



# CENTER POST-DISPATCH

Volume 123, Number 5

Thursday, February 1, 2024

75¢

Inside this week's  
**Center Post Dispatch**

## Shorts

**Valerie Larsen Agency ribbon cutting is Feb. 15**

**MONTE VISTA** — A ribbon cutting for the Valerie Larsen Agency will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 126 Adams St., Monte Vista.

**CPAC electing board members at ag conference**

**MONTE VISTA** — The Colorado Potato Administrative Committee will be electing new board and alternates members to serve on the CPAC Committee from June 1, 2024-May 31, 2026, at the Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference on Feb. 6-8.

If you are interested in a board member or alternate position, let CPAC know prior to the conference to ensure your nomination is on the ballot. CPAC is accepting nominations for representation in the following categories — Rio Grande County, Saguache/Chaffee County, Costilla/Conejos and all other counties, Alamosa County, Bulk Shipper and Independent Handlers.

Contact CPAC by calling 719-852-3322 at the CPAC office, for more information or to express interest.

**Valley Community Chorus rehearsals begin Feb. 6**

**By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY**

**ALAMOSA** — The Valley Community Choir is back. Tuesday rehearsals begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6, in the Adams State University Music Building choir room, located inside the south entrance.

The choir will be co-directed by Nancy West and David Schneider. "We are singing an eclectic selection of music, including past favorites and new material, ranging from Mozart to Frank Tichelli to Edwin Hawkins to music from The Greatest Showman," Schneider said.

The registration fee is \$10 for the semester. For more information, contact Schneider at 719-298-7640 or dwschnei0@yahoo.com.

## CCSD thanks board members for their many contributions

**By MARIE MCCOLM**

**CENTER** — With January being School Board Appreciation Month, Center Consolidated School District Superintendent Carrie Zimmerman recognized the district's six board members for their contributions.

The board includes officers Kim Duran, board president, Misty Montoya-Palacios, board vice president, Richie Barela, treasurer and secretary, and board members Enrique Aguilar, Lloyd Garcia, and Lyn Bogle.

"As citizens who serve students and represent our community, they face complex and demanding

*Please see CCSD on Page 2A*

Center Consolidated School District recognized the efforts of its board members pictured from left to right - Kim Duran, Misty Montoya-Palacios, Lyn Bogle, and Richie Barela, and not pictured Lloyd Garcia.



Courtesy photo

## CHS students attend Student Leadership Academy at CASB Conference

**By MARIE MCCOLM**

**CENTER** — Six Center High School students were chosen from the Center School District to participate in the Student Leadership Academy while attending the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) Conference in Colorado Springs in December of 2023.

The students had to submit an application to attend. The six students who were chosen to attend were Isis Soto, a sophomore, Leilany Soto, a sophomore, Selah Harrington, a senior, Devannie Nunez, a junior, Ahyari Fimbres, a junior, and Elijah Swanson, a sophomore.

The conference kicked off on Dec. 7, and ran through Dec. 9 at The Broadmoor, with the academy taking place Dec. 8 and 9. The academy is targeted to help students become leaders, by mixing students from various high schools and speaking with them about what is effectively working to keep students in school, what works to help behavioral issues, what works to help children socialize better, what helps with growth, what



Courtesy photo

Six Center High School students and a teacher attended the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) Conference in December of 2023 and participated in the Student Leadership Academy. The six students who were chosen to attend were Isis Soto, a sophomore, Leilany Soto, a sophomore, Selah Harrington, a senior, Devannie Nunez, a junior, Ahyari Fimbres, a junior, and Elijah Swanson, a sophomore and their teacher Hanna Hays.

helps students become leaders, stay safe, healthy, active, what helps students stay on their agenda, and what helps students thrive in school. There are speakers that attend the

*Please see CASB on Page 6A*

## Storytime is Tuesdays at the Saguache Public Library

**By MARIE MCCOLM**

**SAGUACHE** — The Northern Saguache County Library will be hosting Storytime on Tuesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. The public is invited to attend this event. Different books will be read every week.

On Feb. 6, Lisa Anne will be reading "One Special Day," by M. Christine Butler.

The book is illustrated with colorful pictures that are set in the woods. The book tells the story of a little hedgehog who babysits his cousin, with help from some forest friends. His baby cousin's blanket gets lost and provides the group with lots of fun adventures trying to get the favorite blanket back to the baby hedgehog.

Storytime would be a great time for parents to bring their young ones in to hear this sweet story. The Northern Saguache County Library District

*Please see LIBRARY on Page 5A*

## MV Food Bank and Alamosa County business suffer alleged misappropriation of funds



Photo by Brian Williams

An investigation into embezzlement from the Monte Vista Food Bank is ongoing.

**By JOHN WATERS**

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — A person is being investigated for embezzling from the Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank and Marty's Maintenance.

The Monte Vista Police Department is handling the food bank investigation, while Alamosa County Sheriff's Office is looking into the other.

A statement from Jennifer Becker, executive director of the Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank, and the board of directors stated, "Currently there is an active and aggressive ongoing criminal investigation. Any and all parties that are being investigated have been removed from all Monte Vista Emergency

Food Bank operations. New security measures have been put in place to protect monetary and food donations. At this time, we cannot provide details due to the ongoing investigation.

"Rest assured we are holding special board meetings and are actively cooperating fully with authorities. We will provide a press release as soon as we are able. Please be assured that your donations to the Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank are secure and are needed now more than ever.

"We are heartbroken, but we have a mission and a desire to continue to fight food insecurity. We feel certain

*Please see FUNDS on Page 2A*



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# OBITUARY

## Mike Gill

Mike Gill, of Creede, Colo., unexpectedly went to his eternal home on Jan. 22, 2024, at the age of 68.

He was born on Aug. 10, 1955, in San Antonio, Texas, to parents John and Carolyn "Ree" Gill. Majority of his childhood and adult life was spent in San Angelo, Texas.

As an adult he was a family man and was successful in opening and running a tire business in San Angelo. Mike was dedicated to his children and their passion for all activities. Weekends were typically spent anywhere baseball was found, fishing, hunting or anything outdoors with the kids. He coached Little League for many years, and it was forever a passion.

A dream since he was a child was to eventually move to Colorado and start a life there. He fulfilled his dream and eventually sold his tire business and retired to Creede, Colo., where he was active in the community. Many of the people he met quickly became friends and eventually family.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by two siblings and his children, daughter Kristy Ames and her husband Nick Ames and their children Karina,



Gavin, Patience and Brijae, son Cade Gill and his wife Jayme and their children Jordyn and Colten, daughter Kelly Payne and her husband Aaron Payne and their children Joseph, Emma, and Maddie, son Ryan Gill and his children Kelby, Hunter, Garrett, Connor and Abigail, son Joe Berry and wife Crystal Berry and their children Dean, Caitlyn and Jayden.

To Mike family was very important, but his grandkids trumped all. The love and support for his grandkids was something special and he would have moved mountains for them. Mike will be truly missed by the many family and friends that he had as he was loved by all.

# Homelake Veterans Center makes Valentines for Veterans request

## CONTRIBUTED

**MONTE VISTA** — This year will be the 35th anniversary of the "Valentines for Vets" Program. It began in 1989 with Ann Landers suggesting that valentine cards be sent to Veterans in Veteran Medical Clinics nationwide.

On any given day, there are over 50,000 Veterans hospitalized or living in VA facilities. These men and women served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf Wars and in these

areas of Armed Hostilities; Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Persian Gulf, Somalia, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Iraq.

The staff at the Colorado Veteran Community Living Center at Homelake would like to encourage people to send or drop off a letter, poster or card to its residents. If you are a teacher, this may lend itself to a class project. Posters, handmade cards or personalized notes would be most welcomed and treasured.

"For our residents, being

remembered and appreciated for their part in serving and protecting their country, would truly be a wonderful Valentine gift. Due to the privacy act regulations, specific resident names cannot be provided by our facility but a general card would be very welcome," Homelake officials stated.

For more information, call Pam Self or Melanie Squire at 719-852-5118. The mailing address for Homelake is — CVCLC Homelake, PO Box 97, Homelake, CO 81135.

# FUNDS

Continued from Page 1A

in the generosity of our community. We need your donations now, more than ever, to continue to serve those most in need."

Monte Vista Police Chief George Dingfelder confirmed there is an investigation into alleged embezzlement from the food bank in a statement to the Valley Courier stated, "I can confirm that we are investigating missing funds from the MV Food Bank. It is an active and ongoing investigation so we are limited in what we can release and discuss."

Marty's Maintenance, a business in Alamosa County, also reported missing funds. Both had the same former bookkeeper.

Business owner Marty Husmann posted this to Facebook, "I know the rumors are probably already swirling, so I figure I might as well get out in front of it. The State of Colorado came in today and gave me 10 days to come up with \$175,000. This all stems from back payroll taxes that my bookkeeper failed to pay and kept hidden from me until just a few months ago. I understand that ultimately it is my responsibility, and I will have to suffer the consequences. We have

been working on redoing the last five years of our books to figure out how much she [a former bookkeeper] had been stealing." Requests for comment from Husmann were not received by press time.

In Alamosa County, Ken Anderson, Division Chief with the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office said, "This is currently an active investigation by the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office, no further information will be released at this time."

# CCSD

Continued from Page 1A

challenges," Zimmerman said. "The monthly school board meetings are just a small fraction of the time and energy that they dedicate to our district. Our board has worked hard to ensure we have the highest quality staff in place, and they want to ensure that our staff is the best paid in the Valley and that they are supported and respected in our district."

Zimmerman said the board had recently met with the Urban Renewal Authority to talk about the district's support of the URA. The board also held a special meeting to approve a bid to renovate and replace the track and the football field at the community park.

"These are just a few examples of the work that our board is doing behind the scenes to make Center Consolidated School District the best district around," Zimmerman said.

Aguilar has been a board member for six years but is leaving the board and was recently recognized by Zimmerman.

"It's been a pleasure to serve with Enrique on the school board for the last six years," Zimmerman said. "His tenure started in 2015 and he was reelected in 2019. Enrique shared that his greatest hope for the district was to maintain what was going well, and he was always looking for ways to better the school."

Zimmerman said that Aguilar attended the Colorado Association of School Board conferences for the past couple of years, and always listened to what the students thought was important, including addressing mental health support for the kids.

"One thing I really appreciate about Enrique is he listens intently, that's a strong sign of character," Zimmerman said. "When he says something it's thoughtful. He may be a man of few words but when he speaks it's worth listening to. Although he won't be serving on the board as a member, he still plays an important role in our community and is a role model to our students. Thank you, Enrique, for being then exemplary board member focusing on the right things and supporting the district work."

Zimmerman shared the greatest hopes for Center schools of each board member.

Duran said, "My goal is to make sure that as the district, we have the staff and tools in place to provide each student with the best education possible."

Montoya-Palacios said, "My greatest hope for Center schools is for the continued educational excellence and improved academic performance of the students; this is important so that our students are prepared for a successful future."



Courtesy photo

**Outgoing Center Consolidated School District board member Enrique Aguilar was thanked for his six years of service on the board.**

Garcia said, "My goal for center is that every child is treated fairly and with respect and given every opportunity to succeed."

Bogle said, "I have watched Center schools improve so much during the last several years. I want to help that continue. I think that the district has an excellent staff and some really great students. I hope to encourage communication between the parents, staff, students, and board, so that the district can give the students the best possible education."

Zimmerman extended a heartfelt thank you to all school board members for their genuine contributions and effort to their school district.

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Timer sale trance

I stepped out of the truck onto the thin snow cover of the dirt road and the cold air and distant mechanical sounds heightened my senses, changing my situational awareness from the comfort of the vehicle to a field work setting. I don't get those outside workdays much anymore, so it felt good to be back. The mechanical sounds drifted to me from two sides. To my east, the timber processor was methodically working into the forest from the edge of a natural

opening in the mature Douglas-fir forest. The gentle clunk of logs landing on the trailer of the timber forwarder came from the west, as it collected the previously cut trees. A light breeze further chilled the winter air when we were not protected by the thickness of the forest.

My partner that day was Jay Seebach, the "Forest Service Representative" who is responsible for inspecting the Live Stump Timber Sale contract on a regular

basis. Jay knows the operation well, so I watch his every move to stay safe and not interrupt the work. He knows what I want so he slowly moves us towards a better position to take photos and videos of the machines working. Making eye contact with the processor operator, he gives the thumbs up signal to indicate all is well. Barely missing a beat, the operator returns his attention to his task, and I slowly make my way to my planned position. Just as I arrive, the processor moves forward blocking my view with standing trees and forcing me to find another perfect location to snap photos. I think for a second that

he did that purposefully after seeing the camera in my hand. My guess is that the move WAS purposeful, but not to spite me, rather just getting the job done.

What a cool operation it was! The tracked timber processor looks like a combination of a farm tractor and excavator on steroids. The long boom swings in literally every direction, enabling the operator to seemingly work around corners. The processor head is positioned at the end of the boom and it too raises, lowers, swivels, and pivots in every direction giving the casual observer the appearance  
*Please see LAND on Page 4A*



**Land Water and People**  
By Gregg Goodland

## The great adventure

For those of you that follow along on the "great adventure" also known as cohabiting with Ol' Dutch, you know we have had some experience with "the great tribulation." Which is also related to living without heat and hot water.

You will be happy to know we did get a new furnace installed and warm as toast, but the hot water heater is testing me and my New Year's resolution to give up swearing. It's been a real trial of my Faith.

Miss Trixie, to her credit got us a new one ordered and it appears they sent the wrong one so another week without a solid shower is gonna be the norm around here at least.

But I have gotten darned good at showering with a jug of heated water and pretending I am back in the pioneer days as I am doing it. And although it's not as easy as turning on the spigot, it's far better than sharing a tub of water with the entire family like they all used to do. That last kid in to use that same water in a family of 10 had to stink like a skunk.

So, it's onward and upward and our new house is coming along in construction and tomorrow it looks like the roof will finally go up. It's gonna be a tall one so it will be interesting to see how the contractor does it.

He is a young man from Oklahoma and amazing to watch build. It's like a one-man band but in construction. I don't know how many nails he has but I think he plans on using them all framing the house. He can shoot that nail gun faster than Wyatt Earp drawing his pistols on old Ike Clanton.

Watching him work is a real pleasure but it kind of makes me sad in a way as I see just how much ability I have lost with age as I used to do all that too when much younger. I guess we all face that sooner or later and there isn't much we can do about it.

The Roman Gladiator Marcus Aurelius said it best when he said, "Death smiles at us all; all we can do is smile back." And ain't it the truth. Not a thing we can do about it in the end and so we must all learn to live well in the time we are given.



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

After the framing contractor is finished then we start the next phase where Ol' Dutch will be doing all the work himself also known as "hell on earth." Well not that bad but when you are doing all the tasks by yourself it does take a long time to get done. Looking ahead I wonder if I will ever complete this house.

And with all the "end times" talk going around in the church world, I am beginning to wonder if Jesus returning to Earth will be my only deliverance from such a big job. He did promise that upon His return there would be no more pain and suffering and so maybe that will be my relief. At the least that will relieve Miss Trixie of her travails with Ol' Dutch and that pain and suffering she experiences on a daily basis. To which she shouted, "amen."

I guess in spite of our difficulties in life we all need to learn to live well and love long most of all. For only in those two things can we hope to have a meaningful and happy life regardless of the circumstance we find ourselves in.

So, go take a shower for me and be thankful because you never know when you may be without hot water and be required to keep your distance from friends and family due to your aromatic aura.

*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.*

## LETTERS

### McCracken announces Saguache commissioner re-election bid

Editor,  
It has been an honor and a privilege to serve Saguache County and District 1 for the past three years. I have worked hard to represent the interests of our residents. I have learned volumes about how the County operates, its personnel, finances, departments and how we interact with state government. Working with organizations such as Colorado Counties, Counties and Commissioners Acting Together, Senator Bennet's office and neighboring County Commissioners has been fruitful, informative and encouraging.

In my first year, I secured funding for the Crestone firehouse addition, obtaining transit services, senior meals, and roadwork that was past due. I have been working (as had my predecessor) on the ESLVTC since day one to complete the Safe Routes to Schools Trail as well as other trail links. We are now under contract for phase I of the project and trails have been completed from the Kiosk to the Refuge Headquarters and East to the SRTS trail location.

Redevelopment of the Kiosk area as the hub of the Trail system is in progress.

In conjunction with CSU Extension, I brought Millet to the Valley and trials are being done that could provide a low water crop alternative. Cover crop research and carbon sequestration through agriculture are high priority. Saguache County has doubled its contribution to 4-H activities with my support. We have also doubled our contribution to the DA's office.

I have insisted on gender equity in employee compensation and have increased the starting wage three times for our employees. Very recently we changed retirement options to include greener investment opportunities as well as employee retention programs and we increased the 3% retirement contribution match to 5%.

I was elected Chairman of the SLV Council of Governments. Through that organization we created the Six County IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) that will allow each county to review all applications to export water out of the Valley and understand if our shared

aquifer would be affected. Valley-wide land use (1041) regulations will allow us to prevent or mitigate any damages.

At my urging solar panels were installed on our affordable housing units at Blue Waters Haciendas. And with the help of Director Evan Samora, we got those installed as well as new energy efficient heaters and appliances, totally free!

New projects include 28 new affordable housing units on a city block in Saguache, and planned Single Family units that will utilize Passive Solar and Local Materials at Casita Park.

Water monitoring to protect the aquifer, blight cleanup to include the White Eagle Village, expansion of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness boundary, county services in Crestone and protecting our dark skies are projects underway.

I hope you will support me in these and other important activities by re-electing me to a second term.

Thank you!  
*Tom McCracken  
Saguache County Commissioner Dist. 1*

### Local Wreaths Across America grateful for continued support

Editor,  
The Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake is privileged to take this time to thank the many individuals, families and organizations that donated to make Wreaths Across America, held at the Homelake Veterans Cemetery on Dec. 16, 2023, such a beautiful day. Once again, every grave in the Homelake Veterans Cemetery had a wreath placed on it. These generous donors made enough sponsorships to have a wreath placed on over 1,600 graves.

The Homelake Veterans Cemetery was one of the 4,218 participating

locations across our nation and the volunteers who came to help place the wreaths were part of an estimated three million Americans who gathered as one nation to remember the fallen, honor those that serve and their families and to teach the next generation the value of freedom.

Each live, balsam wreath is a gift of respect and appreciation, sponsored by many incredible private citizens and organizations throughout the San Luis Valley and beyond. The wreaths were placed on the graves by volunteers as a small gesture of our gratitude for

the freedoms Americans enjoy today. Wreaths Across America believes the tradition represents a living memorial that honors veterans, active-duty military, and their families. Volunteers were asked to say the name of the veteran out loud when placing a wreath to ensure their memory lives on.

Thank you to the Monte Vista Journal and Marie McColm, for their outstanding news coverage and photographs.

*Pam Self  
Admissions and Marketing Director  
Wreaths Across America Location Coordinator*

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# Adams State Migrant Education thanks sponsors

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Migrant Education program sponsored several families during the 10 annual Adopt-A-Family Holiday Initiative.

“Wow, what an amazing and successful event,” said Director of Southwest Region Migrant Education Esmeralda Martinez. “The holiday season is one of my favorite times of the year, as community, agencies, foundations and private sectors outpour support for children and families to celebrate traditions. More than 250 children received gifts and toys

during this holiday season. A special appreciation to Toys for Tots for the wonderful toys. We were able to extend the donations from sponsors to purchase some of the items in the list of needs from children of agricultural workers.”

Martinez appreciates all the sponsors of the 2023 Adopt a Family and looks forward to the implementation of the program in 2024. If you are interested in sponsoring a family, reach out to the ASU Foundation and direct your donation to the Migrant Education Program.

Sponsors included: Alamosa School Dist. RE-11J, Alamosa State Bank, Alece

Montez-AJL Foundation, Ana-Dental, Andrea-Medical Dept., Andy-Medical Dept., Anna Lee Vargas, ASU Camp, ASU Party Planning Committee, BLM Monte Vista (Barbara Humes), Board of County Commissioners/Dept. of Social Services Conejos County, Carol and David Osborn, Carole Counihan and James Taggart, Cisco NJ Construction, City of Alamosa, Dr. Meliza Ramirez, EMKHC/ EMKDC, Erica-Medical Dept., Eva S. Mejia-Family Dentistry, Farming Tech Inc. Aka MTN. King, Fidel Francisco, High Altitude Convenience, Jenny Lerner, John-Medical Dept., Karina-Medical Dept., Katherine and Michael Lancaster, Lisa Lucero,

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Courtesy photo

The SLV Migrant Education Program, located on the Adams State campus, appreciates the sponsors whose donations helped purchase gifts for families like Petrona, Leticia, Ana, and Leticia.

The SLV Migrant Education program serves a yearly average of up to 580 students, aged 3-22, from 23 school districts in the San Luis Valley and Southwest Colorado. The program connects families of seasonal agricultural workers with community resources, monitors children's achievements, and provides continuity as they change school districts.

The SLV Migrant Education Program is located on the Adams State University campus at the southeast corner of Second Street and Richardson Avenue (1424 Second St.). To learn more about the SLV Migrant Education program, or to refer a family who may benefit from services, contact Shanda Taylor 719-587-7612, shandataylor@adams.edu; or Esmeralda Martinez 719-587-7635, emartinez@adams.edu.

## LAND Continued from Page 3A

of it floating around in the forest. The operator selects a tree, positions the head, pushes a button and the machine takes over. The head dropped to ground level, clamped onto the tree and in a swift moment cuts the tree at the base accompanied by only a rapid buzz. The tree top hits the ground with a soft thud and a split second later is zipping back through the processor head which is delimiting and measuring the tree diameter and calculating log lengths. The automatic chainsaw cuts the stem into log lengths faster than I can blink while spreading the resulting slash evenly over the forest floor. The top is delimbed and cut into small lengths that will be left on site. A few seconds later, the processor head is back floating in the forest, locates a new tree and starts the process all over. My head is spinning. Not from being hit by the tree or slash, but from the wonder of this amazing logging operation.

The next stop was to observe the forwarder as it collects the logs and prepares them for truck loading. The constant hum of the motor sets a mesmerizing tone as the boom of this tracked combination machine reaches out and methodically sorts the cut logs lying on the forest floor by species and size and places them on the trailer portion of the rig. It loads logs to the brim in roughly ten minutes, and proceeds to the road where the operator carefully places them in stacks to be loaded on the log trucks.

While I was in my trance watching the machinery do its thing, Jay did HIS thing. He collected the data he needed for the daily contract inspection report and we were soon off to check out another timber sale operation.

Timber sales are conducted for many reasons including hazardous fuel reduction, forest health and wildlife habitat improvement, and to supply raw material to the forest products industry. The Live Stump Timber Sale's primary objectives are to provide timber products for the lumber industry, minimize potential for insects and diseases, and modify forest structure to better align with desired conditions in the Forest Plan.

There will be secondary benefits, such as the reduction and diversification of fuel loading on the landscape. This will create more management options if a wildfire were to burn through this area.

We all have daily wood product needs, and this operation is one way we are meeting them. Since it is a renewable resource, we can probably assume that the next generation of loggers may be cutting logs in that same area.

One of the primary missions of the Forest Service when it was founded in 1905 was to provide lumber for forest products. The operations back then ran considerably different with only axes and hand saws doing the cutting and horses and wagons dragging the



Photos courtesy of Gregg Goodland

logs to their final destination. But the outcome is still the same. It was great to see this modern operation and reflect on how well the industry has developed to meet modern needs.

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.



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## San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2023-2024

### BOYS

<b>Sangre de Cristo 55</b> .....	<b>Centennial 20</b>
<b>Sierra Grande 78</b> .....	<b>Antonito 11</b>
<b>Sangre de Cristo 37</b> .....	<b>Del Norte 35</b>
<b>Sanford 60</b> .....	<b>South Park 24</b>
<b>Del Norte 53</b> .....	<b>Custer County 28</b>
<b>Monte Vista 55</b> .....	<b>Cotopaxi 37</b>
<b>Sanford 64</b> .....	<b>Custer County 33</b>
<b>Crested Butte 62</b> .....	<b>Sargent 47</b>
<b>Sargent 52</b> .....	<b>Center 30</b>
<b>Walsenburg 53</b> .....	<b>Sierra Grande 48</b>
<b>Crested Butte 54</b> .....	<b>Monte Vista 42</b>
<b>Pagosa Springs 33</b> .....	<b>Centauri 29</b>
<b>Alamosa 50</b> .....	<b>Ignacio 25</b>
<b>Centauri 51</b> .....	<b>Ignacio 39</b>
<b>Alamosa 60</b> .....	<b>Bayfield 41</b>
<b>Taos NM 63</b> .....	<b>Alamosa 55</b>

### GIRLS

<b>Sangre de Cristo 54</b> .....	<b>Centennial 14</b>
<b>Creede 63</b> .....	<b>Moffat 33</b>
<b>Sierra Grande 56</b> .....	<b>Antonito 19</b>
<b>Creede 54</b> .....	<b>Sierra Grande 41</b>
<b>Sierra Grande 54 Walsenburg</b> 8	
<b>Del Norte 38</b> .....	<b>Sangre de Cristo 24</b>
<b>Monte Vista 46</b> .....	<b>Cotopaxi 30</b>
<b>Sanford 42</b> .....	<b>South Park 7</b>
<b>Sargent 58</b> .....	<b>Crested Butte 29</b>
<b>Sanford 52</b> .....	<b>Custer County 13</b>
<b>Sargent 56</b> .....	<b>Center 52</b>
<b>Pagosa Springs 41</b> .....	<b>Centauri 38</b>
<b>Alamosa 43</b> .....	<b>Ignacio 38</b>
<b>Alamosa 58</b> .....	<b>Bayfield 8</b>
<b>Centauri 49</b> .....	<b>Ignacio 31</b>

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# DJ Salazar announces Veterans Coffee Connection at Tri-County Senior Center

By MARIE MCCOLM

**MONTE VISTA** — Director of Activities for Tri-County Senior Center DJ Salazar recently announced Veterans Coffee Connection will be from 8 to 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays at the Tri-County Senior Center. The event is being organized by SSG Fox SPGP, and Valley Veterans ReCreation.

Veterans all over the San Luis Valley are invited to attend and come and enjoy a cup of coffee and socialize with fellow Veterans. Tri-County Senior Center is at 311 Washington St., Monte Vista.

The first Veterans Coffee Connection was held on Wednesday, Jan. 24, at the center and Salazar said that it went well.

“We had about four Veterans come down. It was a success. Out of those, we had two of them lined up with Craig Rauwolf, to help line them up with some Veteran’s benefits. Also, to hopefully get them in with another organization to help them with some things they need,” he said.

Salazar said that the main premise of the Coffee Connections was for

the Veterans to get Veterans more resources in Monte Vista.

“We want to connect veterans with help they may need, as well as help them socialize together, with other Veterans,” he said.

Salazar is also the director and founder of Valley Veterans ReCreation. He has been the director and founder for 3 years now.

“I came up with the idea for this when I was working out at the Veterans at Homelake Living Community Center. I heard from a Veteran that they are always looking for more resources. We wanted to get Veterans outside for more exercise. We started Valley Veterans ReCreation to help get Veterans more resources, and to help Veterans get outside more and utilize outdoors as a resource. In the wintertime, we want this too, from finding activities like ice fishing, to snowboarding, to cross country and snow shoeing. We want to get every activity possible and make it available to Veterans. If you think about how Veterans have always given to us, we definitely want to give back to them. We are a 501C3, not-

for-profit organization. We just want to give back and help our Veterans. We recently also had an ice fishing tournament for the Veterans. The Coffee Connection is just all a part of it. We hope to connect Veterans with each other as well as with other resources that can help them too. That is our main goal,” he said.

Salazar said that at the Coffee Connection they provide coffee and donuts for the Veterans and SSP Fox SPGP is also helping with a grant so that they can continue the Coffee Connection every Wednesday.

SSG Fox SPGP honors Veteran Parker Gordon Fox, who joined the Army in 2014 and was a sniper instructor at the U.S. Army Infantry School at Ft. Benning, Ga. Known for a life of generosity and kindness to others in need, SSG Fox died by suicide on July 21, 2020, at the age of 25.

“Valley Veterans donated as well. We will also be having SLV GO! come up with the Coffee Connection. We have an MOU with SLV GO! as well, to help get more Veterans outside too,” Salazar said.

Salazar explained that Valley



Courtesy photo

Veterans Coffee Connection is being held Wednesday mornings at the Tri-County Senior Center in Monte Vista.

Veterans ReCreation also hosts other coffee connections in other towns for Veterans.

“We have Staff Sgt. Fox who helps with the Coffee and Wi-Fi Café on Tuesdays in San Luis. The muesum in Alamosa also holds a Coffee Connection on Thursdays. This side of the Valley really didn’t have it so once I came here to Tri-County a couple

of weeks ago as the activities director, we worked things out, and now we have this one on this side. I believe Monte Vista has the second-largest population of Veterans in the Valley so we would love them all come down and socialize on Wednesdays here.”

For more information, contact Salazar at the Tri-County Senior Center at 719-852-5778.

## Outcalt Center is open for people to get their steps in

By MARIE MCCOLM

**MONTE VISTA** — People are getting healthy, and the Ski-Hi Complex is helping them do it. People are at the Ski-Hi Complex, walking laps on the inside of the building. As the Outcalt Center at Ski-Hi Complex is now hosting walking sessions for Valley residents on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 7 to 10 a.m., and from 5 to 7 p.m.

Ski-Hi Events Center Manager Stephanie Ruybal spoke about the program and the way that it started.

“We have been trying to work with our recreation department to see how we can obtain more recreation programs out here at Ski Hi. A couple of people have made the comments during the first year that the new building was open, that they would love to come in during the winter months just so they could get some type of exercise. They mentioned that it would be nice, to be able to come in, without having to pay for a gym membership, because they wouldn’t fully utilize the membership.” Ruybal chuckled and stated, “We want to get people involved and make them aware that we have this here.”

Ruybal went on to say that the

walking program has expanded from what was originally set up hour wise, in that they initially started off with just a couple of hours in the mornings, due to morning hours being highly requested.

Ruybal said that after the morning hours were posted on the internet, that she was suddenly flooded with requests to also open the doors during the evenings for the program.

“We listened to our requests and opened for evening hours as well. I saw a lot more people than I expected the first couple of times we were open,” she said. “I think as people become more comfortable with it; we will gain more walkers. Most people walk in twos or threes, but this is a great way to walk because people can hold each other accountable too; strength in numbers. We have measured out exactly how

many laps is a mile. I thought the walking was a great idea because it forces us as staff to take a healthy break and get our steps in too. We are excited to get our community involved and help them stay healthy now that it’s cold outside. What a great way to get a few extra steps in during the winter while staying warm and not worrying about slipping on the ice. We love seeing all your smiling faces.”

City Manager Gigi Dennis added, “Exercise is so important for all age groups and the winter weather can inhibit some people from getting out and stretching their legs. We are excited to see what the community involvement is with the indoor walking program.”

For more information on the walking program, visit the Outcalt Center at Ski-Hi Complex or call 719-490-8833.

## LIBRARY

Continued from Page 1A — is a combination of two libraries that cover multiple areas, including Moffat, Saguache, and Crestone. The Saguache Public Library and the Baca Grande Library are two wonderful learning centers that help keep the community engaged in paper resources and education.

Both libraries also host local artists and provide many opportunities for learning and education by teaching classes and hosting regular educational events. For more information on both libraries, visit the Saguache Public Library at 712 Pitkin Ave. in Saguache, or call 719-655-2551.

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# 'Fire in Ice' draws huge crowd



An estimated 500 people attended the 'Fire in Ice' bonfire in downtown Alamosa on Saturday night as one of the featured events of the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Rio Frio Ice Festival. Other highlights of the weekend included the Rio Frio 5k on the frozen river which drew a new record of over 300 participants, and the polar plunge at Blanca Vista Park just north of town. More than 50 took advantage of the ice bath.

Adams State University President David Tandberg went sky-high into a cannon ball pose to splash down in the polar plunge at Blanca Vista Park just north of Alamosa as part of the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Rio Frio Ice Festival on Sunday.

Courier photo by Keith R. Cerny

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## Crowther makes Washburn University President's List

TOPEKA, KAN. — Washburn University announced that Michelle Crowther from Sanford is a Fall 2023 Washburn University President's List honoree.

To qualify for the President's List, a student must complete at least 12 hours of graded credits and earn a semester grade point average of 4.0. Almost 700 students qualified for the President's List.

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# Spadefoot Story Slam

*Because everyone has a story to tell*

**BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER**  
ALAMOSA — Every third Saturday of the month, people of different ages, interests and backgrounds gather together at the Narrow Gauge Book Co-operative in Alamosa to continue a tradition among human beings that dates back thousands of years.

**Storytelling.**  
The gathering is called Spadefoot Story Slam, begun by veteran storyteller and Alamosa resident Al Stone.

Spadefoot Story Slam started more than two years ago and is an event devoted to people telling a story from their life. Each Story Slam has a theme — such as “harvest”, “light”, “rebirth”, “resist”, “luck”, “the seeds we plant”, to name just a few.

“You prepare a story based on that theme,” Stone says, “and it needs to be true and about something that happened to you. It also needs to be a story told from the heart, not off the page.”

The point of Story Slam, she says, is not to tell a story that is rote or memorized but to be natural and have that natural kind of cadence. She encourages folks to practice saying their story out loud ahead of time because the more a person tells a story, the more they “dig into it” and the more it changes.

“We meet at the Narrow Gauge, and it’s popcorn style. Whoever wants to, starts first. We have some veterans who come every month, but we always have new people who are trying it for the first time. It’s funny as I say that because we have people who say they just came to listen — which is great — but, after a while, three or four people will be inspired by someone else’s story and will want to share one of their own.” She then adds, “I love that.”

Stone is clear that many of the people who come to Story Slam are not writers or poets or even very experienced with telling stories, but they all have one thing in common.

“Everyone is a storyteller,” Stone says. “Everyone has a story. Just thinking back to the big stories in your life, everyone has at least one story they can tell.”

Even the name Spadefoot Story Slam has its own story, one that Stone has heard numerous times from both people who have lived here for years and AmeriCorps people, as well.

“Back in the day,” she says, “the valley was full of water and frogs

really thrived here. When the water disappeared, so did the frogs but their spirits remained. Legend has it that, if you’re a valley native or a transplant and try to leave, the valley frog spirit on your shoulder will always draw you back. That happens quite a lot — people may leave but something always brings them back. It’s that mystical draw to this place.

“When I was researching for a mascot, I discovered the toad called a spadefoot that can be found in the Great Sand Dunes National Park. It camouflages with its surroundings and I thought it would work really well. Actually, it just seemed kind perfect.”

Stone also believes that stories hold great importance in people’s lives.

“Stories are what connect us,” she says. “Things are really divided in the country right now, and stories break down those divisions and help people find common ground. The more you can share your story, the more you find commonalities with other people.”

She then shares a story from her own life.

“I had a big accident in 2020 when I fell off the rock wall at Adams State,” she says. “After that happened, I was quite devastated. But the more I shared my story, the more I connected with other people who had had accidents in the rock-climbing world or accidents of different kinds. The more we’re brave and vulnerable with each other about those big moments in our lives — whatever they are — the more we can share and be less insulated and isolated.”

Throughout the conversation, Stone emphasizes that Spadefoot Story Slam is a warm, welcoming experience because telling stories is not unique to a certain group of people.

Of course, being a writer can give a person a “leg up,” she says, “But we’re always telling stories, every single day. To our parents, to our families, to our friends, to people at work. It may be about a big event but we’re also telling stories about what happened over the weekend or what we did for the holidays.”

Stone also sees people benefiting just from the experience itself. “It can really build confidence for people who might be shy or a little closed off. Telling a story to people can be scary and conquering that fear...it can be a beautiful thing and show how much you can grow. And I think it also helps people to feel seen and heard.”

She then recalls an article “The Many

Ways to See a Story” she read in the magazine High Country News.

“The article was an interview with [acclaimed indigenous author] Debra Magpie Earling, who said, ‘Do not trust anyone who tells you cannot tell your story. Do not trust anyone who tells you there is only one story. If there were only story or only one way of thinking, all stories would die,’” she says.

Stone’s vision is to hold a “Grand Slam” at Cole Park this summer and, possibly within a year, to hold Spadefoot Story Slam in different communities throughout the Valley.

“I just want to encourage people to come,” she says. “I want to see Spadefoot Story Slam really grow. Everyone’s story is valid.”

The next Spadefoot Story Slam is Saturday, Jan. 20 and this month’s theme is “Resolutions.”

“It’s not just for stories about New Year’s but have you had to resolve something personal or a conflict with someone else or something you’ve just resolved yourself to do. I encourage people to really think out of the box.”

Spadefoot Story Slam, will be held Saturday, Jan. 20, 6 p.m. at Narrow Gauge Book Co-op in Alamosa, 602 Main St.



Photo by Al Stone.

**Spadefoot Story Slam encouraging people to come because everyone is a storyteller.**



Photo courtesy of Al Stone

**Al Stone, veteran storyteller who leads Spadefoot Story Slam at the Narrow Gauge Book Co-op.**



Photo by Al Stone

**Telling a story from the heart during Spadefoot Story Slam held at the Narrow Gauge Book Co-op in Alamosa.**

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## South Fork Skate Nights hit the ice

By LYNDIE FERRELL

**SOUTH FORK** — Saturday evening, the South Fork Visitor Center in partnership with the South Fork Friends Foundation and the Rio Grande Club and Resort gathered at the Rickel Park Ice Skating Rink for the first of many Saturday Skate Nights.

Though snow was in short supply, the weather was just about perfect for an evening on the ice. South Fork Friends Foundation supplied warm food, Smore's Kits and tasty beverages to people who ventured out into the chilling temps to hit the ice and skate the night away. A local DJ blasted some tunes and the night was deemed a wonderful success with more scheduled in the coming weeks.

The South Fork Visitor Center and the South Fork Friends Foundation devised the idea for the Saturday Night Skate event to bring fun and adventure to the slower days of winter in the small mountain town. Over the course of the summer, the ice-skating rink was revitalized through several generous donations and grants.

The two organizations are planning on hosting a skating event every Saturday from now until the weather

*Please see SKATE on Page 8*



Courtesy photos

The South Fork Visitor Center in partnership with the South Fork Friends Foundation and the Rio Grande Club and Resort welcomed people to their inaugural Saturday Skate Night on Jan. 20. People enjoyed delicious food, warm bonfires and hours of fun at the Rickel Park Ice Skating Rink.



Courtesy photos

The band CresTown is performing on Friday at T Road Brewery in Crestone and donating the proceeds to Nsaba Orphanage.

## CresTown helping Nsaba Orphanage with performance

By MARIE MCCOLM

**CRESTONE** — Marcus Daniels and his band CresTown are excited to be helping the Nsaba Orphanage with a show on Friday night.

The group will be performing at the T Road Brewery on Friday, Jan. 26, beginning at 6 p.m.

Daniels said, "My friend Juniper who has lived here for quite some time, he has been to Africa and traveled the world and he knows of this orphanage. He said let's use one of the Friday's that we play to donate to them. The donation to them is for their school and food and everything. They are in extreme poverty. Some days they don't even eat at all. When they get donations or do work that they can do around there, that's when they get to eat. We are excited about doing this show and donating to them."

Daniels said CresTown came together about four months ago and the group is interested in helping people in need.

"I came here from North Carolina," Daniels said. "I met my wife here when I lived here before. We are a four-piece band who plays all different types of music, jazz, rock, funk, all country, some African beats. We do some southwestern music sometimes. We call it CresTown, it's unity, there's four of us. We practice twice a week. We also write original music. We want to be the house band up here on Friday nights. The direction that I would love to see the band go in is helping others in need and providing cool entertainment. Part of that is by helping people of all backgrounds and beliefs and bringing them together. That's our goal."

The Nsaba Orphanage is in the Jinja District of Uganda.

"They are a Christian organization. They need food. One of the oldest parts of Uganda. My wife has actually traveled there," Daniels said. "I like the idea of helping them, I think it's important to feel like you're strong enough to help others and other cultures. They are really excited about the donation, too. I am thinking along the terms of saintly stuff with our music."



*Please see CresTown on Page 8*

## Advancements in the SLV Health Women's Center

By MORGAN HYKES

**ALAMOSA** — The SLV Health OB Team is excited about the addition of cordless fetal monitors in the Women's Health Center. This piece of equipment allows for increased mobility for mothers who are in labor which has shown to have advanced results in speeding up the labor process.

"Moms don't have to be in bed, and it allows them more freedom and comfort when they are in the hospital. It's a huge patient satisfier," commented Harli Monejano, OB/Postpartum RN.

Since 2017, Sandie Wehe's Music Studio has done an annual show to help raise funds for SLV Health.

"We want the money to go towards something the music students can appreciate. They should get the kudos! They choose the project since they are the ones who make it all happen," commented Kelly Gurule.

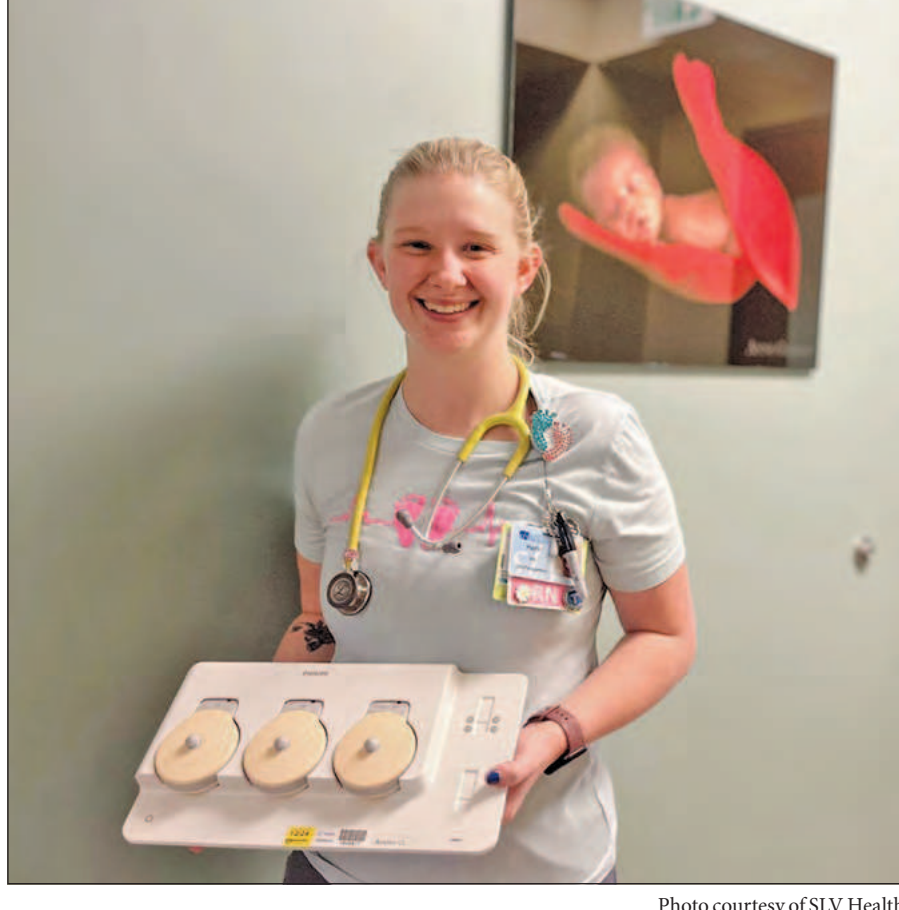


Photo courtesy of SLV Health

Cordless fetal monitors were a piece of equipment that the OB department had been wanting for a long time. This \$21,000 project became a reality thanks to the funds raised from the 2022 Sandie Wehe Music Show paired with surplus funds from previous years from the SLVH Foundation and generous donors. SLV Health is grateful to Wehe and all of the students who learned about philanthropy through their many performances and donations.

# Dmytro to return to Saguache in joint benefit recital

CONTRIBUTED

**SAGUACHE** — The Saguache United Methodist Church is announced that outstanding Ukrainian concert pianist Dmytro Vynogradov will return to Saguache on Feb. 1, to present a joint benefit piano recital with Mykola Suk, a brilliant Ukrainian-American pianist who is on the faculty of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

For those who attended November's recital at the church when Dmytro enthralled his audience, this next recital will be perhaps an even more thrilling event.

Suk gained international recognition in 1971 as winner of the First Prize and Gold Medal at the International Liszt-Bartok Competition. Former New York Times music critic Joseph Horwitz called him at the time "the greatest present-day Liszt pianist."

Suk has performed in many countries spanning four continents and at some of the most prestigious concert halls including Moscow Conservatory, Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall and Carnegie Hall. The European Piano Teacher's Journal wrote that Suk is "... surely the most towering and volcanic talent to have come out of Russia since Anton Rubinstein." Suk is from Ukraine which was once part of Russia (USSR).

Vynogradov, also from Ukraine and now teaching at Adams State University, made his public debut at age 8 when he performed Mozart's Fantasy in D Minor and by age ten, he had successfully performed in public Prokofiev's 10 Pieces, Op. 12 and Schubert's 4 Impromptus, D. 899.

Graduating with honors from the National Musical Academy of Ukraine, Vynogradov has won prizes in a number



Courtesy photos

The Saguache United Methodist Church is announced that outstanding Ukrainian concert pianist Dmytro Vynogradov will return to Saguache on Feb. 1.

of international competitions, including Second Prize at the 20th International Concours des Grands (Paris, 2009), First Prize at the Rocky Mountain Piano Competition (Colorado, 2009) and Special Mention Prize at the Ibla Grand Prize (Ragusa-Ibla, Italy, 2008). He has also mentored many students who have successfully passed exams and been admitted into prestigious universities around the world.

The recital, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 1, will include two 40-minute segments performed by Dmytro and Mykola with a 10-minute intermission. The program will include Beethoven's Sonata No. 14 ("Moonlight Sonata"), Thalberg's Fantasy on Rossini's opera "Moses in Egypt", the Schulz-Evler Transcription of Strauss's The Blue Danube and other pieces by Rachmaninoff, Scriabin, Chopin, and more.

A reception to honor the musicians will be held in the Saguache Methodist Fellowship Hall following the

performances.

This is a benefit concert to support the war victims of Ukraine. This time, however, tickets will cost \$20 per person. After expenses are paid, the rest of the proceeds will all go to help the people of Ukraine. Anyone wishing to donate additional money to the cause will have that opportunity at the concert. Advance purchase of tickets is recommended to ensure a seat. Contact any church member you may know or call 719-850-1590 and leave a message.

"We at the Saguache UMC are totally blessed to be able to host this wonderful evening of musical entertainment and to share it with our town and surrounding area! It's still unbelievable that this amazing opportunity has 'fallen into our laps' in this tiny town of Saguache," Saguache UMC officials stated.

Saguache UMC is at 550 Christy Ave., corner of Christy and 6th Street, in Saguache.



Mykola Suk, a brilliant Ukrainian-American pianist who is on the faculty of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, will be performing at the Saguache United Methodist Church on Feb. 1.

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**Our ad policy:** Valley Publishing accepts all classified advertising except that which it deems objectionable to its readers. Credit or replacement ads will not be given for early ad cancellation.

## DEADLINE

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## 05 Notices

**RIO GRANDE COUNTY, COLORADO IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR THE RIO GRANDE COUNTY ELEVATOR REPAIR AND COMPONENT REPLACEMENT PROJECT.** Sealed proposals are due to the Rio Grande County Administration office by 4:00pm (MT), Friday, February 2nd, 2024. The proposals will be reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners on February 7th, 2024. The project consists of: Repairs and component replacement of the County Courthouse elevator in accordance with all requirements described in the Statement of Work. Digital copies of the bid documents are available at [www.riograndecounty.org](http://www.riograndecounty.org). Bidders must be licensed to perform work within the state of Colorado. Bids must remain in effect for 60 days after the bid opening date. RIO GRANDE COUNTY reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities in the bids and bidding deemed to be in the

best interests of RIO GRANDE COUNTY, and to reject non-conforming, nonresponsive, or conditional bids. (1-31)

**We buy antler:** Use code "ELK17" and you will get \$17/lb for Elk Grade A and \$12/lb for Deer Grade A. 5 miles west of Del Norte on Hwy 160. 719-657-0942 (TFN)

**For information on meetings for ALANON NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS AND ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** Please visit [slvaa.org](http://slvaa.org) or call 719-937-5083.

## 07 Help Wanted

We are seeking a responsible,

self motivated, "preferably" experienced dental assistant to join our amazing team at Harding Dental Group where our patients experience the difference at the premiere dental practice in the San Luis Valley. We use the latest technology and materials to provide exceptional dental care to our growing patient population. Please email resumes to [june@hardingdentalgroup.com](mailto:june@hardingdentalgroup.com). (1-31)

**Terrace Irrigation Company** is seeking an individual for the position of Ditch Rider/Reservoir Superintendent. The position includes monitoring reservoir

## FULL-TIME SALES

**Valley Publishing has an immediate need in advertising sales (full-time). Any sales experience is appreciated but will train. Email resume to General Manager Brian Williams at [bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com](mailto:bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com)**

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# Valley Wide Classifieds

levels, adjusting and maintaining head-gates and ditches, and daily recordkeeping of water deliveries, in order to ensure accurate delivery of water to users. Farm or water delivery background helpful but not required. There will be on the job training. Mileage reimbursement will be provided. Salary dependent on experience. Contact the Ditch Secretary at 719-852-2144 for an application. (1-31)

## 10 Apartments

Three-bedroom, one-bath apartment for rent, South fork \$850.00 No Pets 719-580-1510 (1-31)

## 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)

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# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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**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



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**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



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**Rito Hondo Estates - 18 Rural Mountain Lots Available**  
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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



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**Steffens & Company Realty**

**719-873-5605**

30635 US HWY 160  
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**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.



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**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



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# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



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**TATE HUFFAKER**  
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30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



Beautiful 7.0 Acres provides for an easy build and is nice, flat multiple building location possibilities. Electricity to lot line, incredible mountain views, mature aspen trees, access to the community pavilion, stocked lake and warming cabin, camping is allowed prior to buildout and community trash service is provided.

Call Yvonne Hoffman today for more information.

**\$161,900 | MLS# 808914**  
284 Lake Drive, South Fork, CO

**YVONNE HOFFMAN**  
ASSOCIATE BROKER | REALTOR®  
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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.

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30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



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

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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.

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Del Norte, Colorado

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30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado

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30635 W. US HWY 160  
South Fork, Colorado



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

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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

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30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



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  - Made proper
  - Medical buildings
  - Patty Hearst's captors
  - Hits with a drop shot
  - Italy's PM 1919-20
  - Promotions
  - En \_\_: incidentally
  - Queens baseball team
  - Commoner
  - Expenses in insurance world (abbr.)
  - Payroll firm
  - Broadway actress Daisy
  - Skipper butterflies
  - Hint
  - Daniel \_\_, French composer
  - English children's author Blyton
  - Midway between east and southeast

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	26	27	28	29							
30								31			
32									33	34	35
					38	39	40		41	42	
					43			44			
47	48					49			50	51	52
										53	54
55						56				57	
59											58
62						63					
										64	

- CLUES DOWN**
- Parts per thousand (abbr.)
  - Jump
  - Eaten as a vegetable
  - Residual paresis after anesthesia
  - Brunchtime staple
  - Makes money off of
  - Refined
  - Nocturnal S. American rodents
  - From a distance
  - Officials
  - It helps you see
  - Central Canadian indigenous person
  - Invests in little enterprises
  - They help in tough situations
  - Industrial port in Poland
  - Type of screen
  - Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
  - Alcoholic beverage
  - Newspapers need it
  - Herbal tea
  - Distinctive practice
  - Exercise system \_\_-bo
  - Explosive
  - Belonging to a thing
  - Presidential candidates engage in them
  - Of the Swedes
  - Meadow-grass
  - "Rule, Britannia" composer
  - Hooray!
  - Greek city
  - One way to do it by example
  - Limited
  - "Game of Thrones" actress Headey
  - Swiss river
  - Drought-resistant plant
  - A French abbot
  - One point east of northeast
  - Get free of

### Solution to last week's puzzle

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

# CPW secures source population of 15 gray wolves for reintroduction efforts

**By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE**

DENVER — In an agreement announced Friday between Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the tribes will be a source for up to 15 wolves for the Colorado gray wolf reintroduction effort. CPW plans for these wolves to be captured on tribal lands during the capture season from December 2024-March 2025. The agreement between the state of Colorado and the state of Oregon to allow for the translocation of ten wolves this season has been successfully completed.

"We are grateful to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for working with our agency on this critical next step in reintroducing gray wolves in the state," said CPW Director Jeff Davis. "This agreement helps CPW to continue to meet our unanimously adopted Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan goal of translocating

10-15 gray wolves per capture season for a total of 30-50 wolves."

"The Colville Tribes is very pleased to partner with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to restore the wolf population in Colorado," said Chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Jarred-Michael Erickson. "The Colville people strongly believe in preserving our environment, including its fish and animals. We are thrilled that our restoration efforts on our own lands have progressed far enough that we can share some

of these magnificent creatures with the citizens of Colorado."

Tribal representatives will provide guidance to CPW on target packs, avoiding packs with known active chronic depredation behavior.

Between Dec. 18-22, 2023, Colorado Parks and Wildlife fulfilled their statutory responsibility and successfully released 10 gray wolves onto public land in Summit and Grand counties. CPW will not capture and release more wolves in the current capture season, which runs until

mid-March 2024. The next releases will not occur until the December 2024-March 2025 capture season. Although the agency could release up to five more wolves this capture season according to its Wolf Restoration and Management Plan, the additional time will allow the agency to assess the releases in December and let CPW staff adjust to any increased workload of having wolves on the ground in Colorado, as well as allow time for the additional resources for CPW and the Colorado Department

of Agriculture to support ranchers proposed in the Governor's budget to become effective July 1.

"After an incredibly successful first release of wolves from Oregon last month, our focus will be on refining our internal processes, continuing the work we're already doing to bolster our staff expertise and honing our notification structure so the public is well informed regarding release efforts, while also balancing the need for the safety and security of staff and gray wolves," Davis said.



## Creede Arts Council opens call for entry for the 2024 National Small Print Show

**By CREEDE ARTS COUNCIL**

CREEDE — The Creede Arts Council recently announced that the call for entry for the 23rd Annual National Small Print Show is officially open.

The annual National Small Print Show (NSPS) is a unique art show of matted hand-pulled prints. Artists from all 50 states and Canada are invited to submit up to three original prints to exhibit and sell. The judge for 2024 will be renowned artist-printmaker Theresa Haberkorn.

Prints will be exhibited at the Creede Repertory Theatre in Creede. Surrounded by the Rio Grande National Forest, Creede has been recognized as one of the "Best Small Art Towns" with artists, galleries, a theatre, and a strong summer tourism economy.

The Creede Arts Council is hosting the National Small Print Show in-person and virtually in 2024.

"We are excited about the opportunity to share this show with patrons in Creede and beyond," CAC officials stated.

Head to [www.creedeartsCouncil.com/national-small-print-show](http://www.creedeartsCouncil.com/national-small-print-show), to access the Call for Entry and for more information on the NSPS exhibit.

Entries must be postmarked to the Creede Arts Council by March 29.

For more information, email [creedearts@outlook.com](mailto:creedearts@outlook.com) or call 719-658-0312.

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# SKATE Continued from Page 1

deems the ice rink unfit for skating. On Feb. 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Rickel Park, the South Fork Chamber of Commerce is also hosting the inaugural Hockey on the Rio, a youth hockey tournament that will be followed by a Saturday Skate Night. Youth hockey enthusiasts aged 14 and under will engage in thrilling 3-on-3 gameplay across various age brackets. The Town of South Fork is assisting with this first-ever event.

Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs and immerse themselves in the action while enjoying bonfires warming up the event. The tournament promises more than just hockey, with live DJ entertainment, local restaurants offering hockey-themed specials throughout the day, and a variety of attractions adding to the excitement.

"We want this to be a family centered event and we are excited to welcome youth hockey participants from Alamosa, South Fork and Creede. We will be playing a round robin style tournament with a three-on-three format. The winner of each age group will receive a customized hockey puck and a picture in the South Fork Times," said new South Fork Chamber of Commerce Administrator Renee LeSueur.

The South Fork Visitor Center will



Courtesy photos

also host its Saturday Skate Night party after the tournament which will have bonfires, free skates for those who need them and sledding opportunities dependent on snow.

For updates, visit [www.SouthForkChamber.com](http://www.SouthForkChamber.com) or follow the South Fork Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.



Courtesy photos

# Cres Town Continued from Page 1

We want to help others." Daniels said the orphanage would be the beginning of help, but the group also has a friend who they could work with in other ways, such as Palestinian War Relief.

"I am working with a woman from England named Sarah Fenn. She is a national artist. She wants to do a Palestinian Relief. I want to approach this as let's help the children involved. I want to approach this with humanitarian help. I don't want to offend anyone, just help everyone. The mindset of peace on earth just helps the world," he said.



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# 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual

Southern Rocky Mountain

# Agriculture Conference

## Education Program & Trade Show

*A Conference on Balancing Fundamentals with Innovation*

### Outcalt Conference and Event Center at SLV Ski Hi Complex Monte Vista February 6-8, 2024



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# Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference Feb. 6-8

By LARRY BROWN

SLV Area Extension Director and Ag Business Agent

**MONTE VISTA** — The 2024 Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Education Conference and Trade Show will be Feb. 6-8, at the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski-Hi Complex. The theme of the 42nd annual conference is “Adapt and Innovate: A conference on balancing fundamentals and innovation.” You can register by going to the website, [www.agconferencesrm.com](http://www.agconferencesrm.com).

The conference will begin each morning with a breakfast for registered participants. There will also be lunch each day for those registered, and a social hour the first two days. All these meals are sponsored by various San Luis Valley businesses.

We will have legislative, economic, and market updates from Colorado Farm Bureau, Rocky Mountain Farmer’s Union, CO Bank, and Potatoes USA.

The Colorado State University Ag Business Management team will present a comprehensive market analysis and outlook, ag family estate and succession planning, and will demonstrate spreadsheet tools for determining cost-of-production and for projecting cash flow and profitability

of different management strategies.

The SLV Research Center and Extension teams will present research findings on various potato production, storage, and disease topics. We will explore various innovative technologies for measuring soil moisture and for improving irrigation efficiency.

There will also be sessions on several low-water use, alternative crops: some which are producing amazing forage yields, and others which are starting to show real promise as potential cash crops, including millet.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Temple Grandin from CSU, a world-renowned authority on humane livestock handling and accomplished author and speaker on thriving with autism. Her keynote address will be the same title and topic as her most recent book, “Visual Thinking: The hidden gifts of people who think in pictures, patterns, and abstractions.” She will follow that with a presentation on her livestock handling techniques, and she will sit on a panel delving into virtual livestock fencing, alongside producers and agency partners who have first-hand experience using this exciting and challenging new technology.

Other livestock topics will include



File photo

The Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show is expecting more than 100 vendors for the trade show.

fundamentals and innovations in calving and lambing, and neonatal survival. We will also talk about testing instead of guessing when it comes to knowing the nutritive value of hay and forage.

We will have a health and wellness room, which will include sessions on Agribility, and COMET training. COMET stands for “changing our mental and emotional trajectory” and will help each of us with a few basic skills so that we can “look after our neighbors as close as we do our crop and herd.”

Our water day will include topics on climate forecasting, and how to use this and other tools for water budgeting and planning. We will also discuss innovative technologies to improve water use efficiency from snowpack to head gate.

To learn more details of the

speakers and topics, and to register, go to [www.agconferencesrm.com](http://www.agconferencesrm.com). Or you can also call us at 719-852-7381 or email us at [L.Brown@colostate.edu](mailto:L.Brown@colostate.edu);

colostate.edu; or Jennifer.Norris@colostate.edu. CSU Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.



File photo

The Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show has informational sessions on all three days, Feb. 6-8.



Courtesy photo

The Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show is set for Feb. 6-8 in Monte Vista at the Outcalt Conference and Event Center at SLV Ski Hi Complex.

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# Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference History

## STAFF REPORT

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — Looking back over the past 40-plus years, the Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference began as a small, educational conference for local and visiting agricultural leaders.

According to local historians, there were a couple of ag-related educational events and product shows happening at different times in the San Luis Valley that ultimately joined forces to become the Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference.

An article in the 1982 Monte Vista Journal writes about the formation of the Monte Vista Cooperative in 1949 which later led to the Monte Vista Product Show and the annual Monte Vista Cooperative meeting which took place in the spring of 1982.

During that time, the Monte Vista Cooperative welcomed guest speakers like Current General Manager Doyle Smith and even an appearance by Denver Broncos receiver Steve Watson. The first show included an agricultural history presentation slide show of agriculture in the San Luis Valley which was created by Don Proffer through the Don J. Proffer Production Company.

The two-day event featured contests and prizes, special events for ranchers, farmers and agricultural leaders, merchandise sales, and even a chance for one lucky lady to win \$6,100 to go toward a new kitchen. Guests also attended a pancake dinner and competed in a pie-eating contest.

In the years since the first product show, long-time Monte Vista resident and Monte Vista Agriculture Committee member through the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce, Karla Shriver, said that the chamber created a committee for the agricultural show that was held at the Adams State University campus and served as an educational seminar and conference for members.

In 1987, Shriver joined the agricultural committee and was later appointed Chair in 1988 and that was the first year it moved to Monte Vista and became the only agricultural show for the area.

"I became chair of the committee in 1988 which was the first year it was in Monte Vista. Previously it was held in Alamosa at Adams State University for a few years, before moving to Monte Vista. It was primarily educational then — not many vendors. It was moved to Monte Vista as there was no place at the college to display large pieces of equipment and we didn't have a large space for vendors to display their products for farmers-ranchers to look at," Shriver said.

At the time, Janice Schnieder was the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce manager, and the committee did everything from setting it up to taking it down, Shriver said.

"We had a good group of people on the committee," Shriver said. "We



File photo

did everything. We set up the booth spaces, tables and chairs, made coffee, did the janitorial duties every morning — sweeping the floor and hauling out the trash whenever needed. The building was completely full of vendors even back then. We also used the McMullen Building for display of large equipment back then, too. That was about the time the bowling alley opened. We had our first social hour at the bowling alley. It was a good party. We never did that again. The money raised by the Agricultural Committee from this event supported the operations of the whole chamber even back then. It still does today for the most part."

Now, 40-plus years later, the Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference has grown to something that is looked forward to every year by ranchers and farmers from throughout the state.

This year's conference is on Feb. 6-8. For more information and a full agenda of the Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference, visit [www.agconferencesrm.com](http://www.agconferencesrm.com).

# Dr. Temple Grandin: Bestselling Author & Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University

Presenting three informative sessions on Wednesday, Feb. 7

Keynote Presentations

Keynote Address: Feb. 7 at 11 a.m.: Visual Thinking: The hidden gifts of people who think in pictures, patterns and abstractions.

Feb. 7 at 1:30 p.m.: The Importance of Good Stockmanship

Feb. 7 at 2 p.m.: Virtual Fencing Panel Discussion: People with First Hand Experience Using the Technology

Dr. Grandin is a designer of livestock handling facilities and a Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. Facilities she has designed are located in the United States, Canada, Europe, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, and other countries. In North America, almost half of the cattle are handled in a center track restrainer system that she designed for meat plants. Curved chute and race systems she has designed for cattle are used worldwide and her writings on the flight zone and other principles of grazing animal behavior have helped many people to reduce stress on their animals during handling.

She has also developed an objective scoring system for assessing handling of cattle and pigs at meat plants. This scoring system is being used by many large corporations to improve animal welfare. Other areas of research are cattle temperament, environmental enrichment for pigs, reducing dark cutters and bruises, bull fertility, training

procedures, horse perception of novel objects, and effective stunning methods for cattle and pigs at meat plants.

She obtained her B.A. at Franklin Pierce College and her M.S. in Animal Science at Arizona State University. Dr. Grandin received her Ph.D in Animal Science from the University of Illinois in 1989.

Today she teaches courses on livestock behaviour and facility design at Colorado State University and consults with the livestock industry on facility design, livestock handling, and animal welfare. She has appeared on television shows such as 20/20, 48 Hours, CNN Larry King Live, PrimeTime Live, 60 Minutes, the Today Show, and many shows in other countries. She has been featured in People Magazine, the New York Times, Forbes, U.S. News and World Report, Time Magazine, the New York Times book review, and Discover magazine. In 2010, Time Magazine named her one of the 100 most influential people.

Interviews with Dr. Grandin have been broadcast on National Public Radio and she has a 2010 TED Lecture titled "The World Needs ALL Kinds of Minds." She has also authored over 400 articles in both scientific journals and livestock periodicals on animal handling, welfare, and facility design.

She is the author of "Thinking in Pictures," "Livestock Handling and Transport," "Genetics and the Behavior of Domestic Animals," "Guide to Working with Farm Animals," and "Humane Livestock Handling." Her books "Animals in Translation" and "Animals Make Us Human" were both on the

New York Times best seller list. "Animals Make Us Human" was also on the Canadian best seller list. Her latest book, Calling All Minds, was a New York Times best seller for middle school students.

Her life story has also been made into an HBO movie titled "Temple Grandin,"

starring Claire Danes, which won seven Emmy awards and a Golden Globe. The movie shows her life as a teenager and how she started her career.

In 2017, she was inducted into The Women's Hall of Fame and in 2018 made a fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She was named as one of the top 10 Best College Professors in 2020 by CEO Magazine. In 2022 she was awarded with the University Distinguished Professor degree at Colorado State University. Her latest book, "Visual Thinking: The Hidden Gifts of People who Think in Pictures, Patterns, and Abstractions," was also on the New York Times best seller list.



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# Featured Sessions



## NPC POLITICAL UPDATE

Feb. 6 at 10 a.m.

*Kam Quarles: Chief Executive Officer of the National Potato Council*  
Kam Quarles is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Potato Council. He assumed this role in May of 2019 after serving as Vice President of Public Policy and Communications.

Since taking on the job of running the U.S. potato industry's national trade association, Kam has overseen a comprehensive overhaul of the organization and its activities. These include building a strong team of professional staff and consultants, rebranding the organization and its signature Potato Expo, coordinating the largest disaster relief response in the industry's history, securing significant victories in the long-standing Mexican trade dispute, and supporting a new multimillion-dollar foundation dedicated to industry leadership.

As a national leader in the fruit and vegetable industry, Kam serves as co-chairman of the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance, and as a member of the USDA/USTR Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee.

Prior to joining the Council staff, Kam worked for the international

law firm of McDermott Will & Emery with clients including NPC, the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, Sunkist Growers, Chiquita Brands International, the California Avocado Commission and other specialty crop interests.

He served as a vice president for both the United Fresh Produce Association and the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and the managing director of the D.C. office for Sunkist Growers, the world's largest citrus marketing organization. Kam was also a staff member in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.



## COLORADO LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Feb. 6 at 10:30 a.m.

*James Henderson: Fifth Generation Farmer and Rancher and Vice President of Colorado Farm Bureau*

James Henderson is a fifth-generation farmer and rancher from the San Luis Valley. The ranch, founded in 1882, is primarily in the cow/calf, or beginning part of the beef supply chain; they also grow high quality grains and hay crops for use in the dairy industry. James is passionate about agriculture advocacy, promoting pro-farmer public policy through

his position as Vice President of Colorado Farm Bureau. He is married and has six children.



## AG LABOR LAW (Previously SB087)

Feb. 6 at 11 a.m.

*Dan Waldvogel: Director of External Affairs for Rocky Mountain Farmers Union*

Learn the new regulations affecting Ag Labor including hand weeding, overtime provisions, shade and water restrictions, access to service providers and arbitration process.

For more information about Ag Labor laws, visit these websites:

<https://legiscan.com/CO/bill/SB087/2021>

<https://www.rmfu.org/what-we-do/legislation/8271-2/>

Dan Waldvogel is the Director of External Affairs at the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union where we represent family farming and ranching operations and rural communities across New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming. Dan has a ranching background and has also worked in land access and succession programming to ensure the stewardship of our working lands.



## NAVIGATING THE POTATO SHOPPER'S JOURNEY TO PURCHASE AND THE MEXICO OPPORTUNITY

Feb. 6 at 11:30 a.m.

*Kim Breshears: Chief Marketing Officer at Potatoes USA*

Kim Breshears is the Chief Mar-

keting Officer at Potatoes USA. She is passionate about delivering results, effective communications, and financial stewardship. Her vast marketing experience includes various consumer products, food, technology, tourism, and home-building products. Kim has directed brand, marketing, and communications programs for organizations ranging from large corporations to small businesses, helping position them as recognized leaders in their respective industries. She's a proud graduate of the University of Colorado.



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# Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference Sessions

The educational program covers a wide variety of topics for potato, livestock, and alfalfa producers, as well as alternative crops research, and soil and water management.

## MACRO ECONOMIC OUTLOOK Feb. 6 at 1:30 p.m.

**Tanner Ehmke: Lead Economist – Grain and Oilseeds – Knowledge Exchange Division Co Bank, ACB**  
Tanner Ehmke is the Lead Economist for Grains & Oilseeds at CoBank's Knowledge Exchange research team that provides market and industry outlooks on sectors affecting the rural economy. Prior to joining CoBank in 2015, Tanner farmed and marketed seed for his family's seed company in western Kansas where his family homesteaded in 1885. He previously was a commodities analyst at AgResource Company in Chicago, a markets reporter for Dow Jones at the Chicago Board of Trade, and an agricultural journalist covering crop production and farm business management. Tanner holds a bachelor's in Agricultural Economics and a master's in Agricultural Business, both from Kansas State University.

## FORAGE TESTING FOR LIVESTOCK NUTRITION Feb. 6 at 1:30 p.m.

**Travis Taylor: CSU Extension – Golden Plains Area Livestock Specialist – Yuma County**  
Travis was raised on a family ranch and dryland farm in Karval. He and his wife Lacey still raise Angus and commercial cattle with the family operation. The operation currently calves out 300 head each spring, as well as has a small flock of commercial blackface sheep. He and his daughter Mikaela enjoyed developing a small herd of Shorthorn and Shorthorn cross cattle as her 4-H/FFA project. He has previously raised and sold 4-H/FFA project pigs, lambs and goats to members across Colorado and Wyoming.

## SOIL MOISTURE SENSOR TECHNOLOGY Feb. 6 at 1:30 p.m.

**Leroy Salazar: Soil Moisture Sensor Technology**

## AG MARKET OUTLOOK Feb. 6 at 2:15 p.m.

**Stephen R. Koontz: Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at CSU Fort Collins**

Stephen Koontz is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and has been a faculty member at Colorado State University since January 1998. His responsibilities are research, teaching, and outreach. His teaching program includes graduate courses in research methods and undergraduate courses in agricultural and commodity marketing, commodity market analysis, and commercial agriculture production systems. His outreach programs are in the areas of commodity market outlook and price analysis, futures markets and risk management, and market organization and performance. His research focuses on livestock and meat product markets and pricing systems.

## NOZZLE CONSIDERATIONS Feb. 6 at 2:30 p.m.

**Jason Lorenz: Engineer at Agro Engineering**

Jason Lorenz is an engineer at Agro Engineering. His focus is on irrigation water management and irrigation system design along with engineering analysis for water rights cases. Jason holds a Bachelors and Master's of Science from Colorado State University along with a professional engineering license in the State of Colorado. He is a native of the San Luis Valley and lives here with his wife Kathy.

## DO YOU LOOK AFTER YOUR NEIGHBORS AS CLOSE AS YOUR CROP OR HERD? Feb. 6 at 3:30 p.m.

**Chad Reznicek: State Behavioral Health Specialist with the Office of Engagement and Extension and the Colorado AgrAbility Project**

**Rebecca Hill: Extension Professor in the Office of Engagement and Extension and the Co-Director of the Colorado AgrAbility Project**

**JC Carrica: Vice-President & Chief of Healthcare Innovation & Strategy for Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.**

**Chad Reznicek is the State Behavioral Health Specialist with the Office of Engagement and Extension and the Colorado AgrAbility Project, committed to helping expand and improve behavioral health support and resources in rural communities. Prior to joining the AgrAbility Team, Chad spent 20 years as a licensed therapist, providing behavioral health services in diverse settings with special focus areas in suicide prevention, Please see AGENDA on Page 7**



## Chef Jason K. Morse, CEC: Founder of Chef J's BBQ Provisions, National Spokesperson/BBQ Expert — Ace Hardware Corporation

Chef Jason has spent a lifetime behind the grills and smokers and is now able to interact with consumers daily to help them cook better with some of the best grilling and smoking tools on the market. As the Ace Hardware National Spokesperson and BBQ Expert, Chef Jason is proud to call Ace his culinary home. Chef Jason helps make grilling fun, tasty and makes it easy to create barbecue magic in your own backyard.

Jason is a Certified Executive Chef and member of the American Culinary Federation. Jason has been featured on the Food Network, National and Local Media segments, was a morning show chef for a Denver Radio station and currently produces the Colorado Department of Agriculture monthly recipes for local Colorado media.

Jason has been published in the Colorado Classique Junior League of Denver Cookbook, and various local publications. Chef works with many Colorado Agricultural groups like, Colorado Farm Bureau, Colorado

Beef Council, Colorado Pork Producers, Colorado Potatoes, Colorado Wool Growers Association and the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

Jason works with and supports groups like the Ace Foundation, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and The Colorado FFA Foundation.

Chef Jason attended Johnson and Wales University in Charleston, SC and graduated Summa cum laude and was honored with the Apprenti Cuisinier award for Classic French pastry, among other prestigious culinary honors.

Chef Jason Morse is presenting a potato cooking demonstration on Tuesday, Feb. 6.







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# Ag Conference Schedule



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The agenda is subject to change.

### Tuesday, Feb. 6

7:30-9 a.m. Breakfast Sponsored by MV Coop

8-10 a.m. Visit Trade Show Vendors

9:40 a.m. National Anthem

9:45-9:55 a.m. Official Conference Opening, Pledge of Allegiance, Welcome, Introduction of Ag Conference Planning Committee - Larry Brown, CSU-SLV Area Ag Business Agent/Director

10-10:25 a.m. NPC Political Update - Kam Quarles, Chief Executive Officer, National Potato Council

10:30-10:55 a.m. Colorado Legislative Update - James Henderson, Vice Pres. Colo Farm Bureau

11-11:25 a.m. Federal Legislative Update - Dan Waldvogel, Director of External Affairs, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union

11:30-11:55 a.m. Navigating the Potato Shopper's Journey to

Purchase and the Mexico Opportunity - Kim Breshers, Chief Marketing Officer, Potatoes USA

Noon-1:20 p.m. Lunch Sponsored by Farm Credit

1:20 p.m. Diamond Sponsor Presentation Plant Nutrient Solutions

1:30-2:10 p.m. Macro Economic Outlook - Tanner Ehmke, Lead Economist, Co Bank, ACB

1:30-3 p.m. Forage Testing for Livestock Nutrition Workshop - Travis Taylor, CSU Livestock Ext. Agent, GPA

1:30-1:55 p.m. Soil Moisture Sensor Technology - A Farmer's Experience - LeRoy Salazar, Farmer & Engineer and Company Reps

1:30-3 p.m. Family Farm Estate and Succession Planning Workshop - Jeff Tranel - Regional Extension Specialist, CSU

2-2:25 p.m. Pivot Controllers & Remote Water Measuring - Wade Henderson, P.E. & Caleb Brown, Mechanical Eng. - Sky Hi Engineering

2:15-3 p.m. Ag Markets Outlook - Stephen Koontz, Dept. Ag & Resource Econ CSU

2:30-3 p.m. Nozzle Considerations - Jason Lorenz, P.E. Agricultural Engineer, Agro Eng.

3-3:15 p.m. BREAK - all rooms

3:20 p.m. Diamond Sponsor Presentation Wilbur Ellis

3:30-4:25 p.m. Irrigation Efficiency Panel: VFD, Magnets and More - Wade Henderson, Kyler Brown, Jason Lorenz, Grant Mattive, Sherry Haugen, Larry Brown and Nathan Coombs - Moderator

3:30-5 p.m. COMET Training: Do you look after your neighbors as close as your crop or herd? - Rebecca Hill, Chad Reznicek and JC Carrica - Colorado AgrAbility Project

3:30-4:30 p.m. Ram Testing for Fertility & Disease Management: B-Ovis and Others - Geri Parsons, Optimal Livestock Services, LLC

3:30-3:55 p.m. Changes to Colorado Seed Potato Law - Jim Ehrlich, CPAC Executive Director

4-4:25 p.m. The Effect PVY has on Yield and the Current PVY Situation in the SLV - Andrew Houser, Manager, Colo. Potato Certification Service, SLV Research Center

4:30-5 p.m. Detection and Characterization of Mixed Infection of Potato Virus Y (PVY) in the San Luis Valley - Vamsi Nalam, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Biology, CSU

4:30-5 p.m. Wetlands and Riparian Restoration Opportunities with Infrastructure Investment and Inflation Reduction (IIJA and BIL) Funding - Jenny Nehring, Biologist, Wetland Dynamics, LLC

4:30-5 p.m. Pregnancy Testing Ewes with Ultrasound and Blood Testing - Geri Parsons, Optimal Livestock Services, LLC

5 p.m. Social Hour Sponsored by C-PAC and Sunflower Bank

### Wednesday, Feb. 7

7:30-9 a.m. Breakfast Sponsored by SLVREC

8-10 a.m. Visit Trade Show Vendors

8:15-8:45 a.m. DEMO: Autonomous Pivot - Daniel Jenkins

8:45-9:15 a.m. DEMO - Drone Exhibition - Chad Price, MV Coop

9:20 a.m. National Anthem

9:30-10:25 a.m. GUT Informed: The Connection Between Gut Health and Soil Health - Carley Smith, NTP CGP

10:30-10:55 a.m. CSU Introductions - Zach Czarnecki, Larry Brown and Amy Charkowski, Dept Head Ag Biology, CSU

11:00-12 a.m. KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Visual Thinking: The hidden gifts of people who think in pictures, patterns, and abstractions - Dr. Temple Grandin, Professor of Animal Science, CSU

Noon-1:20 p.m. Lunch Sponsored by Frontier Bank

1:20 p.m. Diamond Sponsor Presentation

1:30-1:55 p.m. The Importance of Good Stockmanship - Dr. Temple Grandin, Prof. of Animal Science, CSU

1:20 p.m. Diamond Sponsor Presentation Yara

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# AGENDA Continued from Page 5

trauma, mood disorders, adolescent issues, and substance abuse. Chad grew up in a small town in central Nebraska with a deep respect for agriculture as the heart of our rural communities.

Rebecca Hill is an Extension Professor in the Office of Engagement and Extension and the Co-Director of the Colorado AgrAbility Project. Rebecca has a passion for community and economic development, particularly in rural areas, and believes that a focus on health is essential in these efforts.

JC is a 1996 graduate from the University of Southern Colorado, 2009 Graduate of Adams State College, and 2014 Graduate of Creighton

University. He has a Doctorate in Interdisciplinary Leadership, a MA in Counseling and is a Certified Addictions Specialist. As a fourth generation Otero County, Colorado resident, he has a special interest in representing those in our agricultural industry. His goal is to break through barriers affecting healthcare access and improve people's behavioral health. He currently serves as the Vice-President & Chief of Healthcare Innovation & Strategy for Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.

### CHANGES TO COLORADO SEED POTATO LAW Feb. 6 at 3:30 p.m.

*Jim Ehrlich: Executive Director of*

*the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee San Luis Valley*

Jim Ehrlich is the Executive Director of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee in the San Luis Valley of Colorado. Jim has a B.S. in Agronomy from Colorado State University and has spent his entire adult life working in agriculture. First as a farmer, then as an agronomist for Coors Brewing Company, and now represents Colorado's potato growers with a true passion for potatoes and potato growers. His mantra is potatoes are good for you, and farmers are the life blood of our country.

### IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY PANEL

### Feb. 6 at 3:30 p.m.

*Jason Lorenz: Engineer at Agro Engineering*

Jason Lorenz is an engineer at Agro Engineering. His focus is on irrigation water management and irrigation system design along with engineering analysis for water rights cases. Jason holds a Bachelors and Master's of Science from Colorado State University along with a professional engineering license in the State of Colorado. He is a native of the San Luis Valley and lives here with his wife Kathy.

### THE EFFECT PVY HAS ON YIELD AND CURRENT PVY SITUATION IN THE SLV

Feb. 6 at 4 p.m.

*Andrew Houser: Manager, Colorado Potato Certification Service*

Andrew has been working on

potato disease issues at the SLV Research Center for the last 23 years. He received his BS in Botany from Adams State College in 1999, an MS in Horticulture with a plant pathology emphasis in 2008 and his PhD from Colorado State University in 2018. Since 2016, Andrew has been the Manager for the Colorado Potato Certification Service, which certifies all seed potatoes for the State of Colorado. He and his staff work with local potato seed growers to produce high quality seed potatoes.

### DETECTION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF MIXED INFECTION OF POTATO VIRUS Y (PVY) IN THE SAN LUIS VALLEY

Feb. 6 at 4:30 p.m.

*Please see SESSIONS on Page 8*

# Ag Conference Schedule

Continued

1:30-1:55 p.m. Potatoes USA Research Group - "Helping Potato Scientists and Breeders Help Growers" - John Lundeen, Research Director, Potato USA

1:30-1:55 p.m. Best Management Practices to Control Puncture Vine (Goat heads) - Kristi Bartolo, Agronomy Specialist, CSU Extension

2-2:55 p.m. Virtual Fencing Panel - People with First Hand Experience Using the Technology - Dr. Temple Grandin; Michael Moon - Ranch Manager; Berkeley Bayuk - CSU Intern; Meg Shelley, RGNF Saguache District, Chelsea Pridemore - Rancher; Todd Hagenbuch, CSU Ext. - Moderator

2-2:25 p.m. 2023 Certified Seed Post Harvest Test Update - Andrew Houser, Manager, Colo. Potato Certification Service, SLV Research Center

2-3 p.m. Black Oats & Other Forage Cover Crops Panel - Tommy Biel, Mattea & Tanner Freel, Wade Henderson, Clay Mitchell, Jeff Davidson - Moderator

2-2:55 p.m. AgrAbility - Supporting Farmers and Ranchers Physical and Behavioral Health - Rebecca Hill, CSU Ext. State Specialist & Co-Director of AgrAbility Project; Chad Reznicek, MA, LPC, Behavioral Health Specialist & Colorado AgrAbility Project

2:30-3 p.m. CSU Potato Breeding and Selection Program Update - Caroline Gray, Potato Breeding and Selection, CSU San Luis Valley Research Center

3-3:30 p.m. BREAK - All Rooms

3:20 p.m. Diamond Sponsor Presentation Hay Guard - Silo Guard

3:30-5 p.m. Calving and Lambing Presentation: Innovations and Fundamentals - Tim Holt DVM, Clinical Sciences, CSU & Curtis Crawford DVM, Alpine Veterinary Clinic & Geri Parsons, Optimal Livestock Services, LLC

3:30-3:55 p.m. Placement of Blended Liquid Phosphorus Fertilizers for Sustainable Potato Production - Samuel YC Essah, Associate Professor & Extension Specialist, CSU, SLV Research Center

3:30-3:55 p.m. Alternative Crops - Millets and Legumes Looking Promising - Jeff Davidson, Assistant Manager-Operations, Arkansas Valley Research Center

3:30-5 p.m. Using EPIC Spreadsheet for Cost of Production, Cash Flow, and Sensi-

tivity Analysis - Jeff Tranel, Regional Ext. Specialist, CSU

4-4:25 p.m. SLVRC Potato Pathology Updates - 2023 - Mohamad Chikh-Ali, Ph.D. Research Professor, Extension Specialist, Plant Pathology Program

4-4:25 p.m. Is All This Soils Health Stuff Worth It? - Rob Jones, Jones Farms Organics

4:30-5 p.m. Noxious Weed Law - Armando Ross, RG Weed Manager

4:30-5 p.m. Recreational Impacts to Working Lands - Dani Robben, SLVGO, Community Connections Coordinator; Bethany Howell, Dir. Strategic Outreach and Engagement, CDA

5 p.m. Social Hour Sponsored by SLV Federal Bank

## Thursday, Feb. 8

7:30-9 a.m. Breakfast Sponsored by 1st Southwest Bank

8-10 a.m. Visit Trade Show Vendors

8:15-8:50 a.m. Reducing Taxes by Increasing Philanthropy in Your Estate Planning - Bill Sheets, Sr Director, CSU Office of Gift Planning; Ali Eccleston, Managing Director of Development CSUOEE

8:15-8:50 a.m. Photographic Tour of Automated Head Gates - Bruce Bacon, Principle Engineer/Owner Hydologik

9 a.m. National Anthem

9-9:10 a.m. Diamond Sponsor Presentation

9:10-9:25 a.m. RGWCD Introductions and Brief Update - Amber Pacheco, Deputy General Mgr. - RGWCD

9:30-10:15 a.m. Southern Colorado Long Term Climate Outlook - Becky Bolinger, CSU Assistant State Climatologist

10:20-10:45 a.m. Overview of Colorado Weather Modification Programs - Andrew Rickert, Program Manager, Colorado Water Conservation Board

10:50-11:45 a.m. Snowpack to Headgate - Surface Water Management - Nathan Coombs and Pat McDermott, DWR

11:45-12 p.m. Closing Comments and Conference Closing - Larry Brown and Zach Czarnecki - CSU

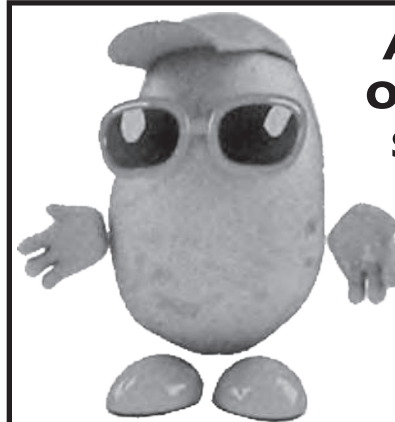
12 p.m. Lunch Sponsored by Del Norte Bank

1 p.m. Commercial Applicator and Private Applicator Continuing Education, 7-Core Credits - Don Henderson, DP Ag Services

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# SESSIONS

Continued from Page 7

**Vamsi Nalam: CSU Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural Biology within the College of Agricultural Sciences.**

Vamsi Nalam earned his M.S. in crop sciences from Oregon State University and a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from the University of North Texas. Following his Ph.D., he served as an assistant professor at Purdue University Fort Wayne for three years. In 2018, he joined CSU as an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Biology within the College of Agricultural Sciences.

## GUT INFORMED: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN GUT HEALTH AND SOIL HEALTH

Feb. 7 at 9:30 a.m.

**Carley Smith: Nutritional Therapist, Certified Gut and Psychology Syndrome (GAPS) Practitioner, and Registered Yoga Teacher**

Carley Smith, AKA Fairy Gutmother, is a Nutritional Therapist, Certified Gut and Psychology Syndrome (GAPS) Practitioner, and Registered Yoga Teacher. Carley became interested in health and nutrition after being diagnosed with Lyme disease and using food as medicine emphasizing gut health to help heal. She became so empowered in the progress of her healing based on diet and lifestyle changes emphasizing gut health that she started her business, Fairy Gutmother to help others.

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO CONTROL PUNCTURE VINE (GOAT HEADS)

Feb. 7 at 1:30 p.m.

**Kristi Bartolo: Agronomy Agent CSU Extension Office Pueblo County**

Kristi Bartolo is the Agronomy Specialist with CSU Extension in Pueblo County, helping farmers with crop related issues from pests and disease to labor and markets and has conducted in-field trials. Kristi earned an MS/BS in biology from Colorado State University Pueblo in 2017. She was born and raised in Pueblo, CO and continues farming on the family property there. Aside from farming she enjoys many outdoor activities and spending time with family and her faith community.

## HELPING POTATO SCIENTISTS AND BREEDER HELP GROWERS

Feb. 7 at 1:30 p.m.

**John Lundeen: Research Director - Potatoes USA Research Group**

## 2023 CERTIFIED SEED POST HARVEST TEST UPDATE

Feb. 7 at 2 p.m.

**Andrew Houser: Manager, Colorado Potato Certification Service**

## AGRABILITY – SUPPORTING FARMERS' AND RANCHERS' AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Feb. 7 at 2 p.m.

**Chad Reznicek: State Behavioral Health Specialist with the Office of Engagement and Extension and the Colorado AgrAbility Project**

**Rebecca Hill: Extension Professor in the Office of Engagement and Extension and the Co-Director of the Colorado AgrAbility Project**

## CSU POTATO BREEDING AND SELECTION PROGRAM UPDATE

Feb. 7 at 2:30 p.m.

**Caroline Gray: Applied Potato Breeder CSU -San Luis Valley**

Caroline Gray is the applied potato breeder for Colorado State University. She has worked for the Potato Breeding and Selection Program for thirteen years, located at the San Luis Valley Research Center. Caroline received her M.S. in Plant Breeding and Genetics in 2001, as well as a B.S. in Soils (1998) from Virginia Polytechnic and State University. She worked in the soybean breeding programs at both Virginia Tech and the University of Arkansas before coming to Colorado.

## CALVING & LAMBING: FUNDAMENTALS & INNOVATIONS

Feb. 7 at 3:30 p.m.

**Curtis Crawford: Veterinarian at Alpine Veterinary Hospital, PC**

Curtis Crawford has been a veterinarian at Alpine Veterinary Hospital, PC since 1997. Born and raised on a family cattle ranch/farm in Springer NM where his family still holds to their agricultural roots. Graduated from Colorado State University in 1986, and came back to rural, mixed animal practice caring for most all

of God's creatures from mice to ostriches and camels but greatest satisfaction comes from dogs, cats, and livestock. Currently serves on the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association Board of Directors as the Colorado Delegate to the American Veterinary Medical Association and the San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair Scientific Review Committee. Glad to call the San Luis Valley home for his wife, two married children, two grandchildren, a handful of meat goats, and a goofy little Corgi named Reba.

## PLACEMENT OF BLENDED LIQUID PHOSPHORUS FERTILIZERS FOR SUSTAINABLE POTATO PRODUCTION

Feb. 7 at 3:30 p.m.

**Dr. Samuel YC Essah: Associate Professor and Extension Specialist at CSU Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture**

Dr. Samuel YC Essah is Associate Professor and Extension Specialist at Colorado State University, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, San Luis Valley Research Center. Samuel Essah is the program leader for the Potato Field Management and Whole Plant Physiology program at the San Luis Valley Research Center. Samuel conducts research to develop cultural management guidelines for the successful, sustainable, and economic production of potato cultivars, which optimize their genetic yield and quality potential, while minimizing economic input and environmental degradation. Samuel has contributed to the release of several Colorado potato varieties from the Colorado State University potato breeding and development program. Prior to joining Colorado State University, Samuel was a postdoctoral research fellow at the USDA-ARS plant, soil, and water research lab in Orono, Maine.

## IS ALL THIS SOIL HEALTH STUFF WORTH IT?

Feb. 7 at 4 p.m.

**Rob Jones: Biologist and Farmer**

Born and raised in Hooper on a small farm. Graduated from Bryan College in Dayton, Tenn., major in Biology (1978) and returned to the family farm, farming focus. Married Beth Boggs (also Biology Major) 3 children. Changed to organic farming in 2005, oldest son Michael and wife Sarah joined the operation in 2018, along with their three girls. Farming focused on: soil regeneration through grazing, crop rotations, marketing crops through direct sales

## SLVRC POTATO PATHOLOGY UPDATES – 2023

Feb. 7 at 4 p.m.

**Mohamad Chikh-Ali, PH. D: Research Professor/Extension Specialist – Plant Pathology Program – CSU San Luis Valley Center**

Dr. Chikh-Ali is the potato pathologist at the San Luis Valley Research Center at Colorado State University. Dr. Chikh-Ali received his master's and PhD degrees in Plant Pathology studying potato viruses from Tokyo University of Agriculture, Japan, in 2006 and 2009, respectively. Upon completing his PhD, he was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science that allowed him to conduct research on plant viruses, mainly potato viruses. Before joining Colorado State University in 2022, Dr. Chikh-Ali worked as a plant virologist at the University of Idaho for almost ten years.

## NOXIOUS WEED LAW

Feb. 7 at 4:30 p.m.

**Armando Ross: Supervisor, Rio Grande County Weed District**

Armando Ross is the Supervisor for the Rio Grande County Weed District. He has been there for the past five years. He has been involved in the agronomy part agriculture for 25 years. He currently sits on the Monte Vista High School FFA and San Luis

Valley Weed Management Association. He also enjoys being involved in our community as he is a referee in many sports.

## SOUTHERN COLORADO'S LONG TERM CLIMATE OUTLOOK

Feb. 8 at 9:30 a.m.

**Becky Bolinger, PhD: Assistant State Climatologist, Colorado Climate Center at CSU**

Becky Bolinger received her B.S. in meteorology from Metro State University of Denver, M.S. in meteorology from Florida State University, and her Ph.D. in atmospheric science from Colorado State University. She is now the Assistant State Climatologist at the Colorado Climate Center (within CSU's department of Atmospheric Science). Her research interests are focused on Colorado's climate variability, climate extremes, and drought. She spends her spare time with her husband and daughter, hiking, cycling, running, and enjoying Colorado's beautiful outdoors.


## OVERVIEW OF COLORADO WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAMS

Feb. 8 at 10 a.m.

**Andrew Rickert: Program Manager for Weather Modification, Colorado Water Conservation Board**

Andrew Rickert is the Program Manager for Weather Modification at the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Rickert began his work with CWCB almost 8 years ago, under the tutelage of Joe Busto. Rickert holds a Bachelors in English from Colorado State University and a Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in Environmental Health and Law from the University of Colorado. Rickert has operated Colorado's Weather Modification Program for the last 5 years, with the hope of continuing to expand existing weather modification programs and implement new permitted programs.

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