
5. One who follows the rules
6. Lace up once more
8. Fire byproduct
9. Hankerings
11. Outer
14. One-time aerospace firm
15. Seafood
18. Commercial
19. Epoxy hardener (abbr.)
20. Samoan monetary unit
22. Type of gland

## Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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**MARCH 16, 2024**  
**AT 10 AM**

**CONSIGNMENT DEADLINE:**  
**MARCH 15, 2024**

\*CONSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON SITE MARCH 11TH-15TH.  
PLEASE NO ELECTRONICS OR JUNK.



**SALE BILL DEADLINE:**  
**FEBRUARY 17TH**  
ITEMS NOT ON THE BILL WILL STILL BE ACCEPTED



### LOCATION:

**Monte Vista Livestock Auction**  
**5660 E Hwy 160**  
**Monte Vista, CO 81144**

FOR MORE SALE AND CONSIGNMENT INFORMATION:

**JOHN YODER: 719-298-2648**  
**MELVIN COBLENTZ: 719-849-3292**

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**Regular Classified Ad Deadline-Thursday 5 p.m.**  
**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**  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

6                      7                      8                      9                      10

11                      12                      13                      14                      15

16                      17                      18                      19                      20

21                      22                      23                      24                      25

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**



# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



**YEAR-ROUND CREEK FRONT!** Idyllic location with picturesque Mountain, Bear Creek Canyon views and live water runs the entire length of this 7.52-acre lot. Paved roads buried fiberoptic and electric to lot. Well and septic will need to be installed. Hike the Bear Creek Canyon trail, walking/horseback access to National Forest from the subdivision and owner access to the Rio Grande River. Hundreds of miles of ATV trails close by skiing at Wolf Creek within 30 minutes.

**\$171,750 | MLS# 801331**  
1416 Bear Creek Circle, South Fork, CO

**YVONNE HOFFMAN**  
BROKER | REALTOR®  
M: 719-580-1901  
O: 719-873-1700

30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



Nestled amidst the serene beauty of Del Norte, this expansive 35.5-acre ranch. With San Francisco Creek flows flowing through the entirety of the property allowing fishing on your own land. The residence itself is secluded, ensuring privacy with its 1/4-mile driveway that shields it from the main road. Call Bruce Steffens today for a showing appointment.

**\$975,000 | MLS# 808345**  
6680 County Road 13, Del Norte, CO

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
M: 719-580-0770  
O: 719-873-1700

30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



This property is once parcel containing 593 +/- acres surrounded by the San Juan Mountain Range. Located northwest of Del Norte, Colorado, on paved County Road 15 in Rio Grande County. Call Bruce Steffens today for more information.

**\$1,104,450 | MLS# 809047**  
TBD County Road 15, Del Norte, CO

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
M: 719-580-0770  
O: 719-873-1700

30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



**THE SUN HOUSE FARM** has a total of 1910.5 +/- acres with 1,433 acres under pivot irrigation, which is 12 center pivots and all in excellent condition. 25 irrigation wells. Each Pivot has two wells. Two homes, one for hired help and one main home with corrals/sheds. Farmers Union water rights on the entire 1,910.5 acres. Call Bruce Steffens today for more information.

**\$15,000,000 | MLS# 807640**  
57075 County Road C, Center, CO

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
M: 719-580-0770  
O: 719-873-1700

30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



This two-story brick Denver Square building, constructed in 1911, exudes historic charm and character that seamlessly blends with the neighboring properties. Nestled on the iconic Main Street in Alamosa, Colorado, this property offers a unique opportunity for business and investment. Currently zoned as business commercial, it serves as a boarding house, presenting a variety of possibilities for its future. Call Bruce Steffens today for more information.

**\$495,000 | MLS# 808721**  
911 Main Street, Alamosa, CO

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
M: 719-580-0770  
O: 719-873-1700

30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



Amazing business opportunity located in Antonito, CO. This car wash is in the perfect location, and is the only one for many miles! Much work has recently been done to the property including new cement being poured in both bays. This car wash is completely up to date and is ready to put money into YOUR pocket. Don't pass up an amazing opportunity to own this cash flowing property.

**\$225,000 | MLS# 809144**  
219 Main Street, Antonito, CO

**TATE HUFFAKER**  
ASSOCIATE BROKER | REALTOR®  
M: 719-298-6560  
O: 719-873-1700

30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



Pronghorn Ranch is a gated development located 2.5 miles south of the town of Del Norte. Here the panoramic view encompasses the mountains, valley, and visually interesting rock outcroppings. Natural grasses and evergreen trees dot the landscape. The large parcel lots offer space to grow and privacy. There are 29 available lots ranging in size from 35 to 88-acre parcels. Call Bruce Steffens today for more information.

**\$87,000 - \$180,000 per lot**

**Pronghorn Ranch Development**  
Del Norte, Colorado

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
M: 719-580-0770  
O: 719-873-1700

30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



The **FLYING W Ranch** is level, buildable, accessible year around, and is close to neighboring towns. This acreage is located 5 miles east of Monte Vista on Hwy 160 and 4 miles north on County Line Road.

7 available lots  
Lot 2 - 35+/- acres      Lot 3 - 37+/- acres  
Lot 4 - 83+/- acres      Lot 5 - 35+/- acres  
Lot 6 - 35+/- acres      Lot 8 - 81+/- acres

Call Bruce Steffens for pricing and additional information.

**\$2,700 - \$2,900 per acre**  
TBD County Road 100, Del Norte, CO

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
M: 719-580-0770  
O: 719-873-1700

30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado

**STEFFENS & CO**  
**REALTY, INC.**

O: 719-873-1700



30635 W. US HWY 160  
South Fork, Colorado



**STEFFENS & CO. REALTY, INC**

30635 WEST HWY 160 • SOUTH FORK, COLORADO  
719-873-1700 • WWW.STEFFENSCOREALTY.COM





# Valley Wide Classifieds

Colorado teaching license. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, DNHS Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at 719-657-4020. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co.org (2-28)

**Cafeteria Staff needed at Upper Rio Grande School District.** Must have a high school diploma and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or a willingness to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. (2-28)

## 12 Houses for Rent

2bed, 1bath, 116 1st Ave. M.V. w/ small garage, \$900 R \$900 D, lyr. lease. Background and credit check w/ application. No smoking/no pets. Contact John at 719-239-0688 (2-28)

## 17 Real Estate For Sale

**FARM FOR SALE** in Waverly Area Sub-district #6, 1 1/2 center pivots in grass and alfalfa, large

hay shed, 2 bedroom home, 3 steel grainers, numerous out buildings on 8 Mile Road. Ready to farm 2023 season. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc 719-580-0770. (TFN)

**35-80+ acres parcels** with good grass on County Line Road north of Hwy 160. Fully surveyed and ready to build on. Perfect location between Alamosa and Monte Vista. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc. 719-580-0770. (TFN)

**35-80+ acre parcels on San Francisco Creek** south of Del Norte. Very private, views, 3 miles from town, electric and phone. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc. 719-580-0770. (TFN)

**40 Acres 5 miles west of Monte Vista** on Lariat Road with power, phone and year around access on county road. \$60,000. Call Bruce Steffens 719-580-0770 at Steffens & Company Realty Inc. (TFN)

## 32 Fuel & Heating

**Firewood For Sale.** Call or text Mark 662-361-7530 Located in Saguache. (5-22)

**Lump Coal and Anthracite Hard Coal available.** Supplement your

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ALL POSITIONS OFFER SKIING PRIVILEGES & A STARTING WAGE OF \$18/HOUR

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Onsite Call Center/  
Customer Service

Applications at  
[WolfCreekSki.com/employment](http://WolfCreekSki.com/employment)

Send applications and resumes to:  
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"I love the pizza. Fresh salad. Service is amazing. The place is clean and fresh. I would highly recommend eating here."  
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# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

**5299 County Road 12 S. Alamosa**  
160-acre circle planted in Alfalfa. Two shares of Commonwealth Ditch and use of Carmel Drain. Zimmatic Pivot, three stock wells. Waverly area. MLS#810432 \$400,000



Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty  
(719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

**28 acres on the Rio Grande River in South Fork.**  
Approx 1/2 mile of prime fishing - own to the middle of the river. \$1,500,000. MLS#807305



Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty  
(719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

**61 Red Tail Court**  
- 6 acres with incredible views in the gated subdivision of Bear Creek, South Fork, CO. Owner financing is available for this gorgeous lot. MLS#803984 \$99,000



Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty  
(719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

**Rito Hondo Estates - 18 Rural Mountain Lots Available**  
West of Antonito in the Conejos Canyon OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE  
\$950,000 home on 35 acres located on lot #2  
\$85,000 (6 acre lots)  
\$200,000 (17.5 acre lots)  
\$400,000 (35 acre lots)  
\$950,000 (35 acres with home)



Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty  
(719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

**7541 Indian Creek Road Ft. Garland**  
Off Grid Cabin on 5 acres ON THE CREEK \$279,000. Virtual tour and Drone video available. MLS#809447



Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty  
(719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

**Steffens & Company Realty**  
719-873-5605  
30635 US HWY 160 South Fork  
dee@steffenscorealty.com  
Dee - formerly known as Diane Chapman - Local Luxury Home Broker. Licensed in 2011, Dee knows the area and knows local real estate.



All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.


3D Virtual Tours • Prompt, Easy Communication  
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**Lots 11 & 12 in Riviere Estates**  
Two lots together in a quiet community. VRBO & Air B&B OK subject to town guidelines. All utilities are available at the lot line. MLS 808212



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(719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

**23 Fairway Drive - OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE**  
- this beautiful lot is a 1-minute walk from the Clubhouse on the Rio Grande Club and Resort in South Fork. Flat and easy to build, this lot has water, sewer, electricity, landline phone and high-speed internet at the lot line. MLS#794077. \$56,000




Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty  
(719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

**242 Birch \$69,000**  
MLS#810124 and **64 Vista \$49,000**  
MLS#810125. Two adjacent commercial lots in South Fork, each .35 acres. Right behind Mtn Pizza. Easy paved access off of Hwy 160.



Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty  
(719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

**4100 Wilderness Canyon Road - Mountain Luxury**  
at the end of the road, secluded and private, this gorgeous, bright, energy-efficient home sits on 42 acres bordering the National Forest with views of the Natural Arch. Ghost Mine Ranch, near Del Norte. Ride or hike out for hundreds of miles, right from your backyard. Gated community with minimal covenants. \$899,000



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# Valley Wide Classifieds

wood heating with "lump coal". Burns more consistently & lasts longer so you can do more of what you want & less time carrying wood. 719-849-8261 (3-1)

## 36 Miscellaneous

For sale Cherokee men's boots, size 12, hiking-working, leather upper. Almost like new. \$50. 719-256-4058. (3-6)

Cash for quality non-fiction books and LP records. Jeff 720-315-9145 (TFN)

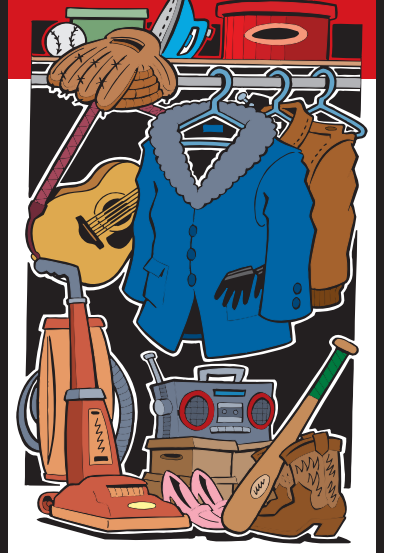
Propane Refrigerators Sold Here. Call For Options and Prices. We Also Stock Solar Powered Refrigerators and Freezers. Bontrager's Variety Store, 9726 S. County Road 3E, Monte Vista. (719) 852-0500 (TFN)

STEEL STORAGE CONTAINERS - Sales, Rentals & Modifications! Containers are water & rodent proof. 8' wide, 8'-53' in length. Call for more information

## 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.

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and pricing. **Healdworks, Inc.** - Your Total Storage Solution! 719-850-0346 (TFN)

**SOLAR PANELS! 400 Watt and Smaller, We Stock Inverters, Charge Controllers, and Batteries in Brand Names of Outback, Magnum, Aims, Rolls, and More. Custom Cables and PV Wire.** Bontrager's Variety Store. 9726 S. CR 3E Monte Vista. 719-

852-0500. (TFN)

**42 Feed & Seed**  
For Sale: Small Alfalfa bales \$10. Covered—local. Call: 719-480-2089 (2-28)

**44 Farm Services**  
Attention Farmer and Ranches: Seal your leaking livestock tanks, ponds & reservoirs with bentonite. Spring Special 10% OFF. Rio

Grande Bentonite. 719-580-6652 (5-29)

**65 Professional Services**  
**RELIABLE CARPENTRY** 40-plus years-experience in carpentry, painting, stucco, tile, drywall, roofing, etc. Drug/Alcohol free. Free Estimates 719-496-7630. (TFN)

**LICENSED PLUMBER** does all types of plumbing repairs and plumbing remodels at reasonable rates. Quick service. Call anytime, available weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. TFN

**Need beautiful window blinds at the best prices?** Call THE BLIND GUY at 970-799-0388 for a free estimate. (TFN)

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Specializing in memorial, holiday, any occasion t-shirts, apparel, tumblers, coffee mugs, keychains, car and big vehicle vinyl and decals, business cards, and much more.  
250 Adams Street, Monte Vista  
Call Marie at 719-937-9629 to place your order today or email mariemedina30@hotmail.com

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Call 852-3531

**Locked Out? Lost Your keys? Just Need a spare? We've Got You Covered!**  
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Serving The San Luis Valley And Surrounding Areas  
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**Mr. K Lock & Key**  
**LOCKSMITH**  
Commercial • Residential • Automotive



# MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1

American Heritage, Colorado Heritage, and Montana.

He writes a regular monthly column titled "Gulliford's Travels" for the Southwest Life section of the Durango Herald, and some essays are picked up by the "Writers on the Range" syndicated column of High Country News. Gulliford also writes for Inside/Outside Southwest and Mountain Gazette.

Gulliford has received the National Individual Volunteer Award from the U.S. Forest Service for wilderness education and a certificate of recognition from the Secretary of Agriculture for "outstanding contributions to America's natural and cultural resources."

The governor appointed Gulliford to two terms on the National Register of Historic Places Review Board for the State of Colorado. Gulliford also has his third federal appointment to the BLM's Southwest Colorado Resources Advisory Council, where he represents environmental interests.

Gulliford has led tours across the West by canoe, raft, horseback, van, cruise ship, private train, and private jet for the Smithsonian Institution, the National Geographic Society, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Colorado Historical Society.

He regularly donates tours to raise money for the Durango Adult Education Center, American Red Cross, Western Colorado Congress, Fort Lewis College Foundation, Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), and Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

In "The Woolly West", Gulliford writes that the sheep industry was

as integral to the history of the American West as any trail drive.

With vivid, elegant, and reflective prose, Gulliford explores the origins of sheep grazing in the region; the often-violent conflicts between the sheep and cattle industries; the creation of national forests; the segmenting of grazing allotments with the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934; the challenges of ecological change and the politics of immigrant labor; and the conflicts between hikers and dogs guarding flocks that have again put the sheep industry on the defensive.

Gulliford also weaves an account of his interaction with what he calls the "sheepscape"—the shepherders' landscape itself. Visiting with Peruvian immigrant herders and Mormon families who have grazed sheep for generations, he explores stone cairns assembled by shepherds now long gone and ponders the meaning of arborglyphs carved into unending aspen forests.

"The Woolly West" is the first book in decades devoted to the sheep industry and breaks new ground in the history of the Colorado Basque, Greek, and Hispano shepherding families whose ranching legacies continue to the present day.

Gulliford will also be selling and signing copies of "The Woolly West" and his other publications, including "Sacred Object and Sacred Places" and "Bears Ears: Landscape of Refuge and Resistance."

For more information or to stay up to date on this and other events, visit [www.riograndecountymuseum.org](http://www.riograndecountymuseum.org) or follow their Facebook page under Rio Grande County Museum and Cultural Center.

**Conour** *Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society*  
[www.urgaseconouranimalshelter.org](http://www.urgaseconouranimalshelter.org)  
**If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366**  
 Open Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sat. & Sun. • 1:30 - 5 p.m.  
 Monday & non-business hours by appointment only  
 2825 Sherman Ave. • Monte Vista

Visit Our Facebook Page

*We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.*

Goober is a sweet Lab? Shepherd mix, going on 8 months old who just wants a forever family. He's a little nervous at first since most of his life has been spent here with us, but he warms up quickly and has lots of love to give! Goober is also great with other dogs, big and small! Come meet your new fur family member today!



We still have these 3 wonderful babies looking for their forever homes! Blair, Chuck, and Serena are Long Haired Shepherd mixes. Mom and Dad are both sweet tempered, playful and loving, which we're sure these little fluffs have inherited!. Stop in and meet them today!

## LOST & FOUND



Found on 1/29/24 on the 700 Block of Jefferson in Monte Vista

**Please note adoptions go in order of contact made.**

All breeds & ages of animals are a "best guess" and are not guaranteed to be accurate. Adoption fee includes: neuter/spay, vaccinations, de-worming and micro-chipping. *This ad space donated by Valley Publishing Inc.*

## Introducing the lightest folding power chair in the world

The Journey Air Elite features the latest carbon fiber technology for the ultimate in portability and performance

Mobility issues affect over 1 in 5 Americans. These individuals, and their loved ones, know how decreased mobility can result in loss of independence, pain and falling hazards. They are often stuck at home, missing out on a variety of activities, in a vicious cycle that diminishes their quality of life. In the past, mobility devices like scooters and power chairs were too heavy and bulky to transport easily. Now, carbon fiber material invented for the aerospace program has been used to create the ultimate mobility device. It's called the Journey Air Elite ... and there's nothing else like it on earth.



Folds flat in seconds

At only 26 pounds\*, the Journey Air Elite combines lightweight portability with world class performance. It's simple to use joystick and powerful dual-motor drive system enables you to zip around quickly and safely. It's easy to maneuver, never tips, fits easily through doorways, and can go right up to a table or desk. Once you are done, just one pull on

the seat handle folds it up. There's a fold-down back to make it even easier to stow and store. It features flat-free tires and rear anti-tippers for added convenience and safety.

Just imagine how this chair can improve your life and make it easier for loved ones and caregivers to accompany you to activities and events you would have missed in the past. Don't spend another day stuck at home. Call today, and a helpful, knowledgeable consultant will help you get a Journey Air Elite of your very own. Don't wait - call now!

- What makes it the best?**
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  - Speedy and maneuverable
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  - 8-mile range on a single charge
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- Pull-out shopping circulars



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# SANCHEZ Continued from Page 1

and immigration from Europe. After that enterprise collapsed and a series of transactions, in 1908 the Costilla Estates Development Company bought the 500,000-acre tract and built several reservoirs including the Sanchez. Promises of the agricultural values of the region came early. Noted explorer and government geologist Ferdinand Hayden said of the area, "The land embraced in the Sangre de Cristo Grant forms the eastern and southern portions of the [San Luis Valley] and is by far the finest agricultural district I have seen west of the Missouri River." Hayden went on to speculate the land "might be divided into airable and pastoral land." As a historical footnote, Hayden would later lead the Hayden Geological Survey of 1871 that would map what would later become Yellowstone National Park

The reservoirs were built using steam shovels, pickaxes, other hand tools, and horse-drawn teams of wagons. A 1909 article in the La Jara Chronicle detailed plans of the development company to bring 10,000 settlers to the area and boast of fertile soil. "The plan being so attractive that an excellent class of settlers will be secured, and the opening of the land will result in

a veritable boom." Promotional literature from Costilla Estates exclaimed "Completed Reservoirs." The marketing included claims the land was "irrigatable," and the land slope "prevented the possibility of seepage ever occurring."

The Sanchez Reservoir and dam took two years to build and was completed in 1912. The dam has always had seepage. The 10,000 settlers never came, according to US Census data, the county population peaked at 7,533 in 1940 and is now about 3,500.

Nicole Langley Restoration Project Coordinator with the Sanchez Ditch and Reservoir Company, a non-profit company said the reservoir has operated for, "The last 114 years with a constant deficiency, as primitive methods were used to build the reservoir. Now we are dealing with the consequences of that. The main issue is dam safety, that is the primary focus, to restore the safety of the dam. We have had continual seepage from the very beginning. We have found the source of the seepage and now we are doing the engineering [studies] for the repair of the dam." Recently, state funding for \$485,208 was allocated for engineering studies with an additional \$64,694 from the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, and \$97,042 in matching

funds from the reservoir company. The funds will be used to study deficiencies at the dam and not the actual repairs.

The reservoir company is owned by 22 stockholders and provides water to hundreds of people in the Culebra River watershed according to Langley.

The engineering company AECOM has been retained and will be working with Willowstick LLC for the mapping and modeling of groundwater seepage and flow paths. Langley said the funding will become available in August and the studies will take an additional two and a half years to complete.

Former Congressman John Salazar who is on the board of the reservoir company said that in 2015 due to sinkholes in the dam that impound the water for the reservoir the state dam safety engineer put restrictions on the dam limiting the amount of water in the reservoir to about 22,000 acre-feet, "so even on good years, we just can't store the water that we need for crops. The most critical issue here is dam safety, when I was in Congress, we passed a dam safety bill and that is what we are after. If we get that reservoir repaired it would have a great economic benefit for Costilla County and the state. I used to draw a lot of people to recreation." Salazar added, "We're going after Senate and

House members to see if, under the dam safety bill, Colorado can get some funding to help restoration. we've put in about \$47,000 for the scientific study as to where the leaks are happening."

In a 2023 letter Colorado Division of Water Resources Division Engineer Craig Cotten advocated for funding to repair the dam and stated the storage limits the Colorado Division of Water Resources imposed, "were due to significant dam safety issues caused by seepage through the dam and the potential for a catastrophic dam failure at higher storage levels."

In addition to providing water for irrigation, Langley said the reservoir company is planning for recreation and is collaborating with Colorado Parks and Wildlife [it is within the Sanchez Reservoir State Wildlife Area], Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, and the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust.

The motto of the San Luis Ditch and Reservoir Company is, "Water is Life." Perhaps the recently secured funding will enable the reservoir to fulfill that statement and one day be filled to capacity.



Photo courtesy of De Golyer Library, Southern Methodist University

In this 1909 photo, Costilla Estates Development Company surveyors planned an elaborate irrigation system in Costilla County to lure settlers from Europe and the eastern U.S. The irrigation system failed, and the settlers never materialized.

# FAIR Continued from Page 1

First place: Sylvia Daugherty and Lyza Davis, Sargent High School.

## Senior Individual Documentary

First place: Josiah Yocom, Sargent High School; second place: Tanner Houser, Sargent High School.

## Senior Group Documentary

First place: Amelia Ford, Kaitlynn Roberts, and Reagan Curtis, Sargent High School.

## Junior Division

### Junior Papers

First place: Liam Griffin, Sargent High School; second place: William Keefner, Centauri Middle School; third place: Jayla Cary, Centauri Middle School.

### Junior Individual Website

First place: Emmalynn Ortega, Ortega Middle School; second place: Julia Marques, Centauri Middle School; third place: Lucy Brittain, Creede Junior High School.

### Junior Group Website

First place: Bristol Pence and Anaya Baroz, Centauri Middle School; second place: Riordan Harvey and Junior Johnson, Sanford Junior High School; third place: Jalieyah Dunn and Aubrey Sowards, Centauri Middle School.

### Junior Individual Exhibit

First place: Addison Gilbert, Sargent High School; second place: Isabella Mortensen, Ortega Middle School; third place: Tyshiana Frank, Sargent Junior High School.

### Junior Group Exhibit

First place: Jaelie Jaminet, Kamry Crowther, and Luz Chavez-Vargas, Sanford Junior High School; second place: Camry Casias, Raven Medina, McKinley Miller, Sanford Junior High

School; third place: Shelby Adelman, Levi Evas, Creede Junior High School.

## Junior Individual Performance

First place: Jonathan Olsen, Ortega Middle School.

## Junior Group Performance

First place: Lilly Bagwell and Siena Taylor, Centauri Middle School

## Junior Individual Documentary

First place: Heidi Heersink, Ortega Middle School; second place: Parker

Mitchell, Sargent Junior High School; third place: Wesley Neilsen, Ortega Middle School.

## Junior Group Documentary

First place: MiAna Flores and Madelyn Jackson, Centauri Middle school; second place: Hayden Fobert and Kortney Johnson Centauri Middle School; third place: Benjamin Voutsalath and Judah Stephens, Sargent Junior High School.

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