

## Shorts

### Four from Valley named to SNHU President's List

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Christa Bogle and Melissa Tibbits of Alamosa, Jennifer Clevenger of South Fork, and Talyx Steele of Sanford have been named to Southern New Hampshire University's (SNHU) Fall 2023 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with a 91-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 225,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, N.H. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News and World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at [www.snhu.edu](http://www.snhu.edu).

### CAC opens call for entry for Willow Creek Journal

CREEDE — The Creede Arts Council is excited to announce that the call for entry for the 2024 Willow Creek Journal is officially open. The Willow Creek Journal is a community-centered annual creative anthology. Through the journal, we celebrate and nurture the creativity of artists of all ages. The Willow Creek Journal features poetry, prose, photographs, and artwork. Find the 2024 call for entry and submission instructions at [www.creedeartsCouncil.com/willow-creek-journal](http://www.creedeartsCouncil.com/willow-creek-journal). This year, the CAC is utilizing a new method for submitting work in the hopes that it can streamline and simplify this process.

For more information, contact CAC at [creedearts@outlook.com](mailto:creedearts@outlook.com) or call at 719-658-0312. The deadline to submit is March 1.

## SRMAC keynote speaker is Temple Grandin



Temple Grandin

### STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — The Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference (SRMAC) will be held at the Outcall Event and Conference Center at SLV Ski Hi Complex on Feb. 6-8, and Temple Grandin is the keynote speaker.

Grandin is a world-renowned bestselling author and speaker on autism and animal behavior. Grandin is a professor of animal science and works for Colorado State University.

Grandin is set to present three unique educational sessions on Wednesday, Feb. 7. Grandin's keynote presentation will be at 11 a.m. Grandin will speak about visual thinking.

Her speech will include secret gifts of people who are visual thinkers through patterns and concepts.

Grandin's second session will be held at 1:30 p.m. and will include tips and techniques on handling livestock. A panel discussion will also be held, but the time is yet to be determined for the discussion.

Grandin did not speak until she was 3 and a half years old. Grandin obtained her master's in animal science while attending Arizona State University. She is known worldwide for developing and implementing specially handled livestock facilities.

Grandin designed a center track

restraint system for meat plants. Her system is curved and designed to help keep cattle calm and reduce stress while they are in a meat plant facility.

The Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference takes place once a year. Ag producers are always looking for more ways to enhance their knowledge, and skills in modern day agriculture works. The Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference features many work sessions, with many experts, who actively engage in every facet of the agriculture world and want to share their knowledge with local ag producers to help make the agriculture

*Please see GRANDIN on Page 2A*



Courtesy photo

In 2023, volunteers with Saguache County Search and Rescue logged 1,158 hours in service to others.

## Saguache County Search and Rescue 2023 recap

By SAGUACHE COUNTY SAR

SAGUACHE COUNTY — Saguache County Search and Rescue

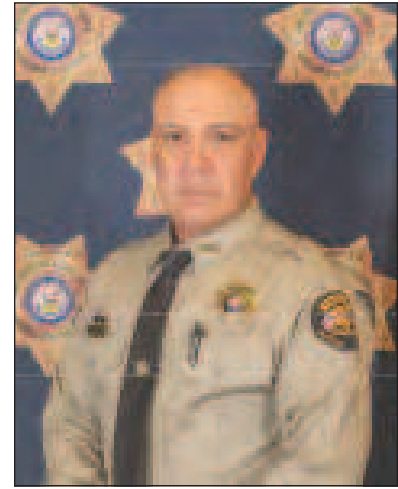
(SAR) thanks all the volunteers who made 2023 a successful year.

A highlight of the 2023 End of Year Report is that no personnel were

injured during any training or field operation.

2023 Mission Summary:

*Please see RECAP on Page 2A*



William Lucero

## Deputy Lucero found dead

### STAFF REPORT

PAGOSA SPRINGS — Deputy William (Bill) Lucero, a longtime law enforcement officer who previously served in the San Luis Valley, was found dead at his residence Tuesday, Jan. 9, during a welfare check in Archuleta County where he has served as a deputy sheriff since the spring of 2022. Currently, the cause of his death is unknown.

According to Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux, Deputy *Please see LUCERO on Page 2A*

## Mountain Valley Transit rides throughout SLV

### By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA — Mountain Valley Transit (MVT), formally known as the Chafee Shuttle is now offering service throughout the San Luis Valley. The scheduled service that runs from Alamosa to Antonito, Creede to Alamosa, KV Estates to Alamosa, Saguache to Alamosa, and Saguache to Salida. MVT continues to serve Chafee County. The free, non-profit organization was formed in Salida in 1996. Yes, the service is free, and donations are welcome to help MVT maintain operations.

In 2022, a transit study determined the need for public transport between Antonito and Alamosa and now on Monday and Friday, there is a 7:40

a.m. departure from Antonito with a return departure from Alamosa at 1:30 p.m. The bus stops in Manassa, Romero, and La Jara.

There are on-demand services available in Alamosa between 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Just let the bus driver know where you would like to go when you board. For a full schedule see the website at [www.mountainvalleytransit.com](http://www.mountainvalleytransit.com).

*Please see TRANSIT on Page 2A*

**Mountain Valley Transit, the free public transportation service serving the San Luis Valley and Chafee County is a great resource to reach medical appointments, see friends, or go shopping.**

Courtesy photo



# OBITUARY

## Betty Mary Ann Maestas

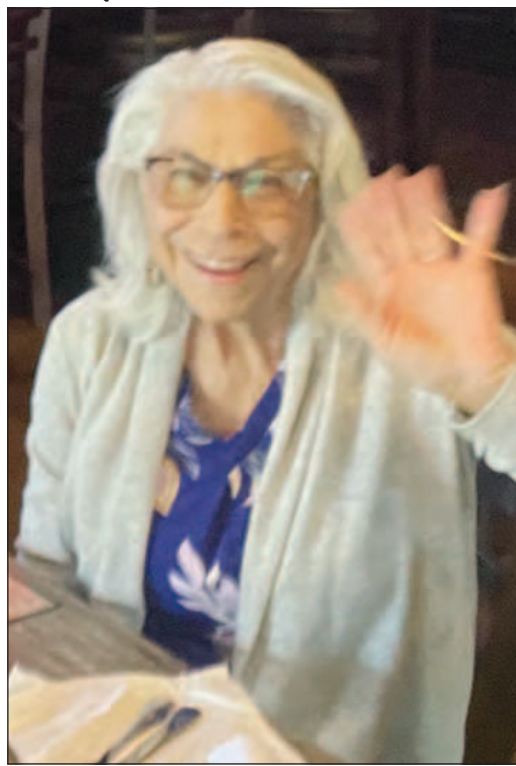
Our loving mother Betty Mary Ann Maestas entered into eternal rest on Dec. 27, 2023, at the age of 83. Betty is the daughter of the late Pete and Matilda Martinez of Monte Vista, Colo.

She had two sisters, Domey Salazar, and the late Francis Medina, three children, Max Maestas, Geri McKinney and

Joanne Maestas, and her grandchildren Joseph, Taylor, Sara, Samuel, and Raelyn.

Betty retired from the Department of Defense and served 8 years in the United States Naval Reserves. She had many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends whom she loved dearly.

She resided in Charleston, S.C., with her daughter. She will be greatly missed.



# Pile burns planned for Rio Grande State Wildlife Area

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

MONTE VISTA — Colorado Parks and Wildlife, in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, will conduct prescribed pile burning operations at the Rio Grande State Wildlife Area during the months of January and February, as weather conditions allow.

Similar work has safely been completed on the property in previous winters. Piles have been created to remove debris and reduce hazardous fuel accumulation to help reduce the risk of larger wildfires and for public safety. The piles are burned in areas where other means of disposal are not feasible.

Smoke may be visible in the area and could persist for several days as fuels burn themselves out. Crews will be on scene to monitor the progress throughout the process. The public is reminded not to call 911 or other emergency services if smoke is visible from the burn areas.

CPW works closely with agencies such as the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division, Division of Fire Prevention and Control and local authorities in developing and implementing any burning project.



CPW photo by Tyler Cerny

A slash pile is burned at the Rio Grande State Wildlife Area.

Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. Additional information is available at [www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health).

For more information, contact CPW District Wildlife Manager Tyler Cerny at 719-850-6363 or [tyler.cerny@state.co.us](mailto:tyler.cerny@state.co.us).

Rio Grande State Wildlife Area is a 935-acre property in Rio Grande County that offers good fishing and hunting opportunities. It is closed to public access Feb. 15 through July 15 to protect nesting and wintering bird populations.

## LUCERO

Continued from Page 1A

Lucero's career spanned over 30 years, including serving as a United States Marine. He served as a sheriff's deputy, police officer and police chief with multiple agencies across Southwest Colorado, including the San Luis Valley.

Lucero was a Rio Grande County

deputy for about one year and became Center Police Chief in 2011. Prior to that, he served in Ignacio with the Southern Ute PD.

"Our deepest sympathy and condolences are extended to Deputy Lucero's family and friends," Le Roux said in a press release.

## RECAP

Continued from Page 1A

Total calls for service 46, teams deployed to field 39, rescuer hours 1,158, rescuer miles driven 8,484. Total persons rescued 55, deceased persons recovered 1. Missing persons not located 1.

Scenario:

Non-emergency service call 8.7%, accidental/false call 6.5%. Assist

law enforcement 13.0%, lost 21.7%, stranded 21.7%, overdue 10.9%, injury 10.9%. Medical emergency 26.1%.

Special Circumstances:

Technical skills required 21.8%, aircraft/drone utilized 17.4%, mutual aid to or from another agency 47.8%, command transferred to another agency 8.7%.

## TRANSIT

Continued from Page 1A

[mountainvalleytransit.com](http://mountainvalleytransit.com) or call 719-530-8980.

Mike Bischoff, Executive Director of MVT told the Valley Courier the service began to, "Provide service and assistance to older adults and the disabled to help them age in place and stay in their homes a little longer. In 2003, we started providing transportation services and the Chafee Shuttle was born, and in 2023 we celebrated our 20th year.

"About five years ago, in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Transportation, we started servicing

the northern part of the San Luis Valley, Saguache, Center and Moffat and provide once a week transit up to Saguache and once a week down to Alamosa. We are now doing as much work in the Valley as Chafee County. Our board of directors decided it was time to rebrand and create an identity that encompassed all of our areas of service, Mountain Valley Transit was born," said Bischoff.

Reservations for the scheduled service are not necessary, passengers just show up at the bus stop and jump on when it arrives.

## GRANDIN

Continued from Page 1A

world thrive. The conference delivers applicable information and is put together by a collaborative effort of producers from the ag industry, including CSU Research professionals and the CSU Extension.

This educational conference showcases a wide variety of subjects for all different types of ag producers. Topics will include potato, livestock, and alfalfa handling, and soil and water management. There will be demonstrations with equipment, breakout sessions, and much more.

The conference is a 3-day event and will feature a trade show. It works through a committee with the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce. Participants of the trade show can register for a single day or all three days.

The trade show will feature many vendors, who offer a wide variety of products and services to ag producers. Some vendors who attend are also sponsors of the show.

For more information, visit [onlineagconferencesrm.com](http://onlineagconferencesrm.com).

# There are 17 laws that went into effect

By SARA WILSON

Colorado Newsline

There are 17 laws that went into effect in Colorado on Jan. 1. Most of them were deliberated and passed during the most recent regular legislative session, which ended in May.

The full list of when laws go into effect is available on the General Assembly's website. Below are six notable laws that took effect on Monday.

Right to repair: A new right to repair law will allow farmers and ranchers in the state to repair their own equipment, rather than going through costly approved service workers. Manufacturers of equipment like tractors and harvesters must provide manuals, software, parts and tools to owners so they can fix the machinery themselves. This is the first law of its kind in the country, and comes after a 2022 law that gave wheelchair users a similar consumer right to repair.

The bipartisan bill was sponsored by Democratic Rep. Brianna Titone of Arvada, Republican Rep. Ron Weinberg of Loveland, Democratic Sen. Nick Hinrichsen of Pueblo and Democratic Sen. Janice Marchman of Loveland.

Incarcerated parents: Senate Bill 23-39 aimed to facilitate communication and time between children and their parents who are incarcerated. The act requires a jail or prison to allow the parent to participate in court proceedings about their parental rights, and it eliminates the parent's incarceration as a basis for terminating parental rights. Additionally, the law requires the state's Department of Corrections to designate a family service coordinator to oversee issues related to incarcerated

people maintaining a parent-child relationship.

The bill was sponsored by Democratic Sen. Janet Buckner of Aurora and Democratic Rep. Judy Amabile of Boulder.

Remote participation in evictions: This law will allow renters to participate in eviction court proceedings remotely with a 48-hour notice, which supporters say will reduce the number of default evictions of tenants who cannot participate in person.

"Whether it be unreliable transportation, inflexible work schedules, lack of child care, health conditions or something in between, there are many reasons why someone may not be able to attend their eviction proceedings in person. This important law will help vulnerable Coloradans retain their housing," Rep. Mandy Lindsay, an Aurora Democrat, said in a statement.

Colorado saw a record 38,700 eviction filings in 2023, up nearly 7% from 2022, as renters grapple with increased cost of living, including surging rents.

The bill was sponsored by Lindsay, Rep. Iman Jodeh, an Aurora Democrat, Sen. Sonya Jaquez Lewis, a Longmont Democrat, and Sen. Tony Exum, a Colorado Springs Democrat.

Pet ownership in housing: This law will cap monthly pet rent at \$35 or 1.5% of the tenant's monthly rent, whichever is greater. It will also limit the refundable security deposit for a pet at \$300.

Additionally, it will prohibit insurers from denying house or fire coverage because of the breed of a person's dog.

It was sponsored by Rep. Alex Valdez, a Denver Democrat, Sen.

Faith Winter, a Westminster Democrat, and Jaquez Lewis.

Informed consent: This law will require health professionals to get consent from a patient to perform an intimate exam, such as pelvic exam, before the patient is sedated. Lawmakers and supporters say that unconscious, non-consenting patients can sometimes be subjected to those types of exams even if they are unrelated to the surgery or procedure.

"Too many patients have woken up after a surgery to learn a non-consensual pelvic, prostate, rectal, or breast exam was performed on them, leaving them surprised and traumatized. With this law taking effect, Coloradans can have peace of mind that they won't undergo exams that they did not consent to," bill sponsor Rep. Jenny Willford, a Northglenn Democrat, said in a statement.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Lorena Garcia, an Adams County Democrat, Willford, Winter and Jaquez Lewis.

Plastics ban: Some provisions of a 2021 law take effect on Jan. 1, including a ban on single-use plastic bags in grocery stores and Styrofoam cups and takeout containers at restaurants. Many restaurants will need to pivot to more environmentally-friendly options, such as paper or biodegradable products. Stores will still be able to offer recyclable paper bags for a fee, and stores with three or fewer locations in Colorado will be exempt from the plastic bag ban.

That law was sponsored by Rep. Lisa Cutter, a Littleton Democrat, Sen. Julie Gonzales, a Denver Democrat, former Sen. Leroy Garcia, a Pueblo Democrat, and Valdez.

# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Waiting on the big one

The New Year dawned on Miss Trixie and me in Texas with its usual fanfare for us to be healthy and safe.

I do have to say that although I have never been much of a fan of Texas, it's nice to be warm most of the winter and this one is no exception.

My father, Fast Freddy of Dodge City Wild West roots, is stuck up there in Kansas and today looking out at blizzard conditions -and it's not at the Dairy Queen.

High winds usually accompany those storms in the land of Oz and so it piles up in drifts high as the houses people hunker down in.

All the people there and across the northeast have already emptied the stores of bread and milk as that is "what you do" when a storm is lurking on the horizon.

I often wonder if the weatherman or woman has family in the food industry as their predictions now all seem to lean toward the severe side. Storms that used to not even draw much of a mention back when I was a kid where the buffalo roam, now are given names even before they materialize.

I can't recall how many "storms of the century" we have had in the last 10 years, but it's been enough to fill a bushel basket to overflowing. And while it is mathematically impossible to have more than one storm of the century several times each year, it sells bread and milk and gets us to watch the news in anticipation of huge storms.

It also seems like the news stations all seem to pick up on said "disasters in the making" and they multiply the tidings of impending disaster like Jesus did with the loaves and fishes.

There is probably a sermon in there somewhere, but I am too tired to extrapolate on that this morning. To which the congregation says, Amen.

So, it seems that we have become a nation of folks who enjoy a good story more than the truth most of the time. And we are less and less able to think for ourselves about pending weather events and leave all that



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

predicting to people who never had to walk to school up hill, both ways in a hundred storms of the century.

Our parents went about their lives like nothing was going on unless it got too bad then they simply had the presence of mind to stay home and wait for it to pass.

And even if we were lucky enough to get a snow day which really did only occur once a century, we all headed outside to build snowmen, throw snowballs, and mainly stay out from under the foot of our mothers.

Of course, the reactions of people to these storms varied from north to south in this country as farther south, say in Texas, a skiff of snow or ice or even a heavy dew is their signal to hit the freeway and have wrecks untold.

So today as I wait for "the big one" to hit here once again, I see light rains now have replaced the prediction of impending doom. But even though it appears to be another false alarm, at least I have eggs, bread, and milk enough for the months ahead.

I'll see you all next week after it passes.

*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.*

## LETTERS POLICY

Letters are welcome and encouraged. They should be fewer than 300 words, unless arranged beforehand with the editor, and they are subject to editing for length and clarity.

All letters must be signed by the author and include a phone number and address where the author can be reached (these are not for publication). Letters forwarded from other organizations or sent to staff and not for print must be designated as such. Letters over 300 words and without contact information will be returned to

the sender or discarded.

We will accept one letter per person, per subject, per four issues. We reserve the right to reject letters for reasons we believe are appropriate. Please send letters to Letter to the Editor c/o Valley Publishing, PO Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or e-mail to bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com (Attention: Letter to the Editor). Deadline for letters is 5 p.m. Friday.

Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.



## What did Westerners care about in 2023?

This past year, Writers on the Range, an independent opinion service based in western Colorado, sent out 52 weekly opinion columns. They were provided free of charge to more than 200 subscribing editors of publications large and small, each of whom republished dozens of the columns.

Writers on the Range has a simple two-part mission. One of its aims is to engage Westerners in thinking and talking to each other about issues important to the region. The other aim is to entice readers to look forward to these fact-based opinions, with the hope that they will then want to keep their local journalism outlet alive and flourishing.

This year, the focus of writers ran the gamut from A to W. Abortion bans, wrote Idaho-based Crista Worthy, caused women's health to suffer severely, while wolves, wrote Story Warren, were unfairly blamed for killing livestock in Colorado.

Several columns covered the depleted Colorado River, while longtime journalist Rocky Barker wrote that at last, four Klamath River dams would be demolished in the Northwest to help struggling salmon populations.

Greg McNamee made an excellent case for paying wildland firefighters what they deserved for their hazardous work, and Pepper Trail, the renowned Oregon biologist, wrote several opinions, including one about his own efforts to save wildlife from fatal encounters with vehicles.

No matter what Marjorie "Slim" Woodruff writes from her perch at the bottom of the Grand Canyon — insulting hikers for their lack of trail etiquette, mocking visitors for their Instagram obsessions — readers love how she slings her stings. Her pieces routinely run in 50 or more outlets.

From the Yellowstone area, Molly Absolon was also a popular writer, telling about backcountry heroes — mostly volunteers — who extricate hikers, climbers and drivers of snow

machines from dangerous situations they had gotten themselves into.

In Colorado, Erica Rosenberg detailed how federal land exchanges almost always serve the wealthy, and in Alaska, Tim Lydon wrote about his recreationally oriented town of Girdwood, so out of whack economically that teachers cannot find local housing.

Ernie Atencio celebrated the work of two Westerners who died recently, the New Mexico rancher Sid Goodloe, who transformed ranching by promoting short-duration, rotational grazing, and Dave Foreman, founder of EarthFirst! who worked to save old-growth forests, wilderness, and migration corridors for big game.

The most-read award goes to Writers on the Range publisher Dave Marston, whose piece about the looming energy gap appeared in 67 publications. It also prompted an invitation from Amory Lovins, the guru of energy efficiency, for Marston to visit his Rocky Mountain Institute and learn why his column was so wrong about small, modular nuclear power being an option. Marston accepted that invitation, and this January his opinion will reveal whether he has seen the light, so to speak.

Writers on the Range fields diverse reactions on its website, and some, to put it mildly, get personal. The column by Dana Johnson headlined "Mountains don't need hardware," enraged some technical climbers. The director of The Access Fund, which wants climbers to be able to put bolts into mountains in wilderness, vilified Marston, even accusing him of securing his position through "nepotism."

Marston, who wrote eight opinions this year, did not bother to point out that not that many people choose to work for free, no matter what their last name.

There also emerged a healthy conversation about whether too many out-of-area hunters crowded public land. Andrew Carpenter's opinion prompted rancher Lesli Allison to



by Betsy Marston

reply that 80 percent of scarce winter habitat for big game is provided by ranchers, and that cutting hunting tags for outsiders threatened the ability of ranchers to make a living.

Whatever retired land-use professor Rick Knight writes about — monster mansions polluting views or how much fun it can be to work like a dog restoring neglected land — readers love his message. They can tell he knows and cares about protecting the region's open lands. But then, every opinion writer this year seemed to share his passion for the fascinating and often contentious West.

Finally, opinions can have an impact if they are sent out at the right time. "Outrage in Wyoming," by Savannah Rose, urged the state not to auction off 640 acres within Grand Teton National Park. Her piece helped raise the number of angry objectors to 9,000, with 7,000 comments coming in the last week. The pressure worked: Wyoming officials postponed a decision on an auction until sometime in 2024.

*Betsy Marston is the editor of Writers on the Range, an independent opinion service that seeks to spur lively conversation about the West. Want to comment, get on our newsletter list, or write a column? Go to writersontherange.org.*

# CENTER POST-DISPATCH

THE CENTER POST-DISPATCH (USPS 775-900) Published weekly (every Thursday) by Valley Publishing. (719) 852-3531 at 835 First Ave., Monte Vista, Colorado 81144-1423. Official newspaper of the Town of Center, and a legal newspaper in Saguache County.  
Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144  
Main office, Want ads and Subscriptions: (719) 852-3531  
Periodical postage paid at Monte Vista, Colo., 81144  
POSTMASTER: Send change of address to P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144  
Subscriptions: \$45 one year in the San Luis Valley; \$40 one year seniors (65 and older) in the San Luis Valley; and \$55 one year out of the San Luis Valley. (719) 852-3531  
San Luis Valley Publishing, LLC

- Brian Williams..... GM/Editor
- Marie Mccolm .....
- Monte Vista Journal/Center Post Dispatch Reporter
- Lyndsie Ferrell..... South Fork/Creede Reporter
- Diane Drekman..... Conejos/Costilla Reporter
- Shasta Quintana .....
- Ellie Bone .....
- Roxie Beutler .....
- Richard R. Quintana..... Mailroom Supervisor/Press

[www.centerpostdispatch.com](http://www.centerpostdispatch.com)

# Results of annual Christmas Bird Count from both sides of SLV

By JOHN WATERS

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — Starting on Christmas Day in 1900, ornithologist, Frank M Chapman with the newly formed Audubon Society proposed an annual holiday tradition of counting birds and the Christmas Bird Count began.

According to the Audubon Society, "Since that inaugural count, people have always counted every bird of all species encountered during one calendar day; they have reported the number of observers and time and distance during that day, from a prescribed area, making sure to minimize the possibility of double counting."

Today the count is a 15-mile circle area from which observers count and identify all of the birds they see.

This 2023 count had 662 counts worldwide and included two local counts and over 50 other counts in Colorado.

The Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge held its annual Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 16. Eighteen people (six teams) spent a total of 6.5 hours (24 party hours) and covered over 280 miles on the count. Weather conditions during the day were cool with clear skies and no wind. The day

started out at -4° and rose to a balmy 29°F. The teams covered all of the 176 square miles of the circle. This year's numbers were above average. A total of 51 species were documented and 5,833 individual birds were observed. Sixty-three species is still the record. Best birds were Virginia Rail, Lincoln's Sparrow, Ferruginous Hawk, Merlin, Sandhill Crane, and Prairie Falcon. During the count week, a Townsend's Solitaire was reported.

On the other side of the San Luis Valley, Great Sand Dunes National Park held its annual count on Dec. 30 and recorded 30 species. Twelve observers walked eight miles and drove 54 miles during the count. Common birds were Western Scrub Jay, Stellar's Jay and Juniper Titmouse. Two sightings of a Virginia Rail and an American Wigeon required the filing of a rare bird report.

In other birding news, a pair of bald eagles was spotted recently by this reporter who saw the two at a nest site in the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge along the banks of the Rio Grande. In early November, the Valley Courier reported that the nesting in the lower elevation areas of the Valley was a first. At



Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**During the annual Christmas Bird Count on the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, a Ferruginous hawk was sighted. The stunning birds are the largest of our soaring Buteo Hawks.**

the time, John Rawinski a local field ornithologist and former US Forest Service employee, who has been keeping records of bird data in the Valley for over 40 years, told the Valley Courier, "The successful nest is certainly a milestone. It is unprecedented in that for the first time, we have had a nesting pair of bald eagles nesting in the Valley

proper, that is along the Rio Grande and in the flat of the Valley."

According to Rawinski, the origin of the breeding pair is unknown, "they could have come from the south, down into New Mexico, and maybe followed the river up. They also could have come from Southwest Colorado. Those are our nearest breeding populations.

I'm not sure I have an answer. It remains a mystery as to where they ended up where they did. It is very, very, exciting news because we're going to have to monitor this and see what happens next."

It has yet to be determined if the recent bald eagles sighted are the pair that nested previously. Stay tuned.



Photo courtesy Evert Brown

**A pair of bald eagles has again been sighted at a nest site on the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge.**

Talk About LOCAL!

**CENTER POST-DISPATCH**  
In Print & Online  
www.centerpostdispatch.com

Valley Publishing 719-852-3531 

**inogen**

**PORTABLE OXYGEN FOR YOUR ON-THE-GO LIFESTYLE**

Call us toll-free at **1-719-490-4844**

**CLAIM YOUR 14-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL<sup>1</sup>**

14-day risk-free trial- Return within 30 days of purchase for a full refund of purchase price.

PM230469 EN\_EX\_USA  
Rx Only © 2023 Inogen, Inc.  
301 Coromar Drive, Goleta, CA 93117  
Inogen® is a trademark of Inogen, Inc. The usage of any Inogen, Inc. trademark is strictly forbidden without the prior consent of Inogen, Inc. All other trademarks are trademarks of their respective owners or holders.



**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Your ad could be here for only **\$12/week!**

Call 852-3531

# Rio Grande Hospital Wellness Center is moving toward an opening in June

By RIO GRANDE HOSPITAL

**DEL NORTE**— The Rio Grande Hospital Wellness Center campus is an innovative project, sitting on five acres south of the hospital and clinic, and includes the 7,500-square-foot communal center.

A recent tour of the building, with all its interior walls' sheetrock in place, made clear the Center's spatial layout. When completed early this summer, visitors will be able to experience the benefits of all its unique features.

Specifically designed around four concepts of wellness, the facility's informational hallways guide the visitor from one concept to the next.

Lisa Carpenter, architect with Keys and Lauer Architecture says, "coming in through the Vestibule you enter the educational hallway and will immediately see the Welcome Wall. Signage will let you know this is your first stop. This area will give you general knowledge about Blue Zone living."

"From here you can meander to each Blue Zone node to learn more about the four main concepts — Connect, Nutrition, Mindfulness, and Move."

The Connect Wall education node will have displays and information promoting wellness, community activities, health events, the Center's activities, organizational events, and other social opportunities that promote health.

To the right, is the 700-square-foot Community Lounge where people can meet with friends, family, or colleagues to converse or maybe play a board game together. The lounge has an exterior door opening onto the Front Porch, which provides additional space for people to comfortably get together while relaxing and enjoying the outdoors.

Through a connecting doorway is the Community Hall. At 2,200 square feet, it is a space for larger gatherings and events. It is spacious enough to accommodate the entire hospital staff for meetings or to hold regional conferences. Large windows reveal the entire Upper Rio Grande Valley to the west, including two sets of glass doors that open to the covered Veranda so people can gather outside.

The hall has a countertop that opens directly to the 400-square-foot, centrally located Teaching Kitchen - a place for healthy cooking demonstrations, classes, and community meals focusing on nutrition.

Next is the Nutrition Wall education node beside the Garden Meeting Room with its fragrant foliage-laden living herb wall. The Nutrition Wall will also feature information about the campus's Geodesic Dome greenhouse. Both areas will teach how to grow a variety of sustaining herbs and foods.



Courtesy photo

The Rio Grande Wellness Center is under construction at the Rio Grande Hospital complex in Del Norte.

Proceeding down the hall, the Mindfulness Wall education node shares information about the labyrinth-patterned floor in the Community Hall, and provides access to the two private, Quiet Rooms.

Labyrinth floors have been used therapeutically in hospitals and hospices and proven to be able to quiet the mind or boost recovery.

The Quiet Rooms, each with a massage chair and nooks for meditation enable such things as deep relaxation, reflection, and healthy outlooks.

Rounding out the tour, the Move Wall education node focuses on the body and is located just outside the Exercise Studio, which will be equipped with a variety of exercise equipment. The studio also has a set of doors that open to the covered Veranda for outdoor workouts and group classes.

The move zone exterior doors

provide direct access to the outdoor walking paths connecting all elements of the campus - the Wellness Center, the cottages, the geodesic dome, the hospital, and the health clinic as well as the town's 8-mile Lookout Mountain walking and biking trail system.

A grand opening celebration is scheduled for some time in June.



## San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2023-2024

### BOYS

Sierra Grande 47	Evangel Christian 45
South Baca 47	Centennial 41
Sangre de Cristo 45	Trinidad 23
Sargent 50	Centennial 27
Peyton 74	Center 29
Monte Vista 52	Ignacio 44
Alamosa 32	Sanford 31
Rocky Ford 51	Center 26
Pagosa Springs 62	Sanford 34
Centauri 57	Delta 48
Fruita Monument 71	Centauri 36
Alamosa 78	Delta 76 20T

### GIRLS

Evangel Christian 55	Sierra Grande 26
South Baca 57	Centennial 8
Monte Vista 37	Ignacio 31
Peyton 60	Center 29
Trinidad 48	Center 41
Sanford 44	Alamosa 37
Center 47	Rocky Ford 30
Pagosa Springs 38	Sanford 27
Centauri 63	The Vanguard 44
Delta 66	Centauri 40
Delta 63	Alamosa 45

You could be a supporter for San Luis Valley Sports!

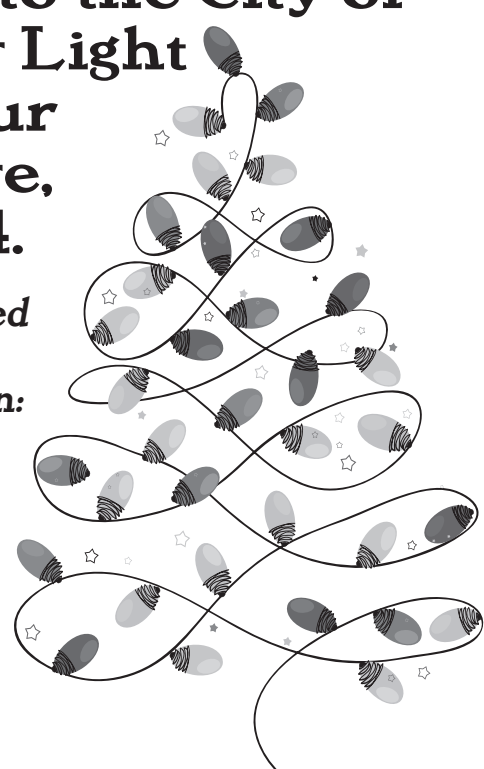
Your ad could be here! 719.852.3531

# Let's ring OUT 2024 with More Lights!

## Consider donating to the City of Monte Vista Holiday Light Fund and mail your check to 95 1st. Ave, Monte Vista 81144.

The City THANKS those who donated to the 2023 lights and helped us SPARKLE during the holiday season:

Wilber Ellis, RG Bank, The Valley Church of the Nazarene, MV Rotary Club, MV Eastern Star. And THANKS to the SLV Rural Electric Cooperative for hanging the lights at the Outcalt Event and Conference Center and the Carnegie Library. Cheers to another great year!



# Denver Air Connection seeks to continue Alamosa service

## FAA to announce airport fine agreement in January

By JOHN WATERS

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — Denver Air Connection will seek federal funding under the Essential Air Service program to continue serving the San Luis Valley Regional Airport with passenger service. Jon Coleman, a pilot and spokesman for the airline has told the Valley Courier the carrier may seek funding to serve the airport for an additional four years.

Alamosa County Administrator Roni Wisdom said, "We will work closely with the FAA and the proposers to make sure we have an airline in place by the end of this contract."

The Essential Air Service (EAS) program was established in 1978 to ensure that smaller communities have access to the national air transportation service and provide subsidies when necessary. Earlier this year, the program survived a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives to severely curtail the federal program.

In March 2022, Denver Air Connection submitted a bid proposal to the U.S. Department of Transportation seeking \$5.2 million in EAS funding to serve Alamosa for two years. The airline was awarded the funding and began the two-year service in June 2022.

Currently, the airline provides service between Alamosa and Denver with round-trip advance fares of \$198. The airline partners with United

Airlines and American Airlines for connecting service worldwide. Denver Air Connection provides service to 16 destinations directly. In November, Denver International Airport celebrated DAC's service at the airport with a Facebook post, "Our friends Denver Air Connection have kept us flying to nearby destinations in Colorado and neighboring states for 8 years!"

Denver Air Connection provides service with the Embraer 145LR jets. With 20 years in operation, over 26 million flight hours, in service with 36 airlines in 26 countries. The ERJ-145 has a 50-seat capacity and a 1,550-mile range fully loaded. The jets underwent an Embraer refurbishment in the Summer of 2019 resulting in like new aircraft according to the airline. The

30-passenger Dornier 328 jet also serves the Denver-Alamosa route.

The Valley Courier has contacted SkyWest Air and Boutique Air, carriers that previously served the airport, asking if they will seek EAS funding when the bid process begins in March to serve the airport. Nadim Khoury with Boutique Air said, "Yes we are definitely considering Alamosa." SkyWest did not return comment by press time.

In other San Luis Valley Regional Airport news, the \$1.29 million

civil penalty the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) proposed against the owners of the airport, the City of Alamosa, and the County of Alamosa, will have a resolution soon. In June 2023, the FAA proposed the fine for the airport allegedly failing to ensure aircraft rescue and firefighting personnel were available at the airport during scheduled air flights. Eva Lee Ngai, Public Affairs Specialist with the FAA has told the Valley Courier, "The final agreement for civil penalty should be released early next year."



Photo by John Waters

Denver Air Connection hopes to continue serving the San Luis Valley Regional Airport for up to four years.

**POWER UP FROM ANYWHERE**

**DURACELL®**

**M150 Portable Power Station**

From Duracell, the #1 trusted battery brand, the M150 Portable Power Station enables you to work and have fun from anywhere.



**ONLY \$199**

Give the gift of portable power to friends and family this holiday season!\*




[portablepower.info/offer306](http://portablepower.info/offer306)

Laptop	Phone	Tablet
1 Charge	6 Charges	3 Charges

\*Order by December 15th for Christmas delivery. Battery purchase does not include phone.

Join millions of older Americans who are rediscovering the joy of walking

**"I'm on the move again with my UPWalker!"**

The UPWalker is a revolutionary new mobility device that can change your life by changing the way you walk. It enables you to stand upright when you walk— with your spine straight and your eyes looking straight ahead. Your weight is supported by your upper arms and shoulders, some of the strongest parts of your body. Traditional walkers and rollators force you to put the pressure of your body weight on your hands and wrists. You push them in front of you, looking at the ground instead of where you going. The UPWalker moves with you, with your body perfectly aligned and your feet free to walk in a normal fashion. Its easy-adjust height system allows it to be the perfect fit/height for anyone from 4'10" to 6'1" and supports up to 300 pounds. The new stand-assist handles enable you to distribute your weight across your arms and shoulders, not your hands and wrists to help reduce back, neck, wrist pain and discomfort. It features comfortable arm pads, hand brakes, a fold-down seat, a backrest and two storage bags. It's built with aircraft-grade aluminum to be sturdy yet lightweight, and its sleek design and oversized wheels make it perfect for tight spots in the house or walking in the yard.

Why spend another day bent over and shuffling around— or worse yet, plopped in front of the TV all day. Pick up the phone and take back your life. Call now.

**UPWalker® Premium Lite**  
from Journey Health & Lifestyle

Call now Toll-Free  
**855-417-6301**  
Please mention promotion code 601943.




**FREE SHIPPING!**

**Includes a FREE Accessories Kit in \$199 price!**

From the makers of the original UPWalker®

- Stand-Assist Handles
- Comfortable Seat
- Folds Easily
- Adjustable Backrest
- Optimized Center of Gravity
- Easy-Brake Wheels

Plus, now you can choose between dark luster silver or champagne

BBB

© 2023 Journey Health and Lifestyle

ADVERTISEMENT

**Why you need dental insurance in retirement.**

**Medicare doesn't pay for dental care!**  
As good as Medicare is, it was never meant to cover everything. If you want protection, you need to purchase individual insurance.

**Early detection can prevent small problems from becoming expensive ones.**  
The best way to avoid large dental bills is preventive care. Experts recommend checkups twice a year.

**Previous dental work can wear out.**  
Your odds of having a dental problem only go up as you age.<sup>2</sup>

**Treatment is expensive — especially the services people over 50 often need.**  
Unexpected bills, like \$189 for a filling, or \$1,219 for a crown<sup>3</sup> can be a real burden, especially if you're on a fixed income.

**When you're comparing plans ...**

- ▶ Look for coverage that helps pay for major services.
- ▶ Look for coverage with no deductibles.
- ▶ Shop for coverage with no annual maximum on cash benefits.

Simply put — without dental insurance, there may be an **important gap** in your healthcare coverage.

**DENTAL Insurance**  
from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

Call for a **FREE** Information Kit!  
**1-855-965-3478**  
Dental50Plus.health/Mvjrn1




Here's the information you requested on Dental

1 "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2021. 2 "How might my oral and dental health change as I age?," www.usnews.com, 11/30/2018. 3 American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2018 Survey of Dental Fees, Copyright 2018, American Dental Association.

Includes the Participating (GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Product not available in all states. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, LA, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). Rider kinds B438, B439 (GA: B439B).  
6247-0121

# Continuing education retreat at Joyful Journey Hot Springs

**By JOYFUL JOURNEYS**  
**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — Joanna Johnson will be offering a Zero Balancing educational retreat at Joyful Journey Hot Springs on Feb. 7-11. This 25-hour continuing education retreat offers a blend of

western osteopathy and eastern acupuncture. Zero Balancing (ZB) offers health care professionals easier and more effective tools to engage and treat patients. ZB is nationally accredited for massage therapists

and acupuncturists and physical therapists in Colorado. This retreat is also available to yoga teachers and wellness enthusiasts. ZB is a wellness system practiced through clothing to release bone held tension and balance

ligamentous structure. The skill set developed in the Zero Balancing classroom allows practitioners to gently treat patients with less effort, creating less wear on the hands overall. This easy on the hands method of treatment effectively treats chronic pain, biomechanical limitations, skeletal and ribcage injuries, healed fractures, etc.

allowing practitioners a foothold in both allopathic and complementary medicine. Johnson has been a practicing massage therapist since 2002 and began studying Zero Balancing in 2004. Having become a certified practitioner, Johnson completed her faculty training in 2012. She currently practices and teaches Zero Balancing and Kundalini Yoga in Creede.

Students will learn how to palpate and release bone held tension and evaluate and balance ligaments.

Held at Joyful Journey Hot Springs, this delightful venue offers a variety of accommodations, vegetarian and gluten-free meals and hot mineral springs. Discover more about Joanna Johnson and Zero Balancing at [www.jojohnsoncreede.com](http://www.jojohnsoncreede.com).

This first Zero Balance class, Core I, gives the students a complete protocol to use or integrate into their current protocol. These classes provide an understanding of the interface between bio-mechanical function and eastern energy theory,



Courtesy photo

Joyful Journey will again be offering a Zero Balancing continued education program this February.

## PROTECT

### WHAT MATTERS MOST

Whether you are home or away, protect what matters most from unexpected power outages with a Generac Home Standby Generator.

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac Dealer for full terms and conditions.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE

CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE

(719) 900-0326



FREE 7-year Extended Warranty\* - A \$735 Value!

\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



## PUBLIC NOTICES

DISTRICT COURT, COUNTY OF SAGUACHE STATE OF COLORADO 501 4 <sup>th</sup> Street Saguache, CO 81149 719-655-2522	
<b>SHANE THOMAS ANDIS</b> Plaintiff	
v.	
<b>BETTY L. BONNIFIELD; CHARLES M. BONNIFIELD (deceased); Saguache County Treasurer and Public Trustee, REGINA SWARTZ; Saguache County Board of Commissioners LIZA MARRON, TOM MCCrackEN, and LYNNE THOMPSON;</b>	
and all other persons who claim as heirs, devisees, creditors or otherwise under said defendants, and all unknown persons who claim any interest in the subject matter of this action,	
Defendants	
LAW OFFICE OF ANGELA LEE Angela Lee, #53495 620 Grand Ave, Del Norte, CO 81132 mailing: PO Box 69, Del Norte, CO 81132 719-589-3688 angela@angelalee.law Attorney for Plaintiffs	
<b>SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION</b>	

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS**

You are hereby 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 will 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 rendered against you by the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint, without any further notice.

This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiffs in and to the real property situated in Rio Grande County, Colorado, more particularly described as LOT 1214, THE BACA GRANDE, CHALET UNIT ONE, County of Saguache, State of Colorado

Dated November 1, 2023  
 /s/ Angela Lee, Attorney for Plaintiff  
 #53495 Law Office of Angela Lee  
 PO Box 69, Del Norte, CO 81132  
 719-657-1919

No. 1691 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, December 21 and 28, 2023 and January 4, 11 and 18, 2024.

## Prisoners of Hope

God is good. And He has a good plan for each of our lives. No matter what may be going on right now, God's plan is unfolding. In the meantime, Romans 12:12 tells us to, "Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying" (NLT).

I think that's good advice, especially in times when it feels like we've been waiting and waiting...and waiting for something to happen in our lives. Hope is vital in times like these, and it will keep us looking ahead, anticipating, and expecting whatever it is we're hoping for.

In Zechariah 9:12 (AMPC), the Lord says, "Return to the stronghold [of security and prosperity], you prisoners of hope; even today do I declare that I will restore double your former prosperity to you."

But what does it mean to become a "prisoner of hope"? It means that regardless of what happens in our lives, we refuse to stop hoping and trusting in God's ability to come through. When you become a prisoner of hope, the enemy doesn't know what to do. He may come against you with negative thoughts, but he has no power to harm you when you are determined to continually put all of your trust in God.

I remember it was just three weeks into my marriage to Dave when he asked me one day, "What's wrong with you? You have such a negative attitude!" And I said, "Well, if you don't expect anything good to happen, then you won't be disappointed when it doesn't." That was how I felt based on my feelings about past experiences. I had a very negative outlook on life, so I spoke negatively about it.

This is the way I used to live... before I became a prisoner of hope. As I grew in my relationship with God, I learned how to trust Him, how to stand on His Word, and how

to stand my ground in prayer when it got tough. Today my outlook on life is completely different from what it was many years ago. Now I enjoy my life and I encourage others to enjoy theirs as well. Jesus died for us to live an abundant, fulfilling life. And hope is the confident, favorable expectation of this life.

Now, I do realize there are many things that can happen to us that aren't so enjoyable. And that can make it difficult to grasp the idea of enjoying life. So, think of it this way: What are you hoping for? What are you expecting in life? What are you looking forward to? Focus on that.

My negative outlook was due to my attitude about all the bad things that had happened in my life. I was stuck in the pain of my past, so I didn't believe anything good would happen in my future. Because of all of the negative things that had happened, I was programmed to believe that negative things would always happen. I lost hope.

Well, God was there and He knew that. But over time He kept loving me and promising me what Isaiah 61:7 says: "Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours" (NIV). That's a promise for us all...a promise of double for your trouble! Double the blessing...double the joy...double the peace! Now doesn't that inspire hope in your heart?

Of course, this double-blessing promise isn't for the double-minded. When you walk it out in everyday life, there will be times when doubt, fear, unbelief, and weariness will come against you. It's in these times you will need to fight a good fight of faith. You will need to guard your mind against negativity about your situation. I



encourage you to find out what God says about it and then stand on the promises in His Word.

I want to encourage you to make a decision to cultivate an attitude of hope in your life. Speak positive things about your future and refuse to be negative. You may not always feel hopeful but don't give in to your feelings. Catering to bad feelings feeds and empowers them. But standing your ground and not giving in to negative feelings starves them and causes them to lose their power over us.

Just ask the Holy Spirit to lead you. Line up your thoughts and will with God's Word, which is filled with faith and hope. As you do, you will become a prisoner of hope...and inspire others to do the same.

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](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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

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

# Rio Grande Hospital receives MultiPlan Rural Health Grant

## STAFF REPORT

**DEL NORTE** — MultiPlan Corporation, a leading provider of technology-enabled cost management solutions to the U.S. healthcare industry, recently announced the recipients of its 2023 Rural Health Grants. The four healthcare providers, including Rio Grande Hospital, selected to receive this year's grants have each submitted creative proposals to help address the healthcare needs of people in their community.

The recipients of the 2023 MultiPlan Rural Health Grant are:

- Rio Grande Hospital and Clinics in Del Norte
- Benewah Community Hospital in St. Maries, Idaho

- New River Health Association in Oak Hill, W.Va.
- Springhill Medical Center in Springhill, La.

Rio Grande Hospital and Clinics cares for residents as

well as visitors who come to enjoy a variety of year-round outdoor activities. Rio Grande County's elevation is over 13,200 feet, and they treat many patients in the emergency room with ailments that directly relate to the high altitude. They will use the MultiPlan Rural Health Grant for education materials at visitor locations and pulse monitoring devices and hydration packets for emergency patients. The grant will also help fund Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for a limited number of patients.

Benewah Community Hospital will use the MultiPlan Rural Health Grant to offer pediatric vaccines at their clinic during their well-child visits. Families previously needed to travel an hour north to the nearest pediatric clinic that offers vaccines, often taking time off work to do so. This removes a barrier for the

low-income families in the area and expands access to healthcare for children in their community.

Located in coal mining country, New River Health Association will use the MultiPlan Rural Health Grant to expand their Black Lung Clinic services by adding a respiratory therapist/exercise physiologist. The services provided will help miners be more active and breathe better, which also benefits their families and the community.

Springhill Medical Center identified a need for a patient transport service to help get patients to and from their appointments because many residents do not have access to transportation as they would in a more urban area.

The center will use the grant for initial staffing costs and to equip a 14-passenger bus with a 360-degree camera and backup sensors.

"We received 69 applications for our Rural Health Grant this year. With so many worthy initiatives, it was difficult to choose," stated Bruce Singleton, Senior Vice President, Network Development Strategy for MultiPlan. He added, "The four recipients illustrate the unique needs of different rural communities around the country, and MultiPlan is happy to further their community outreach programs."

Since the program's inception in 1995, MultiPlan has been helping hospitals in rural areas and the populations they serve. Grant recipients use the funds to introduce or expand services, educate their populations, provide screenings and undertake other endeavors that support the healthcare needs of people in their communities. Get more information about the MultiPlan Rural Health Grant



# Meet Freya Lynn, SLV's first baby of 2024

## By SAN LUIS VALLEY HEALTH

**ALAMOSA** — San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center recently announced the Valley's youngest (and probably newest) resident.

Freya Lynn White came into this world on Jan. 2, weighing 6 pounds and 8 ounces, and was greeted by smiling mom and dad Leanna Taylor and Mark White. She had a little bit of a rough start and is currently in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Heartfelt thanks to those who donated to the New Year's Baby basket, including the OB Department, Kim Marquez Photography, Lucky Bamboo, Get Inked by Yolie, Coyote's Haircut, Woody's Q Sha,k and the Narrow Gauge Book Co-op.

And best wishes for the White family and baby Freya Lynn.



Photo courtesy of SLVRMC

The White family pictured (left to right) are Mark White, father, Leanna Taylor, mother, and the little head peeking out from under the blanket, Freya Lynn White.

# New Year subscription SALE!

## 1 Year Home Delivery in the San Luis Valley for \$2024 for New or Returning Subscribers\*

\*A returning subscriber is someone who has not been a subscriber in the past 6 months.

### Exclusive Subscriber Benefits

- Print home delivery
- Themed special sections
- Pull-out shopping circulars



Stay in the know with comprehensive news coverage from around town and throughout the region.

### Prefer Paperless?



### Go Green With an e-Edition Subscription!

In Print & Online

- Monte Vista Journal
- Center Post-Dispatch
- Mineral County Miner
- South Fork Tines
- Del Norte Prospector
- Conejos County Citizen

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

check or money order enclosed

P.O. Box 607 • Monte Vista, CO • 81144

(719) 852-3531 • email: office@valleypublishinginc.com \*1-year limit.



## Hale Honeybells

The once a year citrus sensation!

Buy 12 get 12 more **FREE!**

Call 1-844-989-2447

to Order Item 2692X

or Visit [HaleGroves.com/H4YU13](http://HaleGroves.com/H4YU13)

Only \$32.99 plus \$7.99 shipping & processing. Satisfaction completely guaranteed.

**35% SAVINGS!**  
INCLUDING SHIPPING!

\*Plus \$7.99 handling per pack to the 48 contiguous states. Limited time offer, good while supplies last. Not valid with any other offer. Limit 5 boxes per customer.



IC: H4YU13



# Lifestyles

Serving the entire San Luis Valley

Supplement to The Monte Vista Journal, Center Post-Dispatch, The Conejos County Citizen, The Mineral County Miner, The South Fork Times, and The Del Norte Prospector.

BOXHOLDER LOCAL-RURAL CAR-RT SORT STANDARD MAIL RATE U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 70 Alamosa, CO 81101

## Golden Pick Hockey heads to Creede for a goal in 2024

**By LYNDISIE FERRELL**

**CREEDE** — Nothing says Creede in January like warm fire pits, cold ice and pond hockey. For nearly two decades, the Golden Pick Tommyknocker Pond Hockey Tournaments have brought people out of their warm homes to enjoy the short winter days on the ice in one of the most beautiful places in Colorado. The 17<sup>th</sup> annual Golden Pick Tommyknocker Pond Hockey Tournament is set for Jan. 13 and 14.

Nestled among the high caldera cliffs at the northern end of town, the Silver Ice Park ice skating rinks will once again play host to people for some wintertime fun and some ice hockey. The event has taken hold as a tradition for the town.

This non-professional hockey tournament is for “the rest of us” as co-founder Brian Brittain dubs it. The ponds are lined with burn barrels to keep players warm and bleachers for fans to come and enjoy

*Please see PICK on Page 2*



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The 17th annual Golden Pick Tommyknocker Pond Hockey Tournament is about to hit the ice in Creede. This year's event will take place the weekend of Jan. 13-14.

## New leadership for SLV Local Foods Coalition

**By JOHN WATERS**

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — Max Gibson, who has been working at the San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition since March, assumed the role of executive director of the non-profit on Jan. 1. Gibson will replace longtime executive director Liza Marron who has retired.

The San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition is an organization dedicated to fostering an equitable local food distribution system that restores public health, community, ecosystem, and ecology. The coalition includes the Valley Roots Food Hub, Rio Grande Farm Park, and the MoKi Food Truck. The coalition has 30 full- and part-time employees.

Gibson said he will focus on, “continuing to build up our internal infrastructure... we have a full admin [administration] team around me to facilitate this. A big



**Max Gibson** piece of it is to figure out how this admin team works together and how we all can support our programs. I will continue to find the funding that keeps all of our work going. As part of the Community Food and Agriculture Assessment and Action Planning Process, will look to the community for what are the things we need to be doing

*Please see GIBSON on Page 3*

## Xcel Energy expands 2023 giving, supports communities and nonprofits

*Over \$11 million and 40,000 volunteer hours contributed this year*

**By XCEL ENERGY**

**DENVER**—Xcel Energy employees, contractors and retirees, supported by the company's Foundation, provided over \$11 million and tens of thousands of volunteer hours in 2023 to support charitable organizations and causes.

Throughout the year, they embraced opportunities to donate their time and act on a shared commitment to making a difference in

their communities, volunteering more than 40,000 hours.

The Foundation expanded its giving impact this year by investing \$4.4 million in grant funding to 409 non-profit organizations across its eight-state service area; 46% of the funds supported organizations advancing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). These grant recipients align with the Foundation's three primary focus areas:

- STEM career pathways: Nearly one million students will receive hands on STEM learning, including approximately 506,000 female students.

- Community Vitality: 7,000 individuals will gain employment, generating over \$226 million in wages.
- Environmental Sustainability: 59,000 trees will be planted, offsetting 41,000 tons of carbon emissions.

In Colorado, the Foundation granted \$1.3 million to 87 local nonprofits that align with the focus areas. As a result, 4,400 trees will be planted, offsetting 3,000 tons of carbon emissions, along with many other positive community impacts from the work of the nonprofits.

Employees in Colorado also gave their time to

causes that matter to them throughout the year. During Day of Service, more than 1,100 employees, contractors and members of the public volunteered more than 3,200 hours, packing 125,000 meals and supporting a range of nonprofits in their work.

The company's 2023 Day of Service culminated in nearly 2,500 volunteers who volunteered over 7,200 hours at 110 nonprofit projects. The Power Your Purpose Giving Campaign raised \$2.2 million to support over 1,300 organizations. Including the Foundation match, the campaign raised a total of \$4.1 million.

## CPW seeks applications for projects that will restore wetland habitat

**By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE**

**DENVER** — Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is seeking applications for wetland and riparian restoration, enhancement and creation projects to support its Wetland Wildlife Conservation Program.

CPW will award over \$1.1 million in funds from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and Colorado Waterfowl Stamps to projects in Colorado that support the Wetlands Program Strategic Plan's two main goals:

- Improve the distribution and abundance of ducks, and opportunities for public waterfowl hunting. Applications supporting this goal should seek to improve fall/winter habitat on property open for public hunting (or refuge areas within properties open for public hunting), or improve breeding habitat in important production areas (including North Park and the San Luis Valley in Colorado, and other areas contributing ducks to the fall flight in Colorado).

- Improve the status of declining or at-risk species. Applications supporting this goal should seek to clearly address habitat needs of these species. See species list on the Wetlands Priority Species page. Also see the identified threats, recommended conservation actions and progress to date for these species in the Colorado State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) Conservation Dashboards.

The application deadline is Monday, Feb. 12. The Wetlands Funding Request for Applications is available online, and can be downloaded.

What's new for 2024

For projects on CPW properties (State Wildlife Areas and State Parks), CPW's Regional Water Specialist must be consulted before applying. For additional questions, contact CPW Wetlands Program Coordinator Brian Sullivan at brian.sullivan@state.co.us.

About the program

The Colorado Wetlands for Wildlife Program is a voluntary, collaborative

*Please see HABITAT on Page 3*



Courtesy photo Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is seeking applications for wetland and riparian restoration.

# PICK Continued from Page 1

the two days of friendly hockey fun. The ponds are located at 8,900 feet elevation which adds an additional challenge to the tournament and its players. The views surrounding the rinks add an incentive to those who travel from all over the southwestern US to take part in the hockey tournament. Players from all walks of life travel to Creede just to enjoy the laid-back fun tournament that caters to all levels

of experience.

The tournament consists of two levels of competition and is set up in a way that ensures each participating team gets to play at least one playoff game by the end. The schedule is known to hockey enthusiasts as a round-robin format with a three-on-three team play.

The event began with two business owners from the Creede area wanting to have some friendly

fun among residents during the slow winter months and has turned into one of the largest pond hockey tournaments in Southwestern Colorado. Tommyknocker Tavern and Kip's Grill came together with a few people at the beginning and allowed it to grow into a full-on hockey event.

Several years ago, while visiting a neighboring bar, Kip Nagy, owner of Kip's Grill, happened across a

friend that owned a production company called Pride of Gypsies. After hearing about the steep caldera cliffs and picturesque scenery, the company decided to film a series of commercials for Carhartt. After filming was completed, a shed that was built for prop purposes was donated by Carhartt to be used as a warming hut during the hockey tournament. The shed now has a permanent home next to the lower pond.

In the years since, the ponds

above town have gone from mere recreational ponds to becoming a designated city park, suitably named for Creede's unique mining history as Silver Ice Park. The City of Creede adopted the ponds during a series of meetings in 2015 and helped with funding that purchased several lights that now line the outer edges of the ponds to allow for night skating.

Registration is now open, visit [www.creedepondhockey.wordpress.com](http://www.creedepondhockey.wordpress.com) to sign up.



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

**BUY 12 GET 12 MORE FREE!**

**ONLY \$32.99\***  
Reg. Price \$44.99  
Special Limited Time Offer!

**35% SAVINGS INCLUDING SHIPPING**

**Hale Honeybells**  
The once a year citrus sensation!

**Buy 12 get 12 more FREE!**

**Call 1-844-989-2447**  
to Order Item 2692X  
or Visit [HaleGroves.com/H4YU13](http://HaleGroves.com/H4YU13)

Only \$32.99 plus \$7.99 shipping & processing. Satisfaction completely guaranteed.

**Hale GROVES** Since 1947, Hale Groves, Vero Beach, FL 32966

**35% SAVINGS! INCLUDING SHIPPING!**

\*Plus \$7.99 handling per pack to the 48 contiguous states. Limited time offer, good while supplies last. Not valid with any other offer. Limit 5 boxes per customer.

IC: H4YU13

**Limited Time Offer**  
**Save Thousands \$**

# Educational Study Program - Limited Opportunity!\*



Dr. Thornell and his team are the best in the dental field. Your dental implants have given me my smile back!! Great customer service start to finish. Thank you for everything you have done for me! *BJK*



**If You Have:**

- 3 or more missing teeth • No teeth
- Limited jawbone volume
- Been told you are not a candidate for dental implants

**Call today to see if you qualify for our Educational Study program and SAVE UP TO 30% or more and thousands of dollars.**



Dr. Thornell and his staff are so awesome! They are caring and very professional. I now have full mouth implants and I love my new teeth!! This is life changing for me! Thank you Dr. Thornell. *RH*

**Get your Confidence and Quality of Life Back Immediately!**

\*Limited space available to qualified applicants. Applicants must present for in office consultation to determine eligibility

**Pagosa dental Implant Center**



**William F. Thornell**  
DDS, ABOI, MAGD, DICOI  
**35 years implant and oral surgery experience**

[pagosadentalimplantcenter.com](http://pagosadentalimplantcenter.com)

## Creede Elks make use of grants totaling \$6K

**CREEDE** — The Creede Elks Lodge No. 506, member Henry Hosselkus applied for both the Beacon and Spotlight Grants through the Elks National Foundation.

“The grants totaled \$6,000 and we used \$2,000 for a Veteran’s dinner and socializing,” Elks officials noted, adding “it was held at the Creede Hotel Restaurant. Our Elks Veteran’s Officer, Tim Thorton and Exalted Ruler, Clarence Dube helped organize the dinner. We had 35 Veterans in attendance, and they enjoyed dinner and socializing together.”

The remainder of the Grant money was donated to the Public Health Council Food Bank in the amount of \$4,000. Mineral County Nurse, Joni Adelman and Janet Reynolds, Public Health Manager helped Hosselkus with information.

“Thank you, Elks National Foundation, for providing grants that we can apply for to help our community and thank you to the members that donate to the Elks National Foundation,” Elks officials noted.

## GIBSON

**Continued from Page 1** — in the future. Through this process, some things have come up for 2024. Hearing from partner organizations, community members, elected officials and hearing what the food coalition and other organizations should be taking on,” said Gibson.

Gibson, who grew up in Kansas City and Colorado, has a master’s in public health and urban and regional planning from the University of Colorado Denver, and has worked in Colorado, Africa and the Middle East.

Gibson is also Board Chair of ScSEED (Saguache County Sustainable Environment & Economic Development) a non-profit that has sponsored many community organizations and efforts to create a better life in Saguache County since 1999.

## HABITAT

**Continued from Page 1** — and incentive-based program to restore, enhance and create wetlands and riparian areas in Colorado. Funds are allocated annually to the program and projects are recommended for funding by a CPW committee with final approval by the Director.

“Wetlands are so important,” said CPW Wetlands Program Coordinator Brian Sullivan. “They comprise less than two percent of Colorado’s landscape, but provide benefits to over 75 percent of the wildlife species in the state, including waterfowl and many declining species. Since the beginning of major settlement activities, Colorado has lost half of its wetlands.”

Since its inception in 1997, the Colorado Wetlands Program and its partners has preserved, restored, enhanced or created more than 225,000 acres of wetlands and adjacent habitat and more than 210 miles of streams. The partnership is responsible for more than \$50 million in total funding devoted to wetland and riparian preservation in Colorado.

# SLV Extension Office offering Servsafe Course

**MONTE VISTA** — San Luis Valley Area Extension Office is offering a Servsafe Course on Jan. 30.

ServSafe is a nationally recognized program developed by the National Restaurant Association, that

provides food safety training, exams and educational materials to food service managers.

Food Service Managers who are not certified by an accredited Food Safety Course should attend. The Colorado Retail

Food Establishment Rules and Regulations state that “at least one employee with authority to direct and control food preparation and service shall be a food protection manager who has been certified by an accredited program.”

Classspace is limited. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, contact Janae Naranjo at 719-852-7138 or [janae.naranjo@colostate.edu](mailto:janae.naranjo@colostate.edu). To register go to <https://ServSafeJan2024.eventbrite.com>.

# Business Showcase

**It's time for Snowmen!**  
*They help to do a little snow dance!*  
**Great selection while they last!**




**The Holy Moses**  
 Mon.-Sat.  
 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**658-2848**  
**121 N. Main**  
**Creede**

# This Week's Feature

## THE HOLY MOSES



*An enchanting Collection of Cabin Decor, Colorado Pottery, Quilts, Linens & Specialty Foods!*

**It's Worth The Drive**

Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
 Nick & Vicki Kulyk  
 121 N. Main • 658-2848 • Creede

## Start the New Year off right!



**LeafGuard**  
 Get it. And forget it.®

**\$50 VISA GIFT CARD**  
*Upon completion of appointment*

**75% OFF INSTALLATION!**  
*Does not include cost of materials*

- ✓ LIFETIME NO-CLOG WARRANTY
- ✓ MADE ONSITE SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUR HOME
- ✓ THE ONLY ONE-PIECE SEAMLESS DEBRIS SHEDDING GUTTER SYSTEM.
- ✓ SCRATCHGUARD® PAINT FINISH

\*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free

\*All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$50 Visa gift card. Retail value is \$50. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings, Inc. Limit one per household. Company purchases, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both collaborating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 10 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Except in the states of MD, NY and DC, where the gift card offer is limited to \$25. Offer not available in the states of CA, HI, WA and MI. Expires 1/31/24.

Call Today for Your **FREE Estimate!**  
**719-493-9644**




**SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE**

Join millions of older Americans who are rediscovering the joy of walking


## “I’m on the move again with my UPWalker!”

**FREE Shipping!**

**Includes 6 FREE Accessories!**  
*(a \$142 value)*

The **UPWalker** is a revolutionary new mobility device that can change your life by changing the way you walk. It enables you to stand upright when you walk- with your spine straight and your eyes looking straight ahead. Your weight is supported by your upper arms and shoulders, some of the strongest parts of your body. Traditional walkers and rollators force you to put the pressure of your body weight on your hands and wrists. You push them in front of you, looking at the ground instead of where you going. The **UPWalker** moves with you, with your body perfectly aligned and your feet free to walk in a normal fashion. Its easy-adjust height system allows it to be the perfect fit/height for anyone from 4’10” to 6’1” and supports up to 300 pounds. The new stand-assist handles enable you to distribute your weight across your arms and shoulders, not your hands and wrists to help reduce back, neck, wrist pain and discomfort. It features comfortable arm pads, hand brakes, a fold-down seat, a backrest and two storage bags. It’s built with aircraft-grade aluminum to be sturdy yet lightweight, and its sleek design and oversized wheels make it perfect for tight spots in the house or walking in the yard.

Why spend another day bent over and shuffling around- or worse yet, plopped in front of the TV all day. Pick up the phone and take back your life. Call now.




From the makers of the original UPWalker™


- Stand-Assist Handles
- Comfortable Seat
- Folds Easily
- Adjustable Backrest
- Optimized Center of Gravity
- Easy-Brake Wheels

**Plus**, now you can choose between dark luster silver or champagne

**Old Way**



**Better Way**



**UPWalker® Premium Lite**  
 from Journey Health & Lifestyle

Call now Toll-Free  
**855-417-6301**

Please mention promotion code 601943.

© 2023 Journey Health and Lifestyle

# Valley-Wide Classified **FREE!** ON LINE! MARKETPLACE

Sell your household items for FREE. Total value of items must be \$50 or less. See details below.



## CLASSIFIED INDEX

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 01 TICKETS
- 02 CARD OF THANKS
- 03 MEMORIALS
- 04 LOST & FOUND
- 05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
- 06 PERSONALS
- EMPLOYMENT**
- 07 HELP WANTED
- 08 WORK WANTED
- 09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

### FOR RENT

- 10 APARTMENTS
- 11 ROOMS
- 12 HOUSES
- 13 MOBILE HOMES
- 14 BUSINESS PROPERTY
- 15 WANTED TO RENT
- 16 VACATION

### REAL ESTATE

- 17 REAL ESTATE
- 18 LOTS & ACREAGE
- 19 FARM & FARMLAND
- 20 BUSINESS PROPERTY
- 21 MOBILE HOMES
- 22 PROPERTY WANTED

### MERCHANDISE

- 23 LAWN & GARDEN
- 24 GARAGE SALES
- 25 AUCTIONS
- 26 ANTIQUES
- 27 APPLIANCES
- 28 HOUSEHOLD GOODS
- 29 MUSICAL ITEMS
- 30 ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS
- 31 HEALTH
- 32 FUEL & HEATING
- 33 BUILDING MATERIALS
- 34 OFFICE EQUIPMENT
- 35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT
- 36 MISCELLANEOUS
- 37 WANTED
- 38 MACHINERY, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
- 39 SPORTING GOODS
- 40 AUTO PARTS
- FARMER MARKET**
- 41 FARM EQUIPMENT
- 42 FEED & SEED
- 43 FARM PRODUCTS
- 44 FARM SERVICES

### ANIMALS

- 45 ANIMAL BREEDING
- 46 PASTURE FOR RENT
- 47 HORSES & CATTLE
- 48 PETS & SUPPLIES
- 49 ANIMAL CARE
- 50 LIVESTOCK
- RECREATIONAL**
- 51 BOATS & EQUIPMENT
- 52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT
- 53 TRAILERS
- 54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S
- 55 R.V.'S/CAMPERS
- FINANCIAL**
- 56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
- 57 INVESTMENTS
- TRANSPORTATION**
- 58 MOTORCYCLES
- 59 VEHICLES WANTED
- 60 CLASSIC CARS
- 61 4X4'S
- 62 VANS
- 63 TRUCKS
- 64 AUTOS FOR SALE
- SERVICES**
- 65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
- 66 CHILD CARE

## RATES

**15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications**  
**\$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.**

**Garage Sale Ads: 15 Words or less for 1 week**  
**\$12 + 35¢ each additional word.**

**Free ads:** Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Limited to private party only, 2 ads per person, 4 weeks.)

### Convenient ad placement:

To place your ad in person come to the office at 835 First Ave. in Monte Vista, or call (719) 852-3531. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may also fax your classified to (719) 852-3387 or email at montevisitaclass@gmail.com

### Check your ad the first day:

To ensure your ad is correct, check it the first day it appears in the paper. If there is an error in your ad, call us right away so we can correct it. If an error appears in your ad, Valley Publishing will credit you with one additional day of advertising.

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

## DEADLINE

**Thursday 5:00 pm**

**Call 719-852-3531**

or email: rbeutler@valleypublishinginc.com

## Easy Payment Options

We accept Visa, Master Card, American Express, Discover, Checks, Money Orders & Cash



### 05 Notices

**RIO GRANDE COUNTY, COLORADO IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR THE RIO GRANDE COUNTY ELEVATOR REPAIR AND COMPONENT REPLACEMENT PROJECT.** Sealed proposals are due to the Rio Grande County Administration office by 4:00pm (MT), Friday, February 2nd, 2024. The proposals will be reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners on February 7th, 2024. The project consists of: Repairs and component replacement of the County Courthouse elevator in accordance with all requirements described in the Statement of Work. Digital copies of the bid documents are available at [www.riograndecounty.org](http://www.riograndecounty.org). Bidders must be licensed to perform work within the state of Colorado. Bids must remain in effect for 60 days after the bid opening date. RIO GRANDE COUNTY reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities in the bids and bidding deemed to be in the best interests of RIO GRANDE COUNTY, and to reject nonconforming, nonresponsive, or conditional bids. (1-31)

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

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

### 07 Help Wanted

**MINERAL COUNTY IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR A PART-TIME/SUBSTITUTE JANITOR.** Job is part-time/on call in nature working on average 30 hours a month but can be over 60 in some months. Pay starts at \$18 per hour. Must be physically capable and have an attention to detail. Must be a Mineral County resident and have reliable transportation. Will have to have a background check. Job description can be found on Mineral County Website: <https://mineralcounty.colorado.gov/job-postings>. Please return application to HR Director Della Brown: [finance@mincocolo.com](mailto:finance@mincocolo.com) 1201 N Main St Creede, CO 81130 Phone: 719-658-2331 (1-17)

**MINERAL COUNTY IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR DEPUTY ASSESSOR/TRAINEE.** Job is a ¾ time position for the first year working 28-32 hours per week at \$20.36 per hour plus limited benefits. Excellent communications and computer skills required. Job description can be found on

Mineral County Website: <https://mineralcounty.colorado.gov/job-postings>. Please return application to HR Director Della Brown: [finance@mincocolo.com](mailto:finance@mincocolo.com) 1201 N Main St, Creede, CO 81130. Phone: 719-658-2331. (1-10)

**The San Luis Valley Regional Solid Waste Authority has an opening for Office Manager.** The successful candidate must be able to work a rotating 6-day work schedule to include alternating Saturdays. Must have a good understanding and working knowledge of Quick Books and accounting principles. Candidate must be able to multi task, be a quick learner and detail oriented.

## FULL-TIME SALES

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

**Conour** *Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society*  
[www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org](http://www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org)

**If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366**  
Open Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sat. & Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m.  
Monday & non-business hours by appointment only  
2825 Sherman Ave. • Monte Vista

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



*With all of our puppies and training that we are working on with the dogs, we're just FLYING through puppy food and treats! We would appreciate any donations that could be sent our way! Thank You all for supporting us!*

## LOST & FOUND



Found on 12/29/23 at 735 Tyndal Ave in Monte Vista

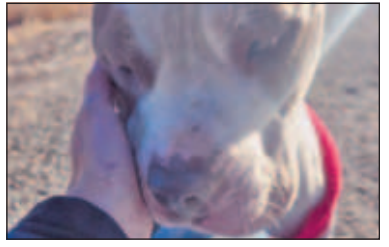


Found on 1/5/24 in the Safeway parking lot in Monte Vista

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



Spot is currently our longest resident having arrived here 6 months ago after his owner passed away. He's a very loyal, loving and playful Lab Mix. Spot is at least 80 pounds and absolutely loves to wrestle and rough house at any opportunity, he just doesn't like his feet messed with. He's a little over 6 years old and is more than ready for his new forever home!



Jethro is one heck of a guy! He's a Staffordshire Terrier mix, (we think maybe Boxer) with more love to give than he knows what to do with. Jethro is about 4 years old, loves people, kids, other doggos, and just wants to be where ever you are! He does well on the leash when he's actually in the mood for a walk, if he's not he'll let you know! Come meet this sweet guy today!

## DISCLAIMER

Please read your ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes notify us **IMMEDIATELY**. We will make changes for errors and adjust your credit **but only if we receive notice on the first day the ad is published**. We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper which reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser and not the newspaper is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. All classified advertising must be pre-paid.

### WINTER WORK!

Full & Part-Time/Holiday Positions:  
Winter Seasonal: November - April  
ALL POSITIONS OFFER SKIING PRIVILEGES & A STARTING WAGE OF \$18/HOUR  
*Merit increases based on performance & experience*

**Lift Department**  
Base Operations/Parking  
Ski School  
Food & Beverage  
Bakers  
Ticket Office  
Retail  
Snow Removal  
Grooming  
Custodial & Building  
Maintenance  
Ski Patrol  
Onsite Call Center/  
Customer Service

Applications at  
[WolfCreekSki.com/employment](http://WolfCreekSki.com/employment)  
Send applications and resumes to:  
[WolfCreekSki@WolfCreekSki.com](mailto:WolfCreekSki@WolfCreekSki.com)  
P.O. Box 2800  
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

**WOLF CREEK**  
THE MOST SNOW IN COLORADO

# Valley Wide Classifieds

Candidate must have strong background in Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable as well as payroll. The salary range for this position is \$19-25 per hour with an attractive benefits package. Job posting closes on January 12, 2024. Interested parties can obtain an application and job description by going to <https://www.riograndecounty.org/departments/business-offices/land-use> or from Rio Grande County Land Use Office, [rgclanduse@riograndecounty.org](mailto:rgclanduse@riograndecounty.org).

**Head Volleyball Coach needed at Del Norte Jr/Sr High School.** We are looking for the following abilities in our coach: Experience as a volleyball coach or assistant coach at the high school or college level is preferred. Must possess: effective coaching techniques and skills; a thorough knowledge of the rules, regulations, and techniques of the sport; and have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with school administrators, parents, and students. Please contact Gilbert "Gibbs" Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: [gsanchez@urtigers.co](mailto:gsanchez@urtigers.co), 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: [ahardy@urtigers.co](mailto:ahardy@urtigers.co), 719-657-4020. Applications may be found on our website; [www.urtigers.co](http://www.urtigers.co). (1-17)

**Head High School eSports Coach is needed at Del Norte Sr. High School.** We're looking for a leader to develop and maintain our new eSports program promoting sportsmanship and teamwork.

Our eSports coach will assist each student in gaining skills and confidence while learning game rules and strategies; as well as CHSAA eSports rules. The Coach must be professional, organized, dedicated, and well versed in gaming. The Coach is responsible for conducting practice times after academic classes and supervising the team at school activities. The Coach will also train, test, and receive our small-vehicle certification for driving school vehicles to gaming tournaments. CHSAA eSports competition games include Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Mario Kart 8, Rocket League, Splatoon 3 on Nintendo Switch; Madden NFL & NBA 2K on PS4. Please complete our coach application found on our website, [urtigers.co](http://urtigers.co) please contact Gibbs Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: [gsanchez@urtigers.co](mailto:gsanchez@urtigers.co) 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: [ahardy@urtigers.co](mailto:ahardy@urtigers.co), 719-657-4020 for further information. (1-17)

**Head Football Coach needed at Del Norte Jr/Sr High School.** The coach's responsibilities include: leading training sessions, providing motivation and advice during gameplay, developing game plans, and attending tryouts, as well as scheduling team meetings. The coach should be able to identify the individual abilities of each player and provide one-to-one coaching wherever required. The coach should demonstrate great love for the game of football, and be able to

## Write your own Classified Ad

**Regular Classified Ad Deadline-Thursday 5 p.m.**  
**15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications**  
**\$19<sup>50</sup> + 95¢ each additional word.**  
**Garage Sale Ads: 15 words or less for 1 week**  
**\$12 + 35¢ each additional word.**  
 Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Private party only) Call 719-852-3531 for details.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

Words: \_\_\_\_\_ Times: \_\_\_\_\_ Price: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One



Card#: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail with check or money order to:**  
**Valley Publishing Classifieds, P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144**  
**Or drop by at 835 First Avenue**

**All Classified Advertising must be pre-paid**



# WINTER BLEND DIESEL



## SOLD AT THE MONTE VISTA COOP

# MVCOOP.COM

MONTE VISTA, COLORADO | ALAMOSA, COLORADO

# Valley Wide Classifieds

foster good sportsmanship in the players. Outstanding candidates should be highly motivated, committed, disciplined, and patient. We are looking for the following abilities in our coach: Experience as a football coach or assistant coach at the high school or college level is preferred. Must possess: effective coaching techniques and skills; a thorough knowledge of the rules, regulations, strategies, and techniques of the sport; and have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with school administrators, parents, and students. Please contact Gilbert "Gibbs" Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: gsanchez@urtigers.co, or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: ahardy@urtigers.co, 719-657-4020. (1-10)

**Weekend Court Assistant- Rio Grande County** - The Weekend Court Assistant helps manage reports and data for the Sheriff's Office, the State of Colorado, the District Attorney's Office, and the Courts. They process weekend court paperwork, reports, and bookings while maintaining all

records accurately. The position requires a Colorado driver's license, high school diploma, or GED, and applicants must be 18 years of age. The pay range to start annually is \$34,797.72 - \$37,170.52, including benefits. For more information, visit the Rio Grande County Website or email your application to humanresources@riograndecounty.org. If you have any questions, please call Debra J Hite at Human Resources at (719) 657-2744. (1-10)

**Rio Grande County is Hiring. Detention Deputy - Dispatcher Rio Grande County** — This job involves performing routine tasks to ensure the safety and security of prisoners in the Sheriff's custody at the County Detention Facility. As a Detention Officer at the Rio Grande County Detention Facility, you will be responsible for maintaining security and safety during their incarceration. This also includes performing various duties to ensure their well-being and safety. **QUALIFICATIONS** - Must pass an extensive background check/investigation and drug testing. The position requires a

valid Colorado Driver's license. High School Diploma or General Education Degree (GED Starting Salary \$37210.56 - \$38624.88 For more information, visit the Rio Grande County Website or email your application to humanresources@riograndecounty.org. If you have any questions, please call Debra J Hite at Human Resources at (719) 657-2744.

## 10 Apartments

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

## 17 Real Estate For Sale

**FARM FOR SALE** in Waverly Area Sub-district #6, 1 1/2 center pivots in grass and alfalfa, large hay shed, 2 bedroom home, 3 steel grainers, numerous out buildings on 8 Mile Road. Ready to farm 2023 season. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc 719-580-0770.

**35-80+ acres parcels** with good grass on County Line Road north of Hwy



**Join Our Team!**  
Full or Part Time starting \$15 hr. plus tips!

**Google**  
Customer Reviews: ★★★★★

*"Wonderful food wonderful service would highly recommend. Very friendly wonderful music for all age."*  
— Melinda C.

**MOUNTAIN PIZZA & TAPROOM**

**Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMTs and our Veterans always receive 20% off!**  
**30483 Highway 160, South Fork**  
Open DAILY — 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Easy Online To-Go Orders:**  
**MountainPizzaTapRoom.com**

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

## SOLD

You Found It! Home Sweet Home, Finely Crafted, Ranch Style 2,109 square foot 3 bed 2 bath split floor plan home with detached 4 car garage for all your outdoor tools and toys! Large master bedroom bath with jacuzzi tub. Beautiful open kitchen, dining area with eat in counter, living area with cathedral wood beam ceiling, custom cabinets and wood burning stove. This home has large windows that brings in lots of natural light. Patio doors leading out to your back and front deck with 360 views of the beautiful Colorado mountains. Perfect place to enjoy your morning hot cup of coffee. You have year-round access in Highland Meadows, South Fork, CO, with paved roads, your own well and South Fork water and sanitation. This home is situated on a beautiful 1.1-acre lot with room for your RV, gardens and so much more. Additional heating sources on demand water heater and radiant floor heat to keep you nice and warm all winter long and indoor laundry area. This could be your permanent residence, your home away from home or your perfect vacation home. Moments from skiing at Wolf Creek, A stone throw away from public access to gold medal fishing on the Mighty Rio Grande River. Enjoy nearby hiking, golfing, hunting and 4-wheeling. Start Your Adventure - Won't last long, Call and Schedule your personal showing today!  
**\$489,900 MLS #801796**  
**74 Highland Court • South Fork**  
**Bernadette Gingrass • (719)850-1993**



## SOLD

Majestic Custom-Built Log Home! Fabulous 7 bed, 5 bath 4,619 Sq. Ft. Home with attached garage on 9.04 acres in Beautiful gated Bear Creek. This Home has several outdoor entertainment areas with wrap around decks too enjoy the 360 views of the San Juan Mountains. The main level has an open floor plan with great room and grand fireplace with vaulted ceiling opening into the dining and kitchen area. Entertain in this beautiful large kitchen with large island, custom cabinetry, granite countertops and state of the art stainless steel appliances. The Master bedroom suite is located on main floor with walk out patio, your perfect place to enjoy that hot cup of morning coffee. From here you can access your private boardwalk leading to your entertainment area with fire ring and Jacuzzi. Upstairs beautiful reading sitting loft with additional guest bedrooms, bath and great bunk room for additional family and guest. Lower level of this home includes a large family room with fireplace and pool table. Great for all your entertainment needs, additional bedrooms, and office. Beautiful furniture, furnishings and accessories are all included with this home. Bear Creek also offers a wonderful river adventure for rafting, gold medal fly fishing with a 20-acre area on the Rio Grande River exclusive to Bear Creek property owners. Minutes away from everything outdoors - gold medal fly fishing, hunting, four wheeling and thousands of acres of public land. Start your Adventure! Don't wait, Call, and schedule your showing today!  
**\$1,650,000 MLS #792162**  
**2951 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork**  
**Bernadette Gingrass • (719)850-1993**



**Thank you to everyone who let me help sell their home in 2023**



*Call Bernadette today!*

**Cell 719-850-1993**  
**Bernadette Gingrass**

This South Fork Beauty checks all the boxes, both his and hers - and is a fun place for family and friends. Custom built Log home tucked in trees and backs up to the National Forest. The main floor has a large and Mighty Rio Grande with world class fishing. The property is on a beautiful area with beautiful carved mantel stone fireplace, custom ceiling. Stunning entrance to behold! Custom designed with beautiful designer backsplash and large eat in counter space looking over the living area with custom soft close cabinets and plenty of storage and room for all your entertaining. Kitchen has wonderful large butler pantry with pantry sink and beautiful custom stained-glass door. The Detailed Check Boxes include radiant floor heating with four zones and two Rinnai on-demand water tanks. Light Touch lighting system and electrical in the floor. Master bedroom is on the main floor with sitting area with luscious mountain views. Master bath with beautiful large tiled walk-in shower. Guest bedroom and bath on main floor with elegant soaking antique tub. Upstairs spacious loft with two electronic skylights with rain sensors that will close automatically with additional sleeping areas including office space and additional large size bedroom with barn door and bath. Enjoy your 3-car garage with large workshop and more than enough room for all your mountain toys. Your family and friends will love the upstairs bungalow above the garage with kitchenette, living area, built-in beds additional bedroom and bath. Bring your family and friends to gather to enjoy the great outdoors! Boarders National Forest, with streams, creeks, lakes rolling topography, open fields, pine, fir, aspen trees, mountain views and abundant wildlife! Beautifully designed home tucked peacefully into the woods and easily accessible to town, Wolf Creek Ski Area and the Rio Grande Golf Course Resort. Once in a lifetime opportunity! This property perfectly captures the best of both worlds between outdoor recreation and exceptional entertainment. Start your dream and Call/Text me to schedule your personal showing today! **\$1,395,000 MLS #796960**  
**37 Million Court • South Fork**  
**Bernadette Gingrass • (719)850-1993**



## SOLD

Stately 2,818 Sq Ft. Mountain Home with Stunning Natural Light on 3.19 acres. This beautiful 3 bed 4 bath home is your perfect retreat. Open Split floor plan with beautiful cathedral ceiling and fireplace, large windows taking in the breath-taking outdoor sunlight and mountain views. Complete with beautiful furnishing, accessories and decor. The kitchen with eat in counter, gorgeous custom cabinetry, granite countertops and butler pantry is your dream kitchen for entertaining your family and friends. Separate office space off the dining area with patio door leads out to the great outdoors. There are two guest rooms one with private bath could be considered a separate master bedroom. Large master bedroom with large walk-in closet, fireplace gorgeous walk-in shower and access to deck with hot tub. Take in the stunning views from the main floor outdoor balcony. Your perfect place for that hot morning cup of coffee or relaxing evening glass of wine. This is a luxurious home located with private access to the national forest in The Timbers subdivision of South Fork Ranches. All this, just moments from Rio Grande Golf Club, Rio Grande River gold medal fishing and world class skiing at Wolf Creek Ski area. Don't wait call and schedule your private showing today!  
**\$1,150,000 MLS #798101**  
**497 Timberline Drive • South Fork**  
**Bernadette Gingrass • (719)850-1993**



## UNDER CONTRACT

You found it! Just like Your Favorite Old Fashion Root Beer Float this will be a favorite! Your favorite get-a-way, investment or permanent residence. This 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home is located in the highly sought-after Ponderosa Estates in South Fork, CO. The property is complete with paved roads, Town of South Fork water, and city sewer. This home has an additional upstairs space the full length of the home that can be used for additional bedrooms, an office and craft room. The property is located on a large lot and perfect for accommodating all your family and friends with room for all their toys. The Mighty Rio Grande River and National Forest are just a stones throw away, providing ample opportunities to experience the great outdoors. This neighborhood is also home to Mule Deer, Wild Turkeys, and other wildlife that often visit the area. Your front porch provides a perfect spot to relax and enjoy that cold root beer float while taking in the serene surroundings. Start living your dream! Don't miss out on this opportunity! Call and schedule your showing today!  
**\$369,900 MLS #807367**  
**44 Aspen Dr. • South Fork**  
**Bernadette Gingrass • (719)850-1993**



## SOLD

Darling authentic 1,232 Sq. Ft. 2-bedroom 2 bath log cabin with upgrades galore! Located in Log Haven. Tucked along the mountain side backing up to national forest with beautiful views of the surrounding cliffs. Open living room, dining, kitchen area with new propane Vermont Casting stove to keep you cozy and warm all winter long. Kitchen is quaint and bright with custom granite countertops. This cabin has a covered front porch and wonderful back deck. The perfect place to enjoy the wildlife, peace and quiet and that first hot cup of morning coffee. Nice fence back yard with gate opening to the national forest. Hike for miles out your own back door. Downstairs has a master bedroom and a full bath. Upstairs additional bedroom, bathroom and nice size sitting nook, great space to enjoy that best-selling book or use for your office den. This cabin comes complete with one car garage, storage shed, central well and town sewer. Cabin can be used as a full-time residence, or home-away-from-home winter or summer get-a-way! Rentals are not allowed in this subdivision. Don't wait! Start your adventure today! Only a short 17-mile drive from Wolf Creek Ski area. The mighty South Fork and Rio Grande River, Beaver Mountain reservoir & Million reservoir are just moments away. Bring your fishing pole and enjoy hours of world class fishing. Ski Wolf Creek, go 4 wheeling, hike, camp, hunt, Enjoying everything outdoors! Let's get started call/text and schedule your showing today!  
**\$325,000 MLS #800364**  
**31517 Us Highway 160 • South Fork**  
**Bernadette Gingrass • (719)850-1993**



# Valley Wide Classifieds

160. Fully surveyed and ready to build on. Perfect location between Alamosa and Monte Vista. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc. 719-580-0770. (TFN)

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

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

**23 Lawn and Garden Sprinkler repair and winterizations.** Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (TFN)

**32 Fuel & Heating Firewood For Sale.** Call or text Mark 662-361-7530 Located in Saguache. Lump Coal and Anthracite Hard

**Coal available.** Supplement your wood heating with "lump coal". Burns more consistently & lasts longer so you can do more of what you want & less time carrying wood. 719-849-8261 (3-01)

**36 Miscellaneous Books for sale,** I buy patches, coins, a few all for \$500 OBO 719-849-0975  
**Cash for quality non-fiction books** and LP records. Jeff 720-315-9145

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

**STEEL STORAGE CONTAINERS** - Sales, Rentals & Modifications! Containers are water & rodent proof. 8' wide, 8'-53' in length. Call for more information and pricing. **Healdworks, Inc. - Your Total Storage Solution!** 719-850-0346

**SOLAR PANELS! 400 Watt and Smaller, We Stock Inverters, Charge Controllers, and Batteries in Brand**

**Names of Outback, Magnum, Aims, Rolls, and More. Custom Cables and PV Wire.** Bontrager's Variety Store. 9726 S. CR 3E Monte Vista. 719-852-0500. (TFN)

**55 RVs & Campers** 2017 travel trailer, \$16,000. Clean, lightly used, everything works. Bunkhouse and Murphy Bed. Call for details, 719 661 8390. (1-17)

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

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

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

**PERFECTION IS EFFORTLESS**

— MAKES A GREAT GIFT

**Butcher's Deluxe Package**

- 4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)
- 4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)
- 4 Boneless Pork Chops (5 oz.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)
- 8 FREE PureGround™ Flat Mignon Burgers (6 oz.)**

74222SHS separately \$221.94 **\$99.99**

**SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE**

**Limited Time: Get 8 FREE Burgers**

Order Now! » [OmahaSteaks.com/Deluxe8721](http://OmahaSteaks.com/Deluxe8721) | 1.844.300.6646  
Ask for your 8 FREE burgers with offer 74222SHS

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Photos exemplary of product advertised. Limit 2. 8 free 6 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes 74222. Standard S&H added per address. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. All products, prices, and sales are subject to Omaha Steaks, Inc. Terms of Use: [OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use-OSI](http://OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use-OSI). Expires 12/31/23. | 23M4858 | Omaha Steaks, Inc.

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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

**Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
(719) 873-5605 • [dee@steffenscorealty.com](mailto:dee@steffenscorealty.com)

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

**Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
(719) 873-5605 • [dee@steffenscorealty.com](mailto:dee@steffenscorealty.com)

**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

**Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
(719) 873-5605 • [dee@steffenscorealty.com](mailto:dee@steffenscorealty.com)

**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

**Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
(719) 873-5605 • [dee@steffenscorealty.com](mailto:dee@steffenscorealty.com)

Two adjacent lots in South Fork totaling ½ acre. All utilities available at the lot line. Air B&B OK subject to town guidelines. MLS#808211 \$38,000 each

**Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
(719) 873-5605 • [dee@steffenscorealty.com](mailto:dee@steffenscorealty.com)

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

**Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
(719) 873-5605 • [dee@steffenscorealty.com](mailto:dee@steffenscorealty.com)

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

**Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
(719) 873-5605 • [dee@steffenscorealty.com](mailto:dee@steffenscorealty.com)

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

**Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
(719) 873-5605 • [dee@steffenscorealty.com](mailto:dee@steffenscorealty.com)

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

All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.

3D Virtual Tours • Prompt, Easy Communication  
Video Walkthroughs  
Residential Photographer  
Licensed and Insured Drone Pilot

**3023 Bear Creek Circle** Mountain cabin on 20 acres bordering National Forest in gated Bear Creek. Fully furnished - paved driveway. 4 bedrooms. 2.5 bathrooms. MLS#803394

**Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
(719) 873-5605 • [dee@steffenscorealty.com](mailto:dee@steffenscorealty.com)

**5299 County Road 12 S. Alamosa** 160 acres currently planted in alfalfa with a center pivot, 3 shares of the Common-wealth Ditch, and use of the Carmel Drain. MLS#804160 \$400,000

**Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
(719) 873-5605 • [dee@steffenscorealty.com](mailto:dee@steffenscorealty.com)

**WATER RIGHTS**

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



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

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

**YVONNE HOFFMAN**  
 ASSOCIATE BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-580-1901  
 O: 719-873-1700  
 30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



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

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

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
 OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-580-0770  
 O: 719-873-1700  
 30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



This 4-bedroom, 3 full bath, and 1 half bath home sprawls across 3,804 square feet and offers an idyllic lifestyle on 10.32 acres of pristine mountain terrain. Welcome to your dream mountain haven. Exquisite Craftsmanship and Natural Beauty As you approach this remarkable property, you'll be greeted by a paved driveway that leads you to the main residence and a detached garage. Call Bruce Steffens today for a showing appointment.

**\$1,200,000 | MLS# 808246**  
**3372 Bear Creek Circle, South Fork, CO**

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
 OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-580-0770  
 O: 719-873-1700  
 30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
 OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®

M: 719-580-0770  
 O: 719-873-1700

*Serving the San Luis Valley in Southern Colorado for 35+ years.  
 Your Southern CO Farm & Ranch expert!*

STEFFENS & COMPANY REALTY, INC.

30635 W. US HWY 160  
 South Fork, Colorado



240 +/- acres with Bowen Drain Water Priority #16-50. Well permits 20401-R for 780 gpm and 172745-A domestic well for 15 gpm. Two bedroom/1 bath, 1,197 sq. ft. home. Three steel grain bins, small shop building, chicken coup, small sheds with trees. Perfect location to live while farming. There is a large hay shed to storage. Two center pivots totally updated. (Lockwood and Reinke) Currently in grass and alfalfa. Call Bruce Steffens today for more information.

**\$1,800,000 | MLS# 801112**  
**4953 East County Road 9 South, Monte Vista, CO**

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
 OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-580-0770  
 O: 719-873-1700  
 30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



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

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

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
 OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-580-0770  
 O: 719-873-1700  
 30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



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

**\$87,000 - \$180,000 per lot**  
**Pronghorn Ranch Development**  
**Del Norte, Colorado**

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
 OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-580-0770  
 O: 719-873-1700  
 30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



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

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

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
 OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-580-0770  
 O: 719-873-1700  
 30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



Enjoy long water views from this spacious and secluded home! Right on the Rio Grande River, 2.66 Acres, with wetlands, and cottonwood trees. Custom 3,190 sq. ft. home with 4 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. Newly remodeled and move-in ready. Perfect for indoor and outdoor entertaining. Truly a once in a lifetime opportunity!

Call Tate Huffaker today for more information.

**\$910,000 | MLS# 809432**  
**7857 Oxbow Loop, Alamosa, CO**

**TATE HUFFAKER**  
 ASSOCIATE BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-298-6560  
 O: 719-873-1700  
 30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



# Winter activities in western SLV offer winter fun

**By LYNDISIE FERRELL**  
**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — Winter can be a wonderful time of year to get out and enjoy the San Luis Valley. Whether it is skiing at Wolf Creek Ski Area or heading out for a walk in the woods, there is something for everyone to enjoy in the many unpopulated areas throughout the San Juan Mountains.

From hockey tournaments in Creede to sledding down steep hills on the top of Wolf Creek Pass, the area on the western end of the Valley can be a winter wonderland for outdoors enthusiasts of all ages. Now is a great time to get out and explore this winter landscape and to see what winter has to offer.

South Fork is at the center of well over 300 miles of trails that can be accessed through several U.S. Forest Service roads leading into the back country. Many of the trails that have immediate access from town or just beyond are groomed and cared for all year long.

Snowmobiling is one of the more popular activities in the area due mainly to the access to trails throughout the region. Places like Beaver Creek and Cross Creek offer about 23 miles of passable trails for more experienced riders and offers views of the San Juan Mountains along Forest Service Road 359.

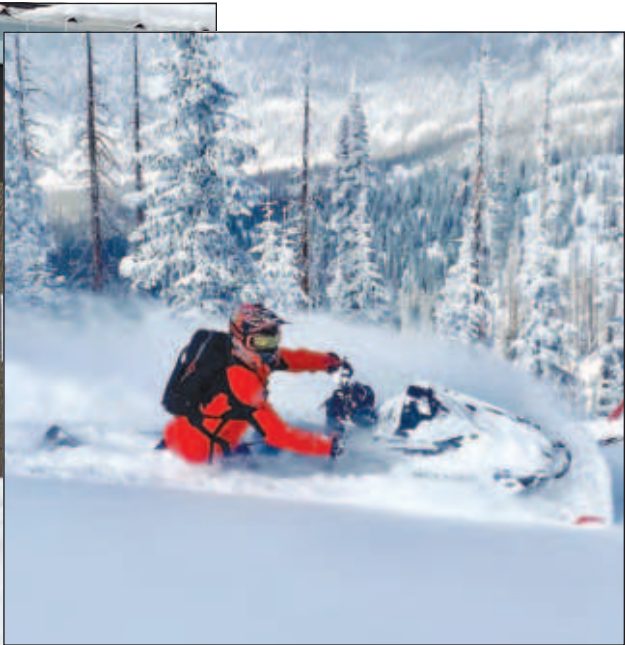
Fox Mountain and Park Creek trails are a great way to get out in the backcountry on Park Creek Road 380. This trail leads to large open meadows that can be a snowmobiler's dream of a winter play land with plenty of room to reach high speeds and glide over the powder that usually resides

there in the dead of winter. Besides snowmobiling, some look for more quiet activities. Winter can be a very peaceful time of year when the world takes a deep breath and silently holds it until spring. The area is rich in cross country skiing trails that offer spectacular views and a chance to see plentiful wildlife. Local organizations like the Powder Busters and Silver Thread Outdoor Club host outings to these trails which they also help keep groomed throughout the winter. A free map is located at the South Fork Visitors Center for those who wish to learn where these hidden gems are.

Other activities also include ice fishing at the many reservoirs in the area like Beaver Creek which is easily accessible during winter months. Other ice fishing locations include Tucker Ponds and Big Meadows Reservoir which requires either snowshoes, cross-country skiing or snowmobiles to gain access but the trip is worth the effort with lakes packed full of late season fish.

Winter in the San Luis Valley is a wonderful time to see what the Colorado lifestyle is all about, though caution is needed when venturing out into the back country, especially if it is for the first time. Many local groups, like the two listed above are a great way to get an introduction to what people need to know about the mountains during the winter months.

Some of the simpler things to remember holds true no matter what season it is and that is to



File photos  
 Winter is in full swing in the San Luis Valley and whether you head out to build a snowman or hit the fresh powder on a snowmobile, the San Juan Mountains is the place to go for winter fun.

inform people of where you plan to adventure, when you plan to return and to always be familiar with the surroundings before venturing out into any area. For more information, the South Fork Visitors Center is an excellent source of information or by visiting [www.southfork.org](http://www.southfork.org).

## Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL • TRASH REMOVAL  
 RECYCLING • DUMPSTERS • ROLL-OFFS  
 CREEDE • SOUTH FORK • DEL NORTE • MONTE VISTA  
 (719)658-3060 • [www.MDSWasteAndRecycle.com](http://www.MDSWasteAndRecycle.com)**

# SUDOKU

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

**Fun By The Numbers**  
 Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

### Solution to last week's puzzle

S	P	A	A	K		A	A	R		P	A	C	A			
C	U	R	D	Y		P	E	R	U		A	B	E	D		
A	L	A	I		S	A	D	A	T		R	I	C	O		
R	E	M	O	D	E	L	E	D		P	A	B	I	R		
					S	A	R	O	S		C	A	N	L	N	
M	S	G		D	I	M		C	E	R	O	S				
B	R	A	D		F	I	S	H	E	R	I	E	S			
A	B	I	E	S		N	O	R		S	A	B	E	R		
		M	A	C	A	R	O	N	I	S		C	U	B	A	
				S	I	R	E	S		S	A	C		M	E	D
N	A		M	I	D		A	T	L	A	S					
A	C	H	E	S		C	A	M	E	R	A	M	A	N		
C	H	A	T		A	R	R	A	S		B	A	Y	A		
R	E	D	E		L	A	O	S		H	I	R	E	D		
E	D	E	R		A	B	N			A	N	A	S	A		

## BECAUSE YOUR FOUNDATION IS CRACKED.



**LIMITED TIME OFFER \$500 OFF\***

- FOUNDATION REPAIR
- BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
- CRAWL SPACE REPAIR
- CONCRETE LIFTING

719-626-4236 **Groundworks**  
 Foundation Solutions. Crafted with Pride.

**GET A FREE INSPECTION**

\*Ten percent off any job over \$2500 up to a max of \$500. Coupon must be presented at time of inspection. Offer may not be combined with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Ask inspector for further details. Promo valid through 3/31/2024.

# Xcel to replace aging Alamosa plant

By JOHN WATERS

**ALAMOSA** — Xcel Energy will replace the two aging natural gas and oil turbines in Alamosa as part of a Colorado Clean Energy plan it has submitted to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

The Alamosa 1 turbine was built in 1973 and can produce 13 MW of electricity, and the Alamosa 2 unit, completed in 1977, produces 14 MW of electricity. Both gas/oil units are scheduled to retire in 2026. In the plan, Xcel deemed that continuing to have a plant in the San Luis Valley is an “essential” component of electricity reliability, and after an analysis determined the two turbines that comprise the Alamosa plant need replacement.

Xcel conducted a detailed evaluation of the units and analyzed rebuilding them based upon whether the unit, “has the flexibility necessary to assist in the integration of the increasing levels of variable generation that the Company expects...and assists in maintaining a reliable system.” Based on this evaluation, the company chose not to rebuild these gas/oil units. The determination was based principally on the age and condition of the units and the lack of replacement parts.

Xcel also consulted with General Electric, the builder of the original units, and concluded that any rebuild would be a “long [18 months], complex, and costly, process.”

Xcel plans the retirement of the existing Company-owned Alamosa plant at the end of 2026 without replacement it would leave no firm production [excluding solar] resources located in the San Luis Valley. The Company believes it is essential from a reliability perspective to continue to have firm generation in the region. Xcel is proposing a 28 MW aero-derivative gas-fired unit with fuel oil as a secondary backup. This choice provides reliable generation to serve the San Luis Valley load at all hours in the event of transmission and/or natural gas supply issues, according to Xcel.

As reported in the Valley Courier last week, Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske sent a letter in support of the plan to the PUC in support of Xcel Energy’s Colorado Clean Energy Plan 120-Day Report and Xcel Energy’s Preferred Plan. The plan includes 22 projects statewide, and would double the amount of renewable energy and include an investment by the utility of \$14-\$15 billion. According to the letter from Laske, “With the

retirement of Xcel Energy’s existing Alamosa Combustion turbine in 2025, Xcel Energy is proposing a new 28 MW combustion turbine to ensure reliable electric service in the San Luis Valley by backing up existing energy generation in the area. Furthermore, investments in transmission infrastructure will enhance reliability in the San Luis Valley and throughout the state.”

The plan also contains San Luis Valley Transmission Network

upgrades of \$176 million. The Valley Courier has reached out to Xcel for details on these network improvements.

**The Alamosa Combustion Turbine, which consists of two gas/oil-powered units and is owned by Xcel Energy, will be replaced by new more efficient turbines if a plan submitted to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission is approved.**

Photo by John Waters



## SAN LUIS VALLEY SERVICE DIRECTORY

### ROOFING BUILDINGS

Metal Roofing Panels & Trims • Garages, Horse Barns, Hay Sheds  
Complete Building packages • 26/29 Gauge, 20 Colors, Numerous Profiles  
Let us find your contractor! • Free Estimates/Quick Turnaround  
**Your Local Metal Roofing Manufacturer!**  
**SKYLINE METAL**  
(719)852-0113 M-F 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

**A&M**  
WINDOWS &  
DOORS L.L.C.

~VINYL WINDOWS~  
NEW CONSTRUCTION OR REPLACEMENT  
CUSTOM MADE TO YOUR SIZE.  
MANUFACTURED RIGHT HERE IN THE VALLEY  
ALL TYPES OF DOORS & DOOR HARDWARE  
AVAILABLE  
(719) 589-9952

**Quality Spray Foam Insulation LLC**  
Let us fill your needs with **SPRAY FOAM** insulation!  
Alvin • (719) 849-5233 catpower@ibyfax.com  
7268 S. County Road 4 E • Monte Vista  
Call us for all your **LOOSE-FILL & BLOW** in Attic Insulation needs!

**Mystik**  
LUBRICANTS  
PREMIUM OILS & GREASES  
DIAMOND OIL CO. LLC  
Agricultural • Industrial • Oilfield  
Commercial • Automotive • Irrigation  
Peter Koehn (719) 250-5143 Myron Koehn (970) 209-1142  
**DIVERSE INVENTORY!**

**Sheri Bongers**  
Independent Broker Agent  
720-543-2188  
Sheri@DenverInsuranceTeam.com  
**Tom Bongers**  
Independent Broker Agent  
720-543-2189  
Tom@DenverInsuranceTeam.com  
Auto | Home | Life | Commercial | Workers Comp



Your Great **Specializing in**  
**Outdoors Vinyl Fencing**  
Wood, Barbed Wire and All Types of  
**Residential & Commercial Fencing**  
Serving the SLV-Free Estimates  
**Good Fences Make Good Neighbors!\***  
(719) 849-1568  
\* We make no guarantees of your neighbor quality, just high quality fences.

**Sanchez Plastering & Masonry**  
Synthetic Fully Insured  
Traditional & Bonded  
Patches Fully Licensed  
Interior/Exterior Work Guaranteed  
Paint  
Owners: David D. Sanchez Jr. & Brandon Sanchez  
Call Today (719) 486-6781



**CUSTOM MARBLE DESIGN**  
Call for Free Estimate!  
719-849-3990  
E-MAIL: cmd@ibyfax.com  
Solid Surface Countertops  
Kitchen Countertops  
Vanity & Table Tops  
Window Sills  
and More

David Miller, Owner  
719-480-2145  
9318 County Road 16  
Antonito, CO  
**Cozy Home Insulating**  
For All your Foam Insulation Needs  
Call us for a free estimate!  
Specializing in open and closed cell spray foam insulation for all applications  
• Residential  
• Commercial  
• New or Existing Construction

Shopping That’s Just Your Style  
**The Rena Marie Boutique**  
Specializing in memorial, holiday, any occasion t-shirts, apparel, tumblers, coffee mugs, keychains, car and big vehicle vinyl and decals, business cards, and much more.  
250 Adams Street, Monte Vista  
Call Marie at 719-937-9629 to place your order today or email mariemedina30@hotmail.com

Your ad could be here for only **\$22/week!**  
Call 852-3531

**Locked Out? Lost Your keys? Just Need a spare? We’ve Got You Covered!**  
Smart Keys • Transponders • Fobs  
Serving The San Luis Valley And Surrounding Areas  
Call or Text us Today 719-MrK-Lock (719-675-5625)  
MrKLock.com  
**Mr. K Lock & Key**  
**LOCKSMITH**  
Commercial • Residential • Automotive



Find us on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/ValleyPublishing>

# Kit Carson Peak name change discussed by Town of Crestone Trustees

By JOHN WATERS

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — The Town of Crestone Board of Trustees has signed a letter to Gov. Jared Polis and the Colorado Geographical Naming Advisory Board in favor of changing the name of Kit Carson Peak to Mount Crestone.

During a regular meeting of the board on Dec. 13, agenda item, "Letter Regarding Kit Carson Mountain Name Change-Kizzen Laki," was briefly discussed by Trustee Kimberly Martinez as Trustee Laki was absent from the meeting. Martinez did not read the letter aloud during the meeting so the exact text is unknown. The Valley Courier has requested a copy of the letter.

Martinez said, "We have petitions throughout the town, you don't have to be a registered voter, or a citizen, it is just the community in general support that we don't name it Mount Vesuvius or something like that...its Crestone Mountain, it has always been Crestone Mountain to the old-timers." Martinez added, "I think it is a great idea."

As reported previously in the Valley Courier, Kit Carson Mountain in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains is under consideration for a name change in a proposal before the Colorado Geographical Naming Advisory Board (CGNAB). The proposition references Carson's violence against Navajo and Apache tribes in the 1800s. Carson was a frontier legend, fur trapper, wilderness guide, Indian agent, and U.S. Army officer. In 1865, Carson became the commander of Fort Garland.

The board was created by Gov. Polis in 2020 to evaluate proposals concerning name changes, new names, and name controversies of geographic features and certain public

places in the State of Colorado and then make official recommendations to the governor.

In an interview with this reporter in September 2022 regarding the possibility of changing the name of Kit Carson, Polis said, "First, we give heavy weight to what local residents want. The geographic naming board sends recommendations to me that we advance to the federal government. Often it begins with a classroom of students, or local officials, and it builds — and the naming board is part of that. It starts with local residents."

Last month, the Saguache County Commissioners voted in favor of a name change, Commissioner Tom McCracken said the commissioners did not choose a name.

The 14,165-foot peak is in the Rio Grande National Forest and in documents presented before the geographical naming board, a 2021 letter from U.S. Forest Service Supervisor Dan Dallas stated, "I am in complete support of the proposal as drafted." Dallas continued that in consultation with tribal governments support for the name change was offered and the Navajo Nation officially responded with a statement that in part read, "The Navajo Nation fully supports renaming Kit Carson Mountain..." The forest service continues to support the name change.

If the state board recommends a name change to Polis and he accepts it, the proposal then goes before the federal U.S. Board on Geographic Names domestic names committee (BGN). Name changes for natural features such as Kit Carson must be, "for a compelling reason," according to the federal body.

According to Gina Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist with the US Geological Survey, the US Board on

Geographical Names, staff from the board met with representatives of the Colorado Geographical Naming Advisory Board (CGNAB) and the U.S. Forest Service on Nov. 21 to review current and historical maps of the area and to determine the extent of the various geographic names. Anderson said she expects the issue will be a topic at the next meeting of the CGNAB on Jan. 24, 2024.

The summit was first called Frustum Peak by the Wheeler Survey. In that expedition, Lieutenant George Montague Wheeler, United States Army Corps of Engineers, led expeditions for surveys west of the 100th Meridian between 1869 and 1879.

The summit was named Kit Carson Peak by a 1906 BGN decision. In 1970, the BGN voted to change the name to Kit Carson Mountain.

According to the federal geographic naming board, in 2008, a proposal was submitted to the BGN to change the name of Kit Carson Mountain to Mount Crestone, stating that most locals in Crestone referred to the peak as Crestone Peak and that the name Kit Carson Mountain applied to a different mountain to the east. The proponent of that change also proposed that the highest unnamed summit on Kit Carson Mountain be named Tranquility Peak. In 2010, a proposal was submitted to apply the name Kit Carson Peak to the same unnamed summit. In 2011, the BGN voted not to approve any of these proposals and reaffirmed the previous Kit Carson Mountain decision.

Name changes do happen.

On Dec. 14, Sen. Michael Bennett commented on the committee passage of the Mt. Blue Sky Wilderness Area renaming. The change aligns the name from the previous name of the Mount Evans Wilderness Area. In the



Photo by John Waters

Near these peaks in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, is Kit Carson Peak. On Jan. 24, 2024, the Colorado Geographical Naming Advisory Board will consider making a recommendation to Gov. Jared Polis to change the name of the 14,167-foot mountain. The federal US Board on Geographical Names will have the final say on any name change.

case of Wilderness Area names, only Congress can make name changes.

"Renaming the wilderness area surrounding Mount Blue Sky is an important step to honor the federal government's responsibility to Tribal communities, and restoring threatened and endangered fish in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins will help protect our ecosystems and provide certainty to water users in Colorado," said Senator Bennet

In September, the name of Mount Evans was officially changed to Mount Blue Sky by the federal board. The process was a several-year collaboration between tribal, state, county, and local governments.

The Colorado Geographical Naming Advisory Board will next meet on Jan. 24, 2024, from 5 to 7 p.m. and will be on Zoom with meeting ID 885-7290-3329 with the password 266179.



## PORTABLE OXYGEN FOR YOUR ON-THE-GO LIFESTYLE

Call us toll-free at  
**1-719-490-4844**

CLAIM YOUR  
**14-DAY  
RISK-FREE  
TRIAL<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup>14-day risk-free trial- Return within 30 days of purchase for a full refund of purchase price.  
 PM230469 EN\_EX\_USA  
 Rx Only © 2023 Inogen, Inc.  
 301 Coromar Drive, Goleta, CA 93117  
 Inogen® is a trademark of Inogen, Inc. The usage of any Inogen, Inc. trademark is strictly forbidden without the prior consent of Inogen, Inc. All other trademarks are trademarks of their respective owners or holders.

# \$500

## CASH BACK

# \$1000

## TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE

# \$39.99



# OIL CHANGE



Fastest Growing Dealer In Colorado



PUEBLO

2828 Highway 50 West Pueblo, CO 81008 • [AlpineFord.com](http://AlpineFord.com)

Sales: (719) 319-3576 Service: (719) 319-3576 Parts: (719) 319-3576

# SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE



## A CONFERENCE ON BALANCING FUNDAMENTALS WITH INNOVATION

# ADAPT & INNOVATE



# 2024

## SKI HI COMPLEX MONTE VISTA, COLORADO

# AGCONFERENCE SRM.COM



**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION**



**SAN LUIS VALLEY  
RESEARCH CENTER  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

CSU SLV EXTENSION 719-852-7381

MV CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 719-852-2731

CSU RESEARCH CENTER 719-754-3594