

Shorts

Kiwanis pancake breakfast on Saturday

CENTER — The Kiwanis Club will be hosting a pancake breakfast at the Center Consolidated School District cafeteria from 7 to 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27, prior to the annual wrestling tournament. The cost per plate is \$6.

CPAC electing board members at ag conference

MONTEVISTA — 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.

SLV REC, Ciello, Energy Foundation meeting Jan. 30

MONTE VISTA — SLVREC, Ciello and SLVREC Energy Foundation will have the regular meeting of the board of directors at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 30, at 3625 US Highway 160 W, Monte Vista. Advance notice is required to attend the meeting — call 719-852-3538.

2024-25 Alamosa ARTScape call for artists

ALAMOSA — The City of Alamosa is accepting entries now for the eighth annual “Alamosa ARTScape” art-on-loan outdoor public art exhibit. Alamosa ARTScape is open to professional and amateur artists. Applications will be accepted online only at https://artist.callforentry.org/festivals_unique_info.php?ID=12949

Application deadline is March 1. Art will be selected by jury in March and installed on Sept. 13, as part of the Alamosa ARTs Festival on Sept. 13 and 14 in Downtown Alamosa. Installation will be followed by a public-invited artist's reception on Friday evening, and other events with partner Alamosa Farmers' Market on Saturday.

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. *Please see CRESTOWN on Page 5A*

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

Courtesy photo



Mayor Rothermich leads Community Classroom at Haskin Elementary

By MARIEMCCOLM

CENTER — Ashley Lane's fourth-grade classroom is one many third, fourth, and fifth grade classrooms participating in the Community Classroom at Haskin Elementary. The students in each room are given specific job positions, such as a police officer, banker, homework clerk, and mayor, just to name a few of the many positions.

Jentrie Werner Rothermich was the first student in her fourth-grade classroom to apply to be the mayor and was appointed to the position.

Lane is proud of Rothermich for her role as mayor and helping the classroom with problems and discussion.

“The Community Classroom is how we appoint students each a job,” Lane said. “Every student gets paid \$10 a day, depending on the behaviors that kids have in school. Kids can get fined \$5 for certain fines, and \$20 for major fines, like *Please see MAYOR on Page 2A*



Haskin Elementary fourth-grader Jentrie Werner Rothermich was appointed mayor of her classroom. The class and others at the school are participating in the Community Classroom program.



Courtesy photos

Haskin Elementary fourth-grader Jentrie Werner Rothermich was appointed mayor of her classroom. She has enjoyed her time as mayor helping her fellow students.

San Luis Valley Commissioners address migrant issues

By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA — Preparing for the possibility of an influx of migrants, the San Luis Valley Commissioners Association listened to a presentation by Eric Treinen, Director and SLV Emergency Secretary with the Alamosa County Office of Emergency Management, during a regular meeting on Jan. 22. After updating the commissioners regarding the need to plan in the event of an influx of migrants, commissioners discussed the issue. Currently, the Valley has not seen an influx of migrants and commissioners only discussed planning for such an event.

Treinen and other local emergency managers met recently to discuss how to respond to a possible influx to the region such as what happened in Carbondale in December. That small community witnessed the arrival of about 120 migrants, mostly from Venezuela.

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Community supports Lucero at funeral services



By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — More than 300 people attended services for long-time law enforcement officer William “Bill” James Lucero on Saturday, Jan. 20, at Monte Vista High School and Homelake Cemetery. He passed away suddenly on Jan. 9 at his home in Pagosa Springs at the age of 59.

He was born on May 9, 1964, at Monte Vista Hospital to Joe and Erlinda (Manzanares) Lucero. He is survived by his parents, his children — Chance, Kohbe, and Isabella Lucero; his brothers — Anthony Lucero and Danny Lucero; his sisters — Judy Lucero and Jeanette [Randy] Martinez; and many nieces, nephews, great-

Please see LUCERO on Page 8A

Funeral services for William ‘Bill’ James Lucero, who passed away suddenly on Jan. 9, 2024, at his home in Pagosa Springs, were held Saturday, Jan. 20, in Monte Vista. Bill was born in May of 1964 at Monte Vista Hospital.

Photo by Marie Mccolm

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ISSUES Continued from Page 1A

Regarding local shelters in Alamosa County, Treinen said, "They are totally full. That is why we have 150 individuals, plus or minus out on the streets. We are tapped out."

DHS [Colorado Department of Human Services] does not have the resources. Jody Kern from DHS said, "It is a staffing issue, we are in the middle of the unwind for the public health emergency. All of my staff are trying to renew the Medicaid requirements which haven't been done for the last three years as well as we are seeing an unprecedented amount of SNAP and Medicaid applications coming into county departments. If the county commissioners would want a sheltering requirement for us, we would have to pull those resources. That would mean we would be untimely in processing those applications and no funding to do this."

Kern added the American Red Cross would not assist if there were an influx of migrants.

Rio Grande County Commissioner Scott Deacon who did not support

the motion said, "I've had a multitude of people come to me, several constituents have said, 'this is not immigration this is invasion, and a lot of these people are military and we are being invaded by China, Russia, all of them, this is the way they can take America over, and I for one stand strong with the other commissioners and there is no way we're gonna entertain anything in Rio Grande County as far as these people if they show up...like the sheriffs that gas the bus or just moving them on. We don't want 'em, and we can't afford it."

Robert Jackson, Alamosa County Sheriff said, "We've had conversations recently with immigration and they are reluctant to take a stand for obvious reasons."

Jackson said migrants in the country legally would have documents proving that and "if they do not, if they have no documents at all to call them (immigration) they will come out and process them, they're not going to deport them, not even take them into custody and we certainly are not either unless they have committed a crime."

Regarding immigration officers Jackson said, "They're, not going to take them into custody, they're not going to deport them. They are just going to document they made contract with them."

Jackson concluded his comments with, "Welcome to our world, we don't know what to do either."

Saguache County Commissioner Tom McCracken offered, "I probably think compassion ought to be our guiding light here. We have to deal with the actual issues. I don't think passing a resolution that we're not going to deal with it is going to help. If we're going to deal with it, we have to deal with it."

Alamosa County Commissioner Vern Heersink said, "We're not a sanctuary county, we're trying to get that message out. Be prepared if they do show up and may have small children and it is cold out. I'm in favor of having of our emergency managers coming up with an emergency plan."

After a discussion of the issue, the group passed a motion to allow all the county emergency services managers

to work collaboratively.

Deacon told the Valley Courier he did not support the motion, "Because I've only been doing this for four years and when we go to committee it's kick the can. That is what has happened so many times. Mineral and Rio Grande both put out resolutions and we were hoping to get everybody on board with that and I just think...Rio Grande is going to stay firm on this, my phone has been blowing up. Constituents told us what they wanted. I'm one commissioner, I am their servant and I work for the people and that is why I had to do what I had to do, I look at this not as immigration but as invasion, believe this is the way they are going to take America over. We're the last free country, they got Russian and Chinese."

The Valley Courier has requested a copy of the resolution from Mineral

County that Deacon referenced.

In other matters discussed during the meeting, Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske gave an update on the new office building for District Attorney Anne Kelly and said the project was moving forward. Kelly expressed her gratitude to the commissioners for facilitating the new offices. Alamosa County Administrator Roni Wisdom spoke about the building which was donated by Alamosa State Bank.

"This is an awesome opportunity for us," said Wisdom.

Larry Brown from CSU Extension gave an update and spoke about the annual agriculture conference next month with keynote speaker and CSU faculty member Dr. Temple Grandin. Janae Naranjo from CSU Extension spoke about some upcoming free classes.

MAYOR Continued from Page 1A

if they are caught cheating or stealing or things like that. The kids are the ones that are running the classroom. The kids will bring the problems and discuss them with the mayor to see how we can solve these problems and make a better classroom?"

Rothermich, who is 10 years old, explained that once a week a big class meeting is held when students can discuss their problems and find a way to correct them within the classroom.

"So, I would say this meeting is now called to order," Rothermich said. "Then everyone would stand up and do the pledge. I would say we will be discussing behaviors, fines, bonuses, and upcoming events. So, I would call up a police officer in the class and he would say what is one positive comment about classroom behavior, and what is one thing that's needs to be corrected. I would call up another police officer and he would say what is one positive thing about hall behavior, and one thing we could correct. I would call up the banker and she would say how many fines we have had, and how many bonuses we have had. I would let any other jobs discuss what they need, like a homework clerk would come up and discuss what we need in that area, and I would give more advice about that. I would give advice on all things. The meeting would then be over, and I would say this meeting is now adjourned."

Rothermich said that she really liked being the mayor and liked helping other kids. One highlight for Rothermich was when Market Day happens, and the kids get to purchase things and spend

the money credit that they have in class.

"We have a Market Day, where you have to make a product," Rothermich said. "Your parents could assist, but it had to mostly be you. So, you had to make a product and then advertise it. Then when Market Day came on Dec. 20, all fourth-graders would have set up. So, for example I made pencil holders, and my product was \$10. So, people would come around and have to pay you \$10, and then you could also close and go shop around. But if you wanted to make a lot of money you would have to stay there. I like to save up."

Rothermich said that classroom parties also cost money for students.

"We had a Halloween party, a Christmas party, and we are going to have a Valentine's Day party. It costs money to get in, like \$20. It also costs to buy treats, like we have concession stands. It's pretty fun," she said.

Rothermich thanked her fellow students for supporting her as mayor.

"I have been so proud of my class and how much kids have grown," she said. "To my friends, thank you for your support. I am proud of myself for signing up to be the mayor. I was brave to sign up to be the mayor."

Lane added, "Jentrie is a true leader and encourages others to also want to lead. She was the only one who applied to be mayor at the beginning, and now as we change jobs, eight other students also want to be the mayor. Jentrie approaches challenges with determination and is always willing to jump in and help. I also appreciate her hard work, and the role model she is for her peers."

OBITUARIES

Gladys Clara Kraft Oct. 23, 1931 – Dec. 2, 2023

Gladys Clara (née Blair), 92, of Banning, Calif., died peacefully at the hospital from complication of a stroke with family by her side. Born in Wadena, Minn., the daughter of Giles and Clara (née Huncky) Blair.

She joined the Air Force in 1951, in 1955 she met her future husband in Garmisch, Germany, Arthur Kraft, who was there with the Army in Military Intelligence. They married Christmas evening that year in Gladys' hometown of Wadena, Minn.

Gladys worked at her in-law's dairy in Banning, the Sun Up Dairy as an accountant until 1961. She then worked for the Deutsch Company as a programmer (punch cards). She then went on to work for the Security Pacific Bank. When Art lost his job with the Fire

Dept., they moved to the Bishop area where Art went to work with the State as Fire Marshal.

She enjoyed the leisure life of tennis, golf, and hiking with her friends. When their house between Bishop and Mammoth burned down. With the insurance, they bought a business, Wolf Creek Liquor, in South Fork, Colo. They sold the store in 2002 to enjoy retirement back in Banning.

Gladys was preceded in death by her husband Arthur, parents, Giles and Clara Blair, brothers Giles Jr., Herbert, Erwin, William and Gordon, sisters Jean and Elizabeth.

She is survived by her son Jack of Banning and granddaughter, Minna of Stockton, Calif., and numerous nieces and nephews.



Gladys will be interred at the National Cemetery in Riverside, Calif., beside her husband Art. Services and interment will be at the National Cemetery in Riverside, Calif.

Alice Faye Wardlow

Alice Faye Wardlow, 86, passed away peacefully on Jan. 15, 2024. Alice was born on April 24, 1937, in Chicago, Ill., the daughter of Edward Curtis and Faye Livengood Curtis. She moved to Colorado with her mother and sister when she was seven. Alice graduated from Loveland High School in 1955.

While attending Mercy Hospital Nursing Program, she met her husband, Bruce Monroe Wardlow. They were married in 1956 at the Saguache Methodist Church and began the life of a military family. Alice enjoyed being stationed throughout the states, most memorably in Lake Charles, La., where their children were born, and the time they spent in Bangkok, Thailand in 1967.

Alice and her children returned to Saguache, Colo., in 1968. With the unwavering support of her lifelong friends, Ellen and Buck Moores and her extended family, including Eleanor and Larry Ward and Lois and Gene Livengood, Alice devoted her life to raising her children, her proudest accomplishment. Alice shared her strong faith with them as an active member of the Saguache Methodist Church. She taught them a love of



community by participating in the Saguache Study Club, Saguache Senior Citizens and volunteering wherever needed.

Alice's unwavering spirit and hard work led her to a variety of jobs: cashier, nursing aide, waitress, and hardware clerk. Alice found her calling and dedicated much of her life to serving the people of Saguache as the Town Clerk then Town Manager. She truly enjoyed visiting with local residents, representing the Town of Saguache at board meetings, serving on several state and local commissions, and assisting in meeting the needs

of her community.

Alice was an avid gardener, loving to grow vividly colored flowers from many parts of the world she visited, especially those that invited hummingbirds. She delighted in a good book, particularly historical fiction or nonfiction that took her to a far-off land she might visit. Her love for travel took her to many states including Hawaii as well as Vietnam, Hong Kong, England, and Korea.

Alice will forever remain in the hearts of her surviving family: her daughter, Noreen Gross, her son, Bruce Wardlow and his wife, Anita, her five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Her presence will be missed by her brothers, Jim and John Bennett, and a host of cherished friends. Alice was preceded in death by her loving parents, Faye and Willis Bennett, and her sister, Eleanor Ward.

Those who wish to remember Alice are invited to join her family Jan. 27, 2024, at 11 a.m. at the Saguache Methodist Church, Saguache, Colo.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes and words of comfort for Alice's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Buy an RV, it'll be fun

This past week has definitely been a trial of my faith and all things holy. It wasn't all bad and Ol' Dutch did just happen to save three people from certain death in a house fire. One of which was our beloved Miss Trixie. But that's a story for another day.

What we did have this past week was an extreme cold snap that reached down into the heart of Texas like a bad burrito. This was a little too much adventure for even Ol' Dutch whose middle name is Indiana Jones the second.

As per normal winter preparations, Miss Trixie and Ol' Dutch had secured adequate propane to keep the Ol' Conestoga warm through the winter. But we were ill-prepared for our furnace to fail in the middle of 9-degree nights.

We called around to get the repairs done and soon learned that there were no furnace parts available anywhere in the USA. But God was gracious and we were able to get a fan motor albeit after four more days of waiting and freezing our buns off. More about Miss Trixie's buns also later.

The repairman finally showed up parts in hand and we soon had heat. Our conversation turned to how many things seem to break on an RV and he said, "Well you know, these campers aren't made to be lived in especially in cold weather."

My mind did a quick turnaround to the day I bought the darned thing and I distinctly recall the salesman telling me "This RV has the polar package and is designed for extremes in temperatures. And they are built to industry standards which means they can be lived in full-time for an adventurer like yourself?"

There are several reasons I bought into the lies including the lure of the open road, horizons yet unseen, distant places yet unexplored, fish to be caught, animals to hunt and "to boldly go where no man has gone before." Well, something like that anyway.

I am sure that all of you can relate to being sold a pig in a poke. And if not



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

that then maybe you got sold a "cat in a bag" or "took a shot in the dark" or maybe even "chance one's arm."

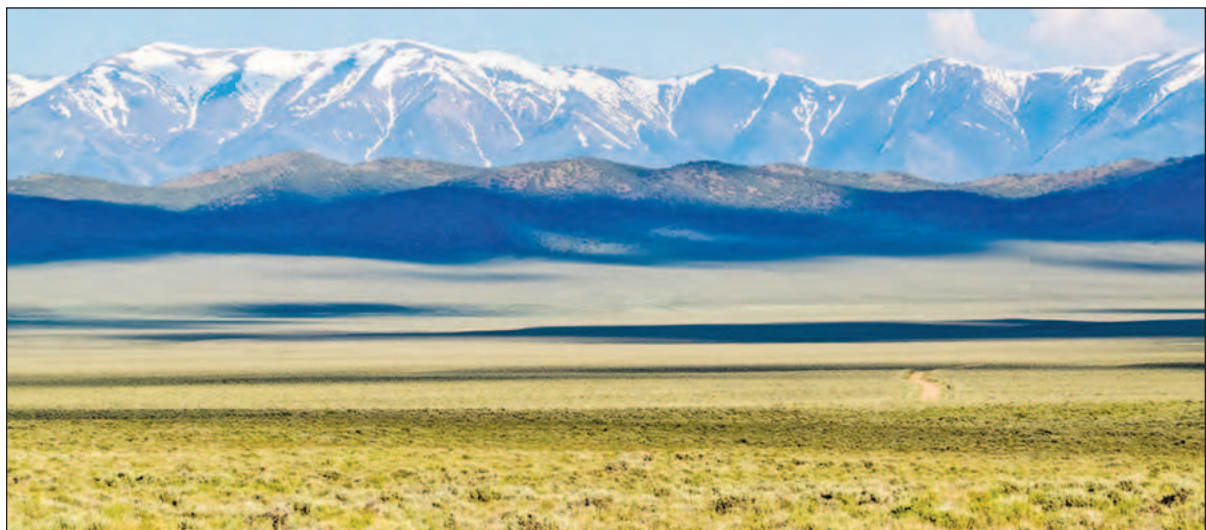
The latter of which I had to Google but now plan on using that phrase liberally to impress the uninformed at potluck dinners.

But regardless, whether buying an RV is a pig or not, they sure do take a lot of maintenance which is another word for moolah.

So, you already know we got the furnace fixed and we were all ready to start "living the dream" when the water heater quit. So here we are now, taking showers with an eye dropper and washing dishes in a bucket until such time as it warms enough to get a new hot water tank installed.

Get an RV they said. It'll be fun they say. I am beginning to think that people who tell a person that are RV owners who do not want to suffer alone in the dregs of repair land purgatory. Either that or they are old Timeshare Salesmen on the sly. Just remember, it will be fun.

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 or on Twitter at TroutRepublic.



Terrible dilemma faces Great Basin

The long drive between Salt Lake City, Utah, and Reno, Nev., on Interstate 80 feels endless, the landscape timeless. But these basins and ranges of the Great Basin Desert are changing dramatically.

Wildfire, climate change and aridification are transforming plant communities, while animals, including humans, try to figure out how to respond. Meanwhile, the dwindling Great Salt Lake risks becoming a toxic dust bowl.

Sagebrush now covers only half the territory it did before European settlers arrived with their livestock in the 1800s. Exotic annual grasses, including cheatgrass, have increased eightfold here since 1990, accelerating the fire cycle, outcompeting native plants and decreasing the available forage for grazers, wild and domestic.

I called this place "the sagebrush ocean" when I first wrote about it in the 1980s. Now, scientists mourn the loss of 1.3 million acres of healthy sagebrush each year, threatening animals that need sagebrush, like the Greater Sage Grouse and pygmy rabbit. Recent photographs of Nevada and Utah West Desert basins document a cheatgrass sea.

Researchers and federal lands staffers chant the management mantra for sagebrush ecosystems: "identify the

core, protect the core, grow the core, mitigate impacts."

But what is this dwindling core? Think intact ecosystems with abundant sagebrush and native understory, with minimal threats from invasive grasses, encroaching conifers or modification by people. Not much land fitting that description is left.

The core that's left is rare and vulnerable. Although the Intermountain West is no longer the exclusive domain of the livestock industry, grazing continues to affect more acres than any other human use. Large expanses of sagebrush with grasses and wildflowers eaten down to nubs by cattle do not constitute "restoration."

That is why land managers are hard put to save threatened animals that need sagebrush, like the greater sage grouse and pygmy rabbit.

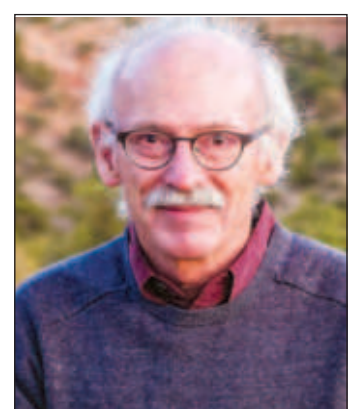
But the dilemma is this: Saving sagebrush puts the aromatic shrublands at odds with piñon-juniper woodland — a landscape just as beloved, just as vital. Range ecologists believe that growing the sagebrush core means that half of the Great Basin woodlands need "treatment" — removing younger stands of trees while retaining old growth forest. Treatment means ripping the trees from the earth with a chain stretched between bulldozers or "masticating" trees to shreds.

A spree of "treatments" approved at the end of the Trump administration in 2020 opened millions of acres of woodland in the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau to destruction. I happened upon one such project in the Kern Mountains of easternmost Nevada last summer, where a crew had been contracted to thin a dense woodland. The crew created a firebreak, but I felt I'd entered a war zone, with the scattered corpses of hundreds of trees littering newly cleared ground.

Before 1860, two-thirds of Great Basin landscapes in woodland habitat were treeless. Today, less than one-third is treeless, as trees decrease the acreage and vitality of sagebrush. But it's unclear if sagebrush animals will repopulate cleared habitat anytime soon.

No more than half of tree treatments result in the regrowth of native grasses. Meanwhile, flocks of Pinyon Jays that depend on the trees suffer steep declines.

Here's the rub: both sagebrush



Writers on the Range
by Stephen Trimble

and woodland landscapes harbor incredible biodiversity. Piñon or sagebrush — which matters most? To sage grouse, pygmy rabbits and piñon mice? To backcountry recreationists, to cattlemen? To Indigenous Great Basin Washoe, Paiute and Shoshone people — citizens of what ethnobotanist Gary Nabhan calls "Piñon Nut Nation?"

When you live in a piñon-juniper woodland, you live with the trees, not under them. "Tree" usually means tall, vertical, but these trees often are round, comforting. I have enormous affection for the "p-j," my home territory. Yet who doesn't love the smell of sagebrush after a rain and cherish its native wildlife?

As sweeping change comes to the Great Basin, federal managers need to address causes, not symptoms. Their challenge is huge: to confront invading cheatgrass and junipers and reverse the decline of sagebrush, nut harvests, native grass and birds. All this, while ensuring that mule deer and cows flourish.

If we want to heal the land and restore the balance between sagebrush and woodland, we need to treat these landscapes as we would with those we love — using every bit of wisdom from both western and Indigenous traditions for the benefit of our collective future.

Stephen Trimble is a contributor to Writers on the Range, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West, writersontherange.org. A 35th anniversary edition of his book, The Sagebrush Ocean: A Natural History of the Great Basin, will be published this year.

LETTER

DN/SF Food Bank thanks community for donations of money and food

Editor,
The Del Norte/South Fork Food Bank extends a huge thank you to all the individuals, businesses, and organizations that supported us with donations of money and or food items in 2023. As we rely mainly on donations, we would not be able to serve our community without your support.

November and December are especially busy, and we served close to 90 households in each of those months, but there are many who need our help every month.

We are deeply thankful to Pioneer United Church in Del Norte which

provides us with a building in which to operate and pays for all our utilities.

Many, many thanks to the following: Del Norte Bank; South Fork Kiwanis; Val Alto; Silver Threads Quilt Guild; Trade and Post; Mountain King Potatoes; Lowe's Grocery Store; Edward Jones; Rainbow Grocery; Dollar General in South Fork; Family Dollar in Del Norte; Del Norte Ministerial Alliance; Alamosa Food Bank; Sherice Shiner (Healthy Food Access Coordinator for the food banks of the San Luis Valley); and the Honors Society at Del Norte Schools.

And a big thanks to all of the individuals who donated.

Our food bank is run by a small group of volunteers who do all the work involved, and we need more. Our distribution hours are from 10 a.m. to noon on the Saturday following the third Thursday of each month, but folks in need of food at other times can call us, 719-850-2643, and we will get food to them. If you think that volunteering with us is a way in which you'd like to serve our community, and if you are able to commit to a few hours each month (or some months) please let us know.

*Becky Hand
Director Del Norte/South Fork Food Bank*



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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



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

University, made his public debut at age 8 when he performed Mozart's Fantasia 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 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



Courtesy photos

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.

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.



The Saguache United Methodist Church is excited to have Ukrainian concert pianist Dmytro Vynogradov perform on Feb. 1.

Spiritual Book Club meets Thursdays at Baca Grande Library

By MARIE MCCOLM

CRESTONE — Jennifer Young, of Crestone, has started the Spiritual Book Club. The casual group meets from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursdays at the Baca Grande Library in Crestone. "You don't even have to read the book," she said. The book club will be reading one chapter per week and then discussing the chapter on Thursday. The public is invited to attend.

"The club meets generally for one hour," Young said, "but it can move into two hours. The book that we are currently analyzing and researching and looking at together is called 'The Seat of the Soul.' We are reading this book chapter by chapter. I hope to continue in spiritual books. It has been so rewarding being able to have like-minded souls around to come together and discuss a lot of things that are changing in the world right now and our evolution and spiritual beings. This is very refreshing."

Young said the club is just getting started; there have been two meetings so far. The group has averaged about five people for each meeting.

"We are just getting started on this," Young said. "We read the chapters there and we discuss the chapter right after that. It's a very on the spot type of learning that we are doing and

socializing at the same time."

Young said she hopes to continue with the club and stay connected with everyone at the library and on Facebook. Young said her inspiration for starting the club was because she enjoys engaging in spiritual conversations.

"I enjoy being a part of this. I think it's really important right now, especially the area that we are in, Crestone. The whole Valley has a great center of consciousness. Being able to move this forward with people and have these types of discussions is so important," she said.

Young appreciates being able to meet at the library.

"This has been such a blessing. I have tried this before, and even have had people come out to my house but it can be very difficult," Young said. "I really do want to put a thanks out to the library. Thank you, Baca Grande Library. This is such a great resource that they have available. I appreciate the ability to be able to meet there because that's really what makes it all work. People come more. I believe that this allows people to make their way there, the location."

For more information on the book club or to join, email eventpromostaffing@gmail.com.



REYNOLDS ASH + ASSOCIATES is excited to announce the opening of their new location in Alamosa. RA+A's new office is located in the Historic Railroad Depot at 610 State Avenue, Suite 120.

RA+A is proud to introduce Andréa Bachman & Deron Granville of Alamosa. Please stop by and say hello! Andréa has been designing in the San Luis Valley since 2017 and recently joined RA+A in Fall of 2023. Deron is a licensed Architect who recently relocated from Denver to Alamosa and brings with him over 25 years of experience in all aspects of building design. He recently joined RA+A in Spring of 2023.

The opening of the Alamosa location will better serve our San Luis Valley clients and contractors. The firm is the largest locally-owned architecture and engineering firm in the Four Corners with offices in Pagosa Springs, Durango and Phoenix AZ. Please visit www.RA-AE.com for more information.



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Enfield sentenced to 35 years for shooting RGCSO Undersheriff

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER DEL NORTE — Toby Enfield appeared in Rio Grande District Court on Wednesday to be sentenced for the Nov. 7, 2022, shooting of Undersheriff Heath Hart with the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office. District Judge Michael Gonzales presided.

In a resolution reached by 12th Judicial District Attorney Anne Kelly and Enfield's defense attorneys, Enfield pleaded guilty to criminal attempt to commit murder in the second degree, a class three felony, and assault in the first degree with a deadly weapon, also a class three felony but with a crime of violence sentence enhancer which increases the presumptive range of sentencing.

The agreement also included a stipulation that Enfield, 54, would

be sentenced to 17 years in the Department of Corrections for the first charge and 18 years for the second to be served consecutively, totaling 35 years.

On Nov. 7, Undersheriff Hart was looking for Enfield who was suspected of stealing a truck when he spotted him driving the stolen vehicle. A chase ensued, Enfield came to a stop in a relatively unpopulated area, exited the truck, and was running away when he turned, aimed and fired multiple shots at the undersheriff, striking him under his left arm as he dove behind the dashboard of his vehicle.

Kelly described Enfield as someone "who has been involved in criminal activity for decades. "He claimed he was trying to commit "suicide by cop," but his actions directly contradicted

that, she said, including numerous times when Enfield didn't stop when being pursued.

Kelly then zeroed in on the shooting, stating that Hart was just getting out of his vehicle when Enfield turned and fired multiple shots, aiming directly at Hart's head.

"If Undersheriff Hart hadn't ducked behind the dashboard with his left arm extended," she said, demonstrating Hart's actions, "he would have been killed."

Enfield claims to have issues with mental health and addiction but she has never seen a document supporting that. "All those claims were from the defendant only."

She concluded by saying the defendant has no place in society and

has proven he's a danger. She asked the court to consider the impact of the shooting on Hart, the Rio Grande Sheriff's Office, the law enforcement community and community at large in the ruling.

Public defender Jamie Keairns said Enfield has never denied what he did and takes responsibility for his actions, pointing out that, in his criminal history, none involved assault. She described a man who was at a low point in his life but is taking multiple medications for mental health issues now that he's in jail and has been working on his issues.

"He can never repair what he's done but he's trying to better his life," Keairns said. He's asking for the chance to make those changes and "needs a goal of getting out of prison at some point." If given the minimum sentence of 28 years, he would be released in his 70s, which gives him hope.

Enfield's statement was brief. He apologized to Undersheriff Hart and said he deserves to pay for the pain he has caused. He also apologized to Kelly and to the court for the time it took to negotiate a plea deal.

Judge Gonzales admonished Enfield for failing to take advantage of opportunities he had been given, including support from his family, and for a criminal history that paints "a pretty horrible picture" with seven convictions that sent him to DOC.

He then focused on Enfield trying to take the life of a law enforcement officer who was "just trying to do his job in keeping the community safe."

"Law enforcement isn't perfect, but they are held to a higher standard," Gonzales said, "and we look down on them because of one or two officers. It's not an easy job. Every day they go to work not knowing if they will come back. You aimed a gun at Undersheriff Hart and



Toby Enfield

tried to kill him. There can be no excuse for that. A man willing to shoot a police officer who has a gun is a danger."

Gonzales acknowledged that no one should have to experience what Enfield has in his life but "that doesn't give you the right to do what you did."

"If there's one message, we should send in this case it's that this community will not tolerate [violence against a police officer]."

Judge Gonzales said he did not impose the sentence easily but he "is not there to give [the defendant] hope." He then sentenced Enfield to the maximum sentence of 35 years in the DOC.

Kelly made the following statement after the sentence had been delivered. "Mr. Enfield attempted to assassinate Rio Grande County Undersheriff Heath Hart. For this despicable act of extreme cowardice and depravity, Mr. Enfield deserves every day of every year that he spends in prison. This community fully supports our men and women who wear the badge and risk their lives every day to keep us safe. This sentence reflects our community's commitment to holding dangerous offenders fully accountable for their murderous actions."

CRESTOWN Continued from Page 1A

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. 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.



Courtesy photos

Discover the Power of Hope

Romans 15:13 says, "May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound and be overflowing (bubbling over) with hope" (AMPC).

Over the last 45-plus years I've spent traveling and teaching God's Word around the world, I've met many incredible people from nearly every walk of life. Some were doing great, seemingly on top of the world. Others confided in me that they were barely getting by, living day-to-day, trying to make ends meet. And many others were dealing with circumstances so difficult that, quite frankly, they felt defeated and overwhelmed by life.

We will all battle hopelessness at some point in our lives. And no matter who we are or what our situation, HOPE is one thing we all desperately need. The reason is: hope is powerful!

Hope is more than a motivational thought or a fading daydream—hope is a nothing-is-impossible-with-God firestorm refusing to be quenched. It's an awareness that God is actually expecting, looking, and longing to show you His goodness. Hope is what stabilizes your frantic thoughts and emotions—it's an awareness that there is no problem big enough to keep God from rescuing you.

These days, it's easy to be worn down by hopelessness. People lose hope when they experience overwhelming loss, repeated failures, impossible situations, or when they're hurt by people they trust. Like most of you, I understand what it's like to feel hopeless. I spent 23 years of my life filled with pain, abuse, disappointment, unfaithfulness, and one bad thing after another.

Because of this, I wouldn't get my hopes up. I used to say, "If I don't expect anything good to happen, I won't be disappointed when it doesn't." But when I got serious about my relationship with

God and began studying His Word, I discovered real hope. I learned why hope is important, and how powerful hope can be.

Hope is a positive expectation that something good is going to happen to you because of God's great goodness. It is not a wishy-washy, vague, wait-and-see attitude, but an action we must choose to take on purpose each day. Hope and faith go hand in hand.

Hope also enables us to endure hardships and long waiting periods, and God uses these times to develop character and endurance in us. Psalm 27:14 says, "Wait and hope for and expect the Lord; be brave and of good courage and let your heart be stout and enduring. Yes, wait for and hope for and expect the Lord" (AMPC).

Hope dares us to believe! It thinks, "You know what? Things might just work out after all." It's the sometimes unexplainable, but always undeniable, feeling that today would be a bad day to give up.

Isaiah 40:31 tells us: "But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint" (ESV).

Regardless of who you are or what condition your life is in, you can't function successfully without hope in God. If circumstances are bad, you surely need hope. And if they are good, you need hope that they will stay that way!

Hope energizes and motivates us to take action by causing us to step out in faith and act in obedience with God's Word. Hope believes boldly, decides daringly, speaks firmly, and perseveres passionately. When we embrace hope on purpose, it influences our thoughts, our attitudes, our outlook, and the way we speak. Hope builds us up as we wait on God.

Hope releases joy, and the joy of the



Lord becomes our source of strength (Nehemiah 8:10). Never assume that where you've been or where you are is as good as it gets. And when your goal or your situation seems impossible, keep in mind that nothing is impossible for God.

In Matthew 19:26, Jesus said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (NIV). It doesn't matter what the situation looks like around you; God is greater than any obstacle you may be facing. Everything that has never been done is impossible until someone does it, so why can't it be you?

Don't allow your mind to become a hindrance to the things you can accomplish in life. Think big—the way God does! Choose to believe God is going to do something better in your life. So, go ahead and get your hopes up! God is leading you to something better than you can imagine!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource *Filled With Hope*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (FaithWords)*. She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2023-2024

BOYS

Centauri 46	Alamosa 33
Centauri 63	Montezuma-Cortez 35
Pagosa Springs 53	Alamosa 43
Cripple Creek-Victor 58	Creede 38
Centennial 92	Lake City 20
Sierra Grande 61	Trinidad 29
Moffat 56	Antonito 35
Primero 51	Sangre de Cristo 26
Creede 52	Lake City 24
Centennial 83	Antonito 38
Manacos 76	Sargent 40
Sanford 54	Monte Vista 40
Del Norte 29	South Park 27
Salida 67	Del Norte 23
Crested Butte 69	Center 28
Lake County 62	Center 36
Sargent 56	Trinidad 22

GIRLS

Centauri 38	Alamosa 36
Centauri 56	Montezuma-Cortez 45
Pagosa Springs 41	Alamosa 26
Creede 71	Cripple Creek-Victor 38
Trinidad 32	Sierra Grande 29
Moffat 56	Antonito 35
Creede 52	Lake City 28
Sangre de Cristo 60	Primero 37
Centennial 41	Antonito 33
Monte Vista 55	Sanford 51
Del Norte 45	South Park 19
Center 57	Crested Butte 20
Salida 40	Del Norte 28
Center 60	Lake County 8
Sargent 60	Trinidad 29

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Rep. Martinez already up and running with legislation

Focus on education, veterans, behavior health, farming, water

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — With the 2024 session already underway, the Valley Courier caught up with Rep. Matt Martinez (D-62) to get his take on what legislative priorities he has for this session and what's ahead for Colorado's legislature.

Martinez has already introduced two bills, both bi-partisan and bi-cameral, with a slate of additional bills to follow. In a furtherance of priorities reflected throughout his tenure, he continues to focus on behavior health, education, veterans, boosting tourism, farming and water.

Martinez's HB24-1002 "Social Work Licensure Compact" addresses the critical shortage of experienced, licensed social workers while also expanding access to behavioral health by removing the barriers to licensure often faced by professionals moving to Colorado, including those licensed social workers in military families whose spouses may have just been reassigned.

In agreement with other states, HB24-1002 would eliminate the need for social workers to obtain licenses from multiple states by providing for the mutual recognition of licenses from those states that have signed the compact (referred to as "member" states).

"Doing this for those who have just moved to Colorado allows them to get a job in their field more quickly and become entrenched in their communities," he says.

Martinez plans to introduce a similar bill addressing those licensed in cosmetology, something that would also be very helpful to military families.

"It's a slow process," he says, "because the bill has to pass in almost exactly the same language as it's passed in other states."

Martinez has also introduced HB24-1048 "Providing Veterinary Services Through Telehealth", which would do exactly what the name of the bill suggests.

"With the growing shortage of veterinarians in Colorado over the last year," he says, "providing vet services through telehealth is one way to increase access to a veterinarian by people with animals, such as pets or livestock, out in the field or over their phone or their iPad or whatever."

HB 24-1048 is bi-partisan and came out of the Agriculture, Water and Natural Resources Committee, of which Martinez is a member. It's also co-sponsored with Rep. McCormick, who is a veterinarian, and Senators Joann Ginal and Pelton.

Another bill — the Ninth Grade Student Success Grant Program — would provide grant funding for schools to hire counselors to support students in making that difficult transition from middle to high school, which can be a determinant of future success in secondary schools.

"If you can provide them with that support in the ninth-grade level, it helps to make them more successful and keep them in school," he says.

Again, with an eye on Veterans' health, another one of Martinez's bills coming up would make it a requirement to include in all state literature and advertising information for Veterans on how to apply for and access benefits.

"We already have information on employee rights and how to apply for workers compensation and other areas. There should also be information for Veterans. That will also help them to advocate for themselves," he says.

In what he describes as his "big bill" this session, Martinez plans to restart the Regional Tourism Act.

"The act already exists but there's no funding for it," he says. A distinct difference this time from previous years

would involve specifically targeting rural areas as the need in other cities like Denver or Colorado Springs is not nearly as great.

"We'll be putting money into places where it's most impactful and for communities to decide the best way to use the funding."

The problem they've run into, he says, is the definition of "rural", which is somewhat "nebulous" in the state statutes.

"We're aiming for those really much smaller communities, like frontier counties with minimal populations, and to redefine that within the bill," he says.

"The entire San Luis Valley would be eligible for this funding. But we also have to be careful because a lot of the ski towns were coming up under the definition, so we're working through that, as well."

Senator Cleave Simpson and Martinez are cooperating on getting support for the Costilla Water Conservancy District that is facing significant challenges ahead with creating water augmentation plans, something they had been exempt from developing in the past.

Simpson and Martinez are also working on a bill that will provide resources to potato farmers who have been dealing with PVY, a virus that, if allowed to spread as it has over the past few years, runs the risk of decimating seed growers in the San Luis Valley.

"That business has already dwindled in the past few years because of the virus. They really need our help," Martinez says.

Rep. Martinez is following through on an issue he's previously identified as a priority related to defining in clear, exact terms the data on recidivism rates in Colorado's Department of Corrections.

"Right now, there are 15 different data points used to measure recidivism. Defining that data is critical when you're trying to measure if a program has been successful," he says.

Martinez first identified this issue last year when his bill, HB23-1037 Dept of Corrections Earned Time for College Program Completion, passed with overwhelming bi-partisan, bi-cameral support.

Last on the list (so far) of Rep. Martinez's legislation for the 2024 session is a bill that would grant individuals exiting the military who worked as military police while in the service with reciprocity on the Colorado Peace Officers Standard and Training (POST) certification.

"Military Police have gone through enhanced training in the past few years," he said, "and it would help address the serious shortage in law enforcement if that training would make them immediately eligible for employment."

When asked if this session was going to be as crazy as last year, Martinez said, "I think it's going to be...interesting. Housing is definitely a big issue this session with a lot of effort focused on that area."

He believes that "the old Land Use" bill will probably come back to the floor but this time in smaller segments that would allow support for some parts of the bill and opposition to others.

Martinez made it clear that he will continue to be the loudest voice advocating for language about water augmentation and sustainability to be included in any land use legislation that comes before the House.

When asked if last summer's visit to the Valley by the Latino Caucus seemed to impact his colleagues in any way, Martinez immediately mentioned water, saying Rep. Ortiz of Littleton has already added provisions related to water in various pieces of legislation.

"They're also attuned to any efforts to export water — back door or otherwise — and understand how devastating that would be to the Valley," he says.



Photo courtesy of Gov. Polis' office
Gov. Polis signs Rep. Matt Martinez's HB23-1037 into law in 2023.

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

Request For Proposal (RFP) Hangar and Rubbish Removal
Saguache County is looking for a person or contractor for the removal of and disposal of old and damaged hangars at Leach Airport, located east of the Town of Center. There may also be assorted waste materials at the airport property that will need to be removed. The removal shall include, but not be limited to, the removal of old damaged county owned hangars.
The person or contractor chosen for this work will be responsible for all removal charges and will also be allowed to keep any usable/recyclable items from the removal. All other items removed will be at the cost of the person or contractor and must be removed within 45 days of approval of the person or contractor.
If you are interested in the removal of the items at Leach Airport please send a letter of interest to Wendi Maez, PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 or you may email your letter of interest to wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov.
For additional information please contact either Wendi Maez at 719-655-2231 or Jed El-lithorpe at 719-850-1928.
No. 1694 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, January 25 and February 1 and 8, 2024.

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

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

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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.

Victim identified in Tuesday night fatal shooting

Further details known about the incident

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — In response to a report of possible shots fired, the Alamosa Police Department responded to the 200 block of State Avenue at approximately 10 p.m. on Tuesday night.

Upon arriving on the scene, officers found the body of a deceased man who had been shot. He was later identified as John Cossel, 58, of Monte Vista.

A female person of interest, later identified as 57-year-old Kawanna Nelson, of Alamosa, remained on the scene and cooperated with the investigation.

According to arrest documents

obtained from the Alamosa Clerk’s office, Nelson and Cossel were close friends and had had a brief altercation over him wanting the keys to his car and Nelson being concerned about his ability to drive. Cossel then left her apartment.

Nelson, who said she suffers from PTSD due to a previous violent incident, said Cossel then returned to her apartment and was banging on the door yet did not identify himself when asked to, twice.

She says she opened the door, while holding her 9 mm Smith and Wesson, and Cossel came inside and “went at her.” She then shot him, once, not realizing that the man she shot was John Cossel.

Nelson was taken into custody, subsequently charged with second-degree homicide and transported to



Kawanna Nelson

the Alamosa County Detention Center. She appeared in court on Wednesday afternoon for a hearing on advisement of charges.

Alamosa Police Department seeking public’s help in 2021 murder of Teo Greer

‘We’re trying to get a new break in the case’

STAFF REPORT

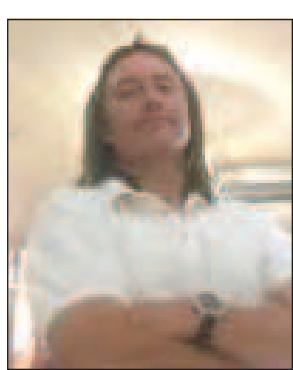
ALAMOSA — Nearly two-and-a-half years after he was found murdered in his home on State Avenue in Alamosa, the Alamosa Police Department (APD), in conjunction with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is seeking the public’s help in the cold case homicide of Teo Greer. Greer was 45 years old at the time of his death.

“Teo,” as he was known to many, was a lifetime resident of Alamosa. After not hearing from him for a while, a family member called APD to do a welfare check on Aug. 7, 2021. When APD officers arrived at Teo’s house, they discovered his body, the victim of an apparent homicide.

The investigation is still active and ongoing, and detectives are looking for assistance in finding any information leading up to Greer’s death.

“We’re just trying to get a new break in the case,” said Interim Police Chief Joey Spangler, “revisiting old cases and trying to keep them from going cold.”

Anyone with information is urged to contact Detective Jason Russell at 719-589-2548 or SLV Crimestoppers at 719-589-4111 if they choose to remain anonymous.



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LUCERO

Continued from Page 1A

nieces, and great-nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

His educational journey began at Monte Vista Elementary School, where he later graduated from Monte Vista High School. After completing high school, Bill went on to serve his country in the United States Marine Corps from 1984-1988.

Lucero dedicated over three decades of his life to law enforcement, serving with various agencies in Colorado. He worked his way up to the rank of Sergeant at the Monte Vista Police Department, continued his service as an Officer at the Town of Pagosa Springs Police Department, and became a Deputy for the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA) commissioned by the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office. Afterward, he worked as a Lieutenant for the Southern Ute Police Department and was a member of their SWAT Team, a Deputy for the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office, the Chief of Police for the Center Police Department, and a Deputy for the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office and Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, where he concludes his service.

On Tuesday, Jan. 16, a final patrol was also held for Lucero as the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office escorted his body on US Highway 160 from west to east through Pagosa Springs. The public was invited to attend and view the patrol from the main street in downtown Pagosa.

Lucero's son Kohbe said that he



Photos by Marie Mccolm

William 'Bill' James Lucero was laid to rest at the Homelake Cemetery on Saturday, Jan. 20. Lucero graduated from Monte Vista High School. He served in the Marine Corps.

remembers his dad always laughing, always lighting up any room that he went into, and always talking to everyone wherever they would go. Kohbe said that when he and his brother Chance, and sister Isabella would go anywhere with their dad, they already knew to be prepared to meet new people, because everyone knew, and loved their dad.

"There were always at least two people dad would stop and talk to," Kohbe said. "Dad was known everywhere. I remember him always laughing, and he loved helping everyone. That was just dad. Those are the things I remember most."

On Saturday, Lucero's coffin was covered with a large United States flag at the MVHS gymnasium as

approximately 300 people gathered to remember and say goodbye to Lucero. A beautiful prayer, and beautiful law enforcement prayer were both read before the service.

A special rendition of "One Day at a Time," was sung in Spanish at the service. Two Veterans also saluted Lucero and said a special farewell.

Kohbe spoke at the funeral, talking



William 'Bill' James Lucero dedicated over three decades of his life to law enforcement, serving with various agencies in Colorado. He worked his way up to the rank of Sergeant at the Monte Vista Police Department. At the time of his passing, he was an Archuleta County Sheriff's Office deputy.

about how his dad was in the United States Marine Corps. Luceo's family also spoke about him, asking that everyone keep Lucero's children in their prayers. They also read a special poem to him. A special friend of Lucero's also spoke about heartfelt memories that he had with Lucero near the conclusion of the service.

At Homelake Cemetery the Color

Guard gathered, and Lucero was given a full military salute.

Kohbe said, "He was a funny guy, he looked so stern, but when you would talk to him, all he would do was crack jokes. We will miss him dearly. Until we see you again dad..."

For more information or to see the live stream of the funeral, visit Mountain Valley Mortuary online.

City of Alamosa ranch property lease

ALAMOSA—The City is requesting proposals to lease approximately 940 acres of City Ranch property for traditional grazing and/or agricultural purposes.

The RFP documents can be found at [https://cityofalamosa.org/public-](https://cityofalamosa.org/public-bids/)

bids/. Proposals are due Thursday, Feb. 22, at 3 p.m.

Questions regarding the RFP should be directed to: Andy Rice, Parks, Recreation and Library Director via phone or email at 719-587-2429 or arice@ci.alamosa.co.us.

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Photo by Diane Drekman

Dozens of brightly colored tents dotted Mountain Home Reservoir outside of Fort Garland on Jan. 13 for the Ice Fishing Tournament

Ice Fishing Tournament benefits San Luis Valley Veterans Recreation

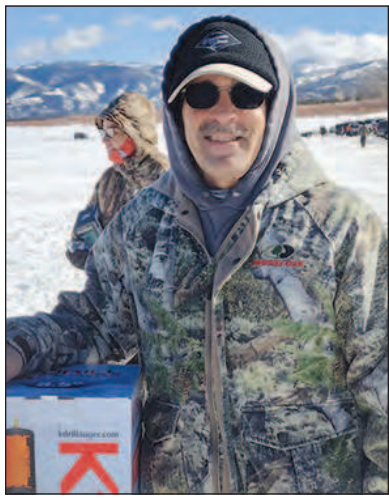
By DIANE DREKMANN

FORT GARLAND — Dozens of brightly colored tents dotted Mountain Home Reservoir outside of Fort Garland on Jan. 13. Despite the frigid weather, 170 people — some all the way from Albuquerque, N.M. — participated in the annual Ice Fishing Tournament.

Families, people young and old, even Senator Cleave Simpson came and supported Veterans through this fundraiser for Valley Veterans Recreation.

Board members Craig Rauwolf said the non-profit is “focused on Veterans for their mental health to recreate.” There was a donation jar for the family of Jonathan Lucero, a Veteran who reportedly took his own life a few months ago.

Please see **TOURNEY** on Page 6



In the trout category of the Ice Fishing Tournament on Jan. 13 at Mountain Home Reservoir, Jerome Salazar, pictured, and Ken Marquez both caught 2.5-pound fish. A coin flip decided first place went to Salazar.



Amy Brady was second with a 1-pound pike in the Ice Fishing Tournament on Jan. 13. She received an auger for her next ice fishing adventure.

Cotten, top water guy in the SLV, talks water

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Aside from air, water is the most crucial resource for human survival. In the San Luis Valley, water is crucial to economic survival, as well, and snowpack in the Sangre de Cristos is 65% of what is typical for this time of year.

With that in mind, Rotary Club members spent a question-answer period with Craig Cotten, Division 3 engineer with the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR), during their monthly meeting this week was especially relevant.

Cotten started off the conversation by providing a rundown on Division 3, which encompasses the San Luis Valley. Division 3 is responsible for the administration of water rights — both surface water and groundwater — which they do with a staff of 31 employees, including water commissioners, staff who make certain large capacity wells have meters on them, others who assure dam safety plus employees in administration.

“We’re one of the smaller divisions geographically but one of the bigger divisions in terms of issues,” he said.

Cotten then provided the group with an excellent primer in understanding some of those issues, including legal issues around water rights.

“Groundwater use rules were approved by the water court in 2017,” he said, “and rules are now in effect. Any large capacity wells have to have meters on them and replace depletions to the streams because we know that pumping groundwater has an impact on surface water — that is the water that runs in rivers, streams and ditches.”

Water rights in Colorado are based on the prior appropriation system, also known as “first in time, first in line.” Put simply, the owners of water rights that were issued the longest time ago are also the owners whose water rights will be fulfilled before those with younger water rights will receive water.

Because surface water rights, including ditches, were issued before rights to groundwater, they are referred to as “senior” water rights. Any action that would negatively impact senior water rights is described as an “injury.”

When asked how people can “replace depletions,” Cotten explained that sometimes well owners will lease or purchase a ditch and, instead of taking that water out to divert or irrigate, they leave the water in the ditch to offset water they have pumped from wells underground.



Craig Cotten
Division 3 engineer

He was also asked about the feasibility of building more reservoirs.

In terms of engineering, “reservoirs are very realistic,” Cotten said, “but they’re also political.” He cited the Conejos Water Conservancy District that has been attempting for “about 12 years” to get a reservoir on the Conejos stream system just outside Antonito.

“They’ve learned that, if they can put [the reservoir] off the stream and just dig a ditch versus building it on the stream, that’s a lot less red tape.”

Cotten also gave an overview of the seven subdistricts in the Valley, described as “a conglomeration of well owners in the Valley who, among other things, assess fees based on how much water is pumped and then use money they have collected to keep water in stream systems.”

That led to a discussion of sustainability.

There are two main components of wells, he said. One is replacing depletion of the rivers, and the other is to ensure sustainability of the aquifers, which is unique to our area.

“There’s no other place in the state where people are required to sustain the aquifers, specifically by statute, except for here,” he said.

In 2012, Subdistrict No. 1 submitted their first plan to ensure sustainability, which cut back water usage over a 20-year period to rebuild the unconfined aquifer to a sustainable level.

“We’re 12 years into that 20-year period and [water in the aquifer] is lower than 2012. The state engineer sent some letters a few years ago saying they had to build the aquifer back up or face the possibility of wells being shut down. Shutting down wells would devastate our agricultural economy,” he said,

As a result, Cotten said, Subdistrict **Please see WATER** on Page 6



Courtesy photo

San Luis Valley 4-H members — Elena Escobedo, Ellaree Rockey, Durae Naranjo, Emily Seger and Tynnley Burh — competed in the Arizona National Livestock Show. Escobedo, Rockey, Naranjo and Seger placed 14th in Senior Team Livestock Judging.

San Luis Valley 4-H Livestock Judging Team competes at Arizona Nationals

By SAN LUIS VALLEY EXTENSION OFFICE

PHOENIX, ARIZ. — During the New Year’s weekend, San Luis Valley

4-H members traveled to Arizona to participate in Livestock Judging at the Arizona National Livestock Show. The Senior Team (age 14 and

older) placed 14 out of 29 teams.

The local team consisted of Elena Escobedo, Ellaree Rockey, Durae

Please see TEAM on Page 7

Ribbon cutting held for Meyers new agent for Farm Bureau Insurance

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Farm Bureau Insurance held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 11, 247 Adams St.

Meyers smiled as he cut the ribbon at the ceremony and spoke about how he felt at the ceremony.

“Monte Vista is so welcoming. The ribbon cutting was awesome,” Meyers said. “It makes me very happy at just how well I have been received in the community. It’s kind of a big deal for me. I am from Michigan, so the people in Monte Vista have made me feel as close to home as I could possibly be, and I appreciate it. I just joined the Farm Bureau as an agent in November, I am relatively new, I have been a long-time Farm Bureau customer, but new to being an agent. I am very excited and happy to be in the Monte Vista community with this.”

Meyers is no stranger to agriculture. He has been a part of agriculture his entire life. He was born and raised on a crop farm in Michigan and has a cattle ranch. He has had the ranch for about 3 years now.

“I always wanted to be involved with cattle, I raise Scottish Highlands, do AAC registered breeding stock.”

Meyers stated that his reason for joining Farm Bureau Insurance as an agent had a lot to do with his love of farming. “Farm Bureau inspired me with the

way that they want to help local farmers and ranchers in the area, and across the state,” Meyers said. “I had somebody reach out to me from the insurance side of Farm Bureau, they had heard about my successful businesses in Michigan and kind of wanted to see if I was interested in working with Farm Bureau. It just all worked out together. It was kind of a spur of the moment thing that worked out really well.”

Meyers said Monte Vista was a “perfect fit.”

“As I was driving through Monte Vista, I always thought, man if I was going to move again, it would be to Monte Vista,” he said. “When the agency offered me the office in Monte Vista, I snatched it up. There were a couple of different options, but the one in Monte Vista was the perfect fit for me.”

Meyers took over the office on 247 Adams St. Meyers stated he was not sure why the prior agents left, but he was excited to be at the agency.

“Since I took over the office, there was already a big client base. We have been working on growing the client base more, too. That has been going better than I hoped for. Being a new agent, I thought it would be a rough, rocky start, but everything has been going great, really smooth. Again, I have been well received in the community and it has just been awesome. I thank everyone in the



Farm Bureau Insurance held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 11, 247 Adams St. Agent John Meyers cut the ribbon.

community for that,” he said.

Meyers is excited about the Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference early next month in Monte Vista.

“We have a spot at the ag conference already. We plan on doing a raffle. We are going to buy a Yeti cooler and fill it with some bison meat. We are going to raffle that off. We are probably going to have people sign up for a free quote from our agency to enter to win. I am very excited about the upcoming conference,” he said.

Meyers thanked everyone who helped

him get his start with the agency, including the two representatives that came from Denver to help him, the Monte Vista Community, the OptiMystics and the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce.

For more information on Farm Bureau Insurance, visit the agency at 247 Adams St. in Monte Vista.

Farm Bureau Insurance Agent John Meyers received a plaque during a ribbon cutting ceremony on Jan. 11 in Monte Vista.



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S	C	O	P	E	S		B	A	B	I	E	D			
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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. 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

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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)

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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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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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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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12 Commercial acres in South Fork Shoshone Trail Flat, rectangular parcel with easy, paved access off Hwy 160. This parcel is zoned commercial/light industrial and is located 4 miles East of South Fork near Holiday RV and Brooke Stone. MLS#774884 \$550,000



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



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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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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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Lots 11 & 12 in Riviere Estates Two lots together in a quiet community. VRBO & Air B&B OK subject to town guidelines. All utilities are available at the lot line. MLS 808212



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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



Large stone home situated on a spacious lot. Recently installed insulation throughout the house ensures optimal energy efficiency, complemented by a wood stove (less than 5 years old) and modern electrical system. The house boasts brand new PEX SharkBite plumbing. Come check out this property.

Call Tate Huffaker today for more information.

\$167,000 | MLS# 807663
 1822 Sickles St., Monte Vista, CO

TATE HUFFAKER
 ASSOCIATE BROKER | REALTOR®
 M: 719-298-6560
 O: 719-873-1700
 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
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This two-story brick Denver Square building, constructed in 1911, exudes historic charm and character that seamlessly blends with the neighboring properties. Nestled on the iconic Main Street in Alamosa, Colorado, this property offers a unique opportunity for business and investment. Currently zoned as business commercial, it serves as a boarding house, presenting a variety of possibilities for its future. Call Bruce Steffens today for more information.

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

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

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

Call Bruce Steffens for pricing and additional information.

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

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

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

Call Bruce Steffens today for more information.

\$87,000 - \$180,000 per lot
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\$15,000,000 | MLS# 807640
 57075 County Road C, Center, CO

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 Brian Williams — bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com

Nordic Club set to ski during Rio Frio

ALAMOSA — Join the San Juan Nordic Club as they help the City of Alamosa kick off Alamosa 2024 Rio Frio Ice Fest on Friday, Jan. 26, from 6-8 p.m. for a luminaria cross-country ski at Blanca Vista Park Pond, which is north out of Alamosa, on State Avenue just past the entrance to the Cattails Golf Course.

The San Juan Nordic Club will have a half-three-fourths mile course

groomed by Alamosa Parks and Recreation staff on the ice of Blanca Vista Park Pond which will be lighted with luminarias. There will also be a fire and hot chocolate. Bring your own skis or pick some up locally at Kristi Mountain Sports in Alamosa. Make sure you dress warmly.

For more information, contact email erinadamooore@gmail.com or call 719-480-3141.

TOURNEY

Continued from Page 1

Outdoor recreation has beneficial effects for everyone, particularly Veterans, according to organizers.

D.J. Salazar is the founder and executive director of Valley Veterans Recreation. The other board members are Jason Medina, also a Costilla County firefighter, Duane Mosher, and Diego Martinez.

Valley Veterans Recreation partnered with American Legion Post No. 142 in San Luis on the event. The post had raffle tickets for prizes like a Mr. Buddy indoor heater, Onyx mapping system which shows back

country trails, hunting areas, and backroads, and fishing equipment like pole holders, knife set, and some binoculars. Donations came from Big R in Alamosa, Onyx and GruntStyle.

After fishing on Mountain Home Reservoir for over 4 hours the winners were announced. First and second prizes were given to the people who had the heaviest pike and trout.

Sixteen-year-old Zac Jacques took first prize for his 1.8-pound pike. He left before a picture could be taken. Amy Brady was second with a

1-pound pike. She received an auger for her next ice fishing adventure.

There was a tie for first in the trout category between Jerome Salazar and Ken Marquez. Both caught a 2.5-pound, 18-inch trout. Through a coin toss, Salazar was awarded first place and an auger. Marquez received a Genz pack fishing system for second place.

“The fundraiser raised over \$8,000 through sponsors and donations,” organizers said. Valley Veterans Recreation plans on having more events this year.

WATER

Continued from Page 1

No. I developed a new plan that’s currently in water court and is based on the rule that any water pumped out of the aquifer must be replaced one-to-one.

“So, if you have surface water rights for one Cubic Foot per Second (CFS), then you can put that into the aquifer and pump your well at one CFS. It works well. It’s a good approach.”

But people who don’t have surface water rights to offset their groundwater pumping oppose the rule.

A group of well owners called Sustainable Water Augmentation Group (SWAG) with land northeast of Center who don’t have many surface water rights have objected to the new water plan for Subdistrict No. 1, he said. Their objection will lead to a trial in water court.

SWAG has also filed a court case to get out of Subdistrict No. 1 and develop their own augmentation plan, which will also go to court.

One Rotary member brought up water exports, asking, “Where does the Division [of Water Resources] stand on that?”

As a general statement, Cotten said, any time anyone wants to change a water right, (taking water out of the Valley would clearly be a change), they have to go to water court where, initially, the Division of Water Resources acts as the court’s engineer.

“We advise the court if the case should be approved or denied.”

Cotten added that, if DWR is concerned that a water court case will injure other water rights holders, “We can step out of our consultation role into a former opposer role and become a party to the case. The injury part would be a big issue. How can you move water and not cause injury?”

In a further illustration, Cotten brought up the Great Sand Dunes which has a water right “that says they have to hold water in the ground to a certain elevation or the sand will blow away.”

A brief article on the nps.gov/grsa website related to hydrology in the Great Sand Dunes describes the situation in more detail. “As in our own bodies” the website reads, “water is the glue that holds this complex system together, through flowing streams, wetlands, and moisture that allows unique plants and animals to survive in the sand. [These streams] are critical parts of a huge natural system that shapes and maintains the Great Sand Dunes as we know them today.”

With the statute that requires sustaining the aquifers in the San Luis Valley plus the water right owned by the Great Sand Dunes that must be used to hold water in the ground, Cotten summarized his point by saying, “Taking water out of the valley would be a big hurdle.”

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TEAM

Continued from Page 1

Naranjo, and Emily Seger. The contest consisted of judging eight classes: Steers, Heifers, Market Lambs, Breeding Ewes, Market Goats, Yorkshire Gilts, Berkshire Gilts, and Market Hogs. Teams traveled from all over the U.S., including Florida, Montana, and Hawaii to participate.

Tynnley Burh, the only Junior Member from the SLV, placed third overall as an individual out of 69 participants.

Livestock judging requires contestants to make logical decisions, in a fixed amount of time. When a judging team member analyzes a class, he or she is not only comparing the individuals in the class but also comparing each individual to the ideal product in that field.

The judge must establish priority areas and develop strategies to reach the final placing of that class.

Then students must utilize their senses to perceive the differences in structural correctness, muscularity,



Courtesy photo

San Luis Valley 4-H member Tynnley Burh placed third as an individual in the Junior Livestock Judging at the Arizona National Livestock Show.

and fat deposition. After weighing the placing factors, the student must persuasively present in oral form a set of reasons explaining the factors that influenced their class placing.

Points are awarded to the contestant for accuracy, organization, and speaking/writing ability.

A judging contest builds character and instills self-confidence. Team members are exposed to teamwork, effective communication skills and analytical thinking. Team members also build self-confidence as they become comfortable with both components of judging. Development of

these skills benefits every area of the judge's life.

An additional benefit from participating on a judging team is having the opportunity to travel to new places and meet and interact with livestock industry leaders. Many times, these relationships will aid 4-H members

in the future as they choose career paths in the livestock industry.

Livestock Judging is just one of the many activities a 4-H member can participate in. 4-H enrollment closes on Jan. 26. For more information, call the SLV Area Extension Office 719-852-7381.

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