

Valley to Valley Senior Center is back on track after delay

By MARIE MCCOLM

SAGUACHE — Construction of the new Valley to Valley Senior Care Center located in Saguache Colorado was recently halted. The reason for the delay was due to a change in state codes.

According to Chairman of the Board for Valley to Valley Senior Care, Terry Gillette,

state codes and statutes were changed due to COVID. The codes now do not allow senior daycare residents and permanent residents to be together in the same building.

Gillette said that although there should be interaction between the residents, the codes would not allow the two together in the same building. Gillette said with this type of code

enforcement being in place, that the only thing that could be done to rectify the situation was to try to obtain another building.

“The original site plan that we had, did show us putting together another building for daycare, we just weren’t planning on doing it right away,” Gillette said. “We did get a grant from one of the larger ag people in the state and

they put up an entire manufactured daycare building up for us, and the grant paid for the whole thing.”

Gillette said they had to change some things with the Saguache County board when the codes changed.

“The county board decided that we had to go
Please see CENTER on Page 2A

SLV 4-H Livestock Judging Team competes at Nationals



By SAN LUIS VALLEY EXTENSION OFFICE

PHOENIX, ARIZ. — During the New Year’s weekend, San Luis Valley 4-H members traveled to Arizona to participate in Livestock Judging at the Arizona National Livestock Show. The Senior Team (age 14 and older) placed 14 out of 29 teams.

The local team consisted of Elena Escobedo,

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

Courtesy photos

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

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

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

The judge must establish priority areas and

Please see TEAM on Page 4A

Shorts

Holiday coloring contest winners named

VALLEY — Winners have been announced in the annual Christmas coloring contest sponsored by the Valley Courier and several local businesses. Coloring books were distributed to San Luis Valley schools and entries were submitted and voted on on-line.

First place winners receiving \$100 prizes were: Aspen Ruybal, Alamosa K-2, Jeremiah Medina, Bill Metz Elementary (Monte Vista), Kayli Gurule, Centauri Middle School, and Alexia Rivera, Monte Vista High School.

Second place winners receiving \$50 prizes were: Makai Abeyta, Alamosa K-2, Kate Ruybal, Alamosa 3-5, Kaylen Medina, Monte Vista Middle School, and Angel Quintana, Alamosa High School.

Third place winners earning gift cards from participating sponsors were: Grayson B., Alamosa K-2, Javonna Miller, Sanford Elementary, Makalan Duran, Centauri Middle School, and Kira Taylor, Centauri High School.

DN Food Bank distribution Jan. 20

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Food Bank will be open for its January distribution on Saturday, Jan. 20. Anyone in need of food assistance is welcome. If you are unable to attend during distribution hours and need food assistance, call 719-850-2643.

Crestone Food Bank prepping for grand opening

By MARIE MCCOLM

CRESTONE — The Crestone Food Bank will be hosting a prepping party at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan 20. The public is invited to attend and help the food bank prepare to open.

The new food bank is opening across the parking lot from the Baca Grande Library. The official address is 67487 County Road T. Anyone can come and volunteer their time. There will be shelves that need painted, outlet covers that need installed, furniture that needs to be moved, and the food bank itself still needs lots of cleaning.

Eden Elderberry spoke about the food bank and how the project has

been coming for a long time.

“The volunteers so far have been amazing. This has been a long time coming,” Elderberry said. “There is going to be new everything in there, it’s going to look really pretty in there. Basically, on Saturday for the party, we are going to put in some new shelving. We are going to move around the building materials that were in there and left over. We are going to paint the shelves and put everything in its place including outlet covers, all that kind of stuff. We want to really get the place cleaned up. On Saturday everyone is invited, people who want to do a little or a lot to help are all invited to attend. It’s going to be fun.”

Elderberry, who works for the Baca Grande Library and is a big part of the food bank, also said that there will be another party before the grand opening.

“It’s called a pantry packing party. We are going to have music, and people can come and see what the process is going to look like. People can come check it out too,” Elderberry said.

Elderberry said she is relieved and excited that they are going to open in February.

“A lot of people really need this; people are asking every day. When is the food bank going to be open? People need the bank to open, it would really help so many people,

so very much. We do have some food supplements, but the food bank just provides a lot better choices and a lot more for all the families who really need it right now. The more people who come out on Saturday for the party the better. Many hands make light work,” she said.

The food bank is requesting volunteers for their prep parties, and on the day, they open their doors in February, details and the time and date when they will open will be announced soon. For more information on the opening of the new food bank, contact Courtney Carag at 720-663-7194 or stop by the library and speak with Elderberry.

New funeral home opens in Monte Vista



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Stephen Hunzeker and his family are pleased to announce the opening of the Mountain Valley Mortuary in Monte Vista.

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

MONTE VISTA — Stephen Hunzeker has opened a new funeral home in Monte Vista. Mountain Valley Mortuary opened its doors in the historic Romero mortuary building on 4th Street just before the year’s start, and Hunzeker looks forward to serving the community he and his family have grown to love.

Hunzeker has been a funeral director for over 20 years and has lived in the Valley for 14 years. He was elected Rio Grande County Coroner in 2017 and has worked in mortuaries throughout the Monte Vista area, becoming a well-known and trusted mortician.

“Having the ability to assist families the way I want to has been a dream of mine. Being able to keep the dignity,
Please see MORTUARY on Page 6A

Art show at Milagros Coffee House on Jan. 19

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The PALS Children's Program at La Puente has been hard at work on their artistic masterpieces. La Puente is delighted to invite the community to this celebration of their creativity.

The event is at 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 19, at Milagros Coffee House, 569 Main St., Alamosa. Guests will have the opportunity to admire the artwork and purchase pieces starting at \$10.

All sales will sponsor a shopping spree for the PALS children, providing

them with an opportunity to learn the value of managing their money.

Refreshments will be provided.

"We hope to see you at this exciting celebration of the kids of the PALS program," organizers stated.

PALS Children's Program is a referral-based, licensed, after-school

and summer program for children 5 to 9 years old who are combating trauma or instability in their home lives. Geared to the needs and interests of each child, PALS focuses on social, emotional and behavioral growth through an exploratory learning environment aimed to

cultivate their sense of self, family, and community. Through activities and experiences PALS encourages a child's personal growth and self-expression.

For more information, contact Celia Spink at 719-587-3499 ext. 212 or visit laupuenta.net/events.

OBITUARY

William 'Bill' James Lucero

William "Bill" James Lucero, a native of Colorado, passed away suddenly on Jan. 9, 2024, at his home in Pagosa Springs. Bill was born on May 9, 1964, at Monte Vista Hospital to Joe and Erlinda (Manzanares) Lucero.

He is survived by his parents, his children — Chance, Kohbe, and Isabella Lucero; his brothers — Anthony Lucero and Danny Lucero; his sisters — Judy Lucero and Jeanette [Randy] Martinez; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Bill's educational journey began at Monte Vista Elementary School, where he later graduated from Monte Vista High School. After completing high school, Bill went on to serve his country in the United States Marine Corps from 1984-1988. Bill had three aspirations in life: to serve his country, become a police officer, and be a teacher. Upon completing his service in the Marine Corps, Bill enrolled in Trinidad Community College and completed the Police Academy. He received his POST Certification and landed his first job as a Police Officer with the Monte Vista Police Department in 1990.

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



the Chief of Police for the Center Police Department, and a Deputy for the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office and Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, where he concludes his service.

Bill enjoyed several hobbies: coaching football at Monte Vista Jr. High School and Sangre High School, smoking delicious BBQ, entertaining his guests, and cooking up a storm. He took overwhelming pride in smoking some ribs while enjoying a cold Bud Light. Bill never shied away from a cook-off and always gave his best.

William "Bill" James Lucero will complete his journey home with a Law Enforcement procession from Hood Mortuary in Durango, Colo., to Mountain Valley Mortuary in Monte Vista, Colo., on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024.

A service will be held in the Monte Vista High School Gymnasium on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 11 a.m. Finally, he will be laid to rest at the Homelake Cemetery. Following the burial, the family would like to invite Law Enforcement, family and friends to the Nazarene Church Gym for a Celebration of Life meal.

To express condolences for the family, please visit www.mvmortuary.com.



CENTER

Continued from Page 1A

backthrough planning, zoning, all of that though, and get it reapproved," Gillette said. "We have also had commissioners change within the past two years, while we have been working on this, and they didn't seem to have a good grasp of what we were trying to do."

Gillette said they jumped through all the hoops and got all the modified permits filed. This has led to about a 3-month delay. The additional building is expected to arrive in about 3 weeks.

Gillette said the building was built off site and when it is brought in it will be basically dropped off, and ready to go.

"We will have this building caddy corner to the other one, and residents can come out on the patio that will be out there, and garden and enjoy the sun," Gillette said.

Gillette said there is still more to be done, like getting the state to inspect the facility for a healthcare type facility. Gillette expects it to be an easy pass with the state.

"As long as state guidelines don't change again," Gillette said with a chuckle. "It should be OK, and up to the requirements, and all compliance."

Gillette was excited to share that during the construction they also

found a different general contractor right in the Valley for the building.

"We felt good about this because they work better with the other people in the Valley," Gillette said. "We handed it off to them, they seem a lot more attentive to get things done on our timeline. This was something we had hoped for from the start. We are happy to be going through local contractors, if we have a problem then they are right here."

The Valley to Valley Senior Care Center in Saguache officially broke ground in November of 2022 just east of Saguache, right off the highway.

"It's a beautiful little spot, we have got, 10 acres, and it's right off the road. It's got the National Forest right around it. It gives us a lot of space we can do gardens and other activities to develop the site. For most of the seniors this is a much better environment than the city. We can put in gardens and add activities. There's a lot of people who have a parent or someone with them and they need a place to take them while they are working. A lot of these people are functioning well, they just need someone to make sure they are OK and that is what this other building will be," Gillette said.

The idea for the Valley to Valley

Senior Living Center began with Eve Braden. Braden is passionate about helping the senior community. Braden's father suffered from Alzheimer's and Braden moved her father from New York to live with her in Colorado.

Braden's father passed away, but she wanted to do something to honor his memory. Braden began the Valley to Valley Senior Care non-profit organization in 2006. She is currently the Chief Executive Officer and the Facility Director for the Valley to Valley Senior Center in Salida.

The facility in Salida houses both regular and Veteran residents and the center in Saguache will do the same.

Gillette is excited to see the completion of the buildings.

"I am happy to be a part of it all, to see this all coming together," Gillette said. "We have people waiting in line to get in. It's nice to see something like this happening, this will really help our older residents stay with a sense of community and help their family members stay close to them. We are always taking donations as well, and appreciate the donations, big or small they all go to the completion of our center."

For more information or to donate, contact Gillette at 515-480-1636.

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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.

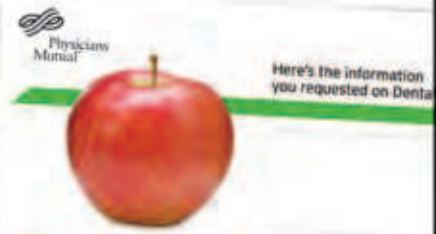
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OPINION & EDITORIAL

It's cold in them there hills

This week has dawned frigid with a biting wind and those conditions usually drive even Ol' Dutch inside for a while. And this time was no different as an Arctic blast of super cold air has seen fit to invade the heartland of America bringing a lot of snow and ice and wind.

Having worked outside all my life in blizzards and cold conditions, I am somewhat a little more prepared for something like this when it hits but this time it all seems so rude.

Tonight, temperatures are to dip down to the single digits and that's darned cold for Texas where I currently reside. And to top that off, the furnace in the RV went on vacation and even though I had a repairman come out, I guess he didn't get it fixed after all.

It is fortuitous that Miss Trixie and I were asked to babysit Grand #1 and #2 as we are at their cozy home and at least for another night, can relax in comfort. I did get a part ordered for the furnace and am watching for its arrival with bated breath and probably bated breath according to Miss Trixie who has to live in close proximity to me.

We do have some space heaters and I will go out to the Ponderosa and see if they even take the chill off the camper or if we are going to have to make other plans to sleep somewhere else when the number 1 son comes home.

I had to go out there today to make sure the cows had food and water and it was about all I could do to hook up a hose and give them water then drain it again. But I got it done and they were happy and went over and laid in the hay by the feeder.

I do have the fattest cattle in Texas and they showed their true colors today not only eating a lot but just laying up afterwards like tourists on a cruise ship enjoying the view. Not a twitch or shiver one from them and I think that honestly, they are probably cool for the first time since enduring the Texas summer.

So as i mentioned, I have spent some time indoors of late and so got to watch some late season football on the tube. The Kansas City Chiefs hosted the Miami Dolphins in Kansas City and also included temperatures down in the minus 10 range and that was without the wind chill. It looked miserable and there were warnings for people to not leave the house but some 76,000 ranting, cheering,



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

brave and crazy souls braved those temperatures and attended the game.

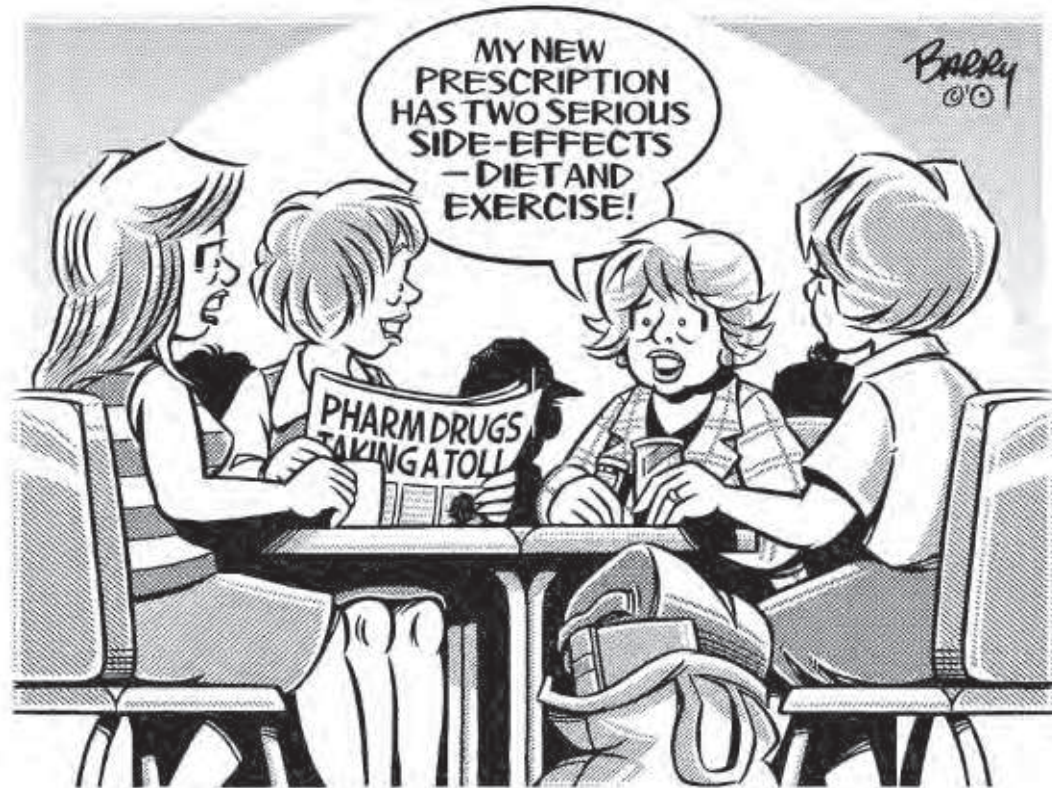
Most of them were dressed from head to tail in every imaginable piece of cast off and purchased cold weather gear and I hope none of them are worse for the wear from attending the game. And a few nutty folk were even cheering the Chiefs on without shirts or hats or gloves. I can almost guarantee you that these are the same people that can't make it to work if a snowflake falls anywhere within 100 miles too.

Following that game time with the Dallas Cowboys non-show against the Green Bay Packers and poor Miss Trixie, ever a Boys fan got so disgusted with their poor performance that she got up and cooked supper. So, it worked out well for Ol' Dutch as I sure didn't have a dog in that fight and could care less who wins. I guess I am not much of a fan of any team as I will root for both teams if they make a good play.

True to their Texas roots, all the chatter online is about how "next year" is the year for sure for sure. And how the quarterback hurt his pinky and that was why it was so bad of a showing.

Wherever this week finds you, keep warm and safe in the days ahead as they look to be even colder than they have been at least for a while. And if you are lucky, maybe your beloved's team will lose, and you will get a good supper out of it at the least.

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.



They struggle to come to America: One woman's story

Exactly what causes people to leave their homeland and make a difficult trek of 3,000 miles?

A young woman I'll call Jhovid, who came here from Venezuela, has asked me to listen to her answer, so that I and others may understand.

Her hair is neatly ponytailed, her clothes tidy, she looks composed—but her food is uneaten and tears streak her face. She tells me that people are starving to death in Venezuela. She looks at me to make sure I understand. Starving.

We know about the dire conditions generally, and we know that our Colorado town of Fort Collins, like many, has absorbed large numbers of newly arrived immigrants who fled for their safety. But she hopes someone will bear witness to her particular journey, and so we gather with my friend, bilingual author Laura Resau, who has collaborated with other South American women to help them share their stories.

Jhovid is one of the many Venezuelan refugees who climbed off a bus months ago with no coat, food, shelter or contacts. She's 32, she tells us, and graduated from college with a degree in business administration, but Venezuela was sinking economically as she was growing up. Jobs were scarce and gangs were everywhere.

She traveled with her sister to Colombia, where they worked for five years in a tennis shoe factory. But economic conditions soured there too, so the women went to Chile, traveling 23 days by foot and bus.

"We were crossing a banana plantation on the Ecuador-Peru border and men approached, asked for valuables, but we didn't have any, so they said, 'You'll have to pay with something else, then.'"

I winced, predicting what is to come,

but she offers a small smile. "I gave them my cheap cell phone and they left."

Luck, kindness and perseverance seem to be the themes of her story, where, time after time, good people—in law enforcement, nonprofits, people living in poverty themselves—offered help.

Like the time that immigration officials in Chile "gave us medical help and food, and we got jobs in fruit processing." She liked the factory, the country, and sending money to her family.

Pero después. But then. Her father, a retired police officer, who had been kidnapped and rescued, developed Parkinson's disease. Her family was desperate for help. Jhovid knew that if she could make it to the U.S.-Mexico border where there was a "Very Famous Hole" through the border wall, she could get to America and find work that paid more.

For the next three months, the sisters traveled north, walking and hitchhiking through three countries. In Panama, they foraged for food in the jungle with los animales. Worst of all, her sister became very "sick from the river, because the river was contaminated from dead people."

But then her eyes light up: A kind person gave them food, medicine, tickets to Costa Rica. Then it was on to Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico. They hid under cars at a mechanic shop to avoid the Mexican Mafia. Caught twice by immigration patrols in southern Mexico, they were sent to towns near the Guatemalan border.

By the third time, she knew how to avoid la migra, and after making it through the Very Famous Hole, they arrived in El Paso. Finally, she and others were bused to Denver, where a



By Laura Pritchett

stranger directed them to a homeless shelter, and later, a bus to Fort Collins.

Various groups stepped up with lightning speed, including churches and the nonprofits Fuerza Latina and Alianza NORCO. She's grateful for all the help but is happy to have found a full-time job.

As Jhovid wraps up her story, I breathe out a sigh. This woman walked thousands of miles through country after country because she had to. Determination and the kindness of strangers helped her succeed. But as I listen, I think of a family member's response to immigrants—one echoed by many in this country: "They're ruining the country, why would you want to help them?"

My answer: Why wouldn't you respect their desperate quest for a decent life?

Laura Pritchett is a contributor to Writers on the Range, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. She has two novels coming out this year from Torrey House Press and Ballantine; for more, see laurapritchett.com.

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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

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- Marie Mccolm
- Monte Vista Journal/Center Post Dispatch Reporter
- Lyndsie Ferrell..... South Fork/Creede Reporter
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Ice Fishing Tournament benefits Valley Veterans Recreation

By DIANE DREKMANN
FORT GARLAND — Dozens of brightly colored tents dotted Mountain Home Reservoir outside of Fort Garland on Jan. 13. Despite the frigid weather, 170 people — some all the way from Albuquerque, N.M. — participated in the annual Ice Fishing Tournament. Families, people young and old, even Senator Cleave Simpson came and supported Veterans through this fundraiser for Valley Veterans Recreation. Board members Craig Rauwolf said the non-profit is “focused on Veterans for their mental health to recreate.” There was a donation jar for the family of Jonathan Lucero, a Veteran who reportedly took his own life a few months ago. Outdoor recreation has beneficial

effects for everyone, particularly Veterans, according to organizers. D.J. Salazar is the founder and executive director of Valley Veterans Recreation. The other board members are Jason Medina, also a Costilla County firefighter, Duane Mosher, and Diego Martinez. Valley Veterans Recreation partnered with American Legion Post No. 142 in San Luis on the event. The post had raffle tickets for prizes like a Mr. Buddy indoor heater, Onyx mapping system which shows back country trails, hunting areas, and backroads, and fishing equipment like pole holders, knife set, and some binoculars. Donations came from Big R in Alamosa, Onyx and GruntStyle. After fishing on Mountain Home Reservoir for over 4 hours the winners



Photo by Diane Drekman

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

were announced. First and second prizes were given to the people who had the heaviest pike and trout.

Sixteen-year-old Zac Jacques took first prize for his 1.8-pound pike. He left before a picture could be taken. Amy Brady was second with a 1-pound pike. She received an auger for her next ice fishing adventure.

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

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



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



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



Courtesy photos

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

TEAM

Continued from Page 1A

develop strategies to reach the final placing of that class.

Then students must utilize their senses to perceive the differences in structural correctness, muscularity, and fat deposition. After weighing the placing factors, the student must persuasively present in oral form a set of reasons explaining the factors that influenced their class placing.

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

A judging contest builds character and instills self-confidence. Team members are exposed to teamwork, effective communication skills and analytical thinking. Team members also build self-confidence as they

become comfortable with both components of judging. Development of these skills benefits every area of the judge's life.

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

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

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Leadville based outdoor apparel company to hire for new Alamosa operation

By JOHN WATERS

LEADVILLE and ALAMOSA — Melanzana, a Leadville-based outdoor apparel manufacturer, will be opening a second production factory in Alamosa soon. The brand is experiencing increased demand for the products and is expanding its production capabilities to serve its customers better.

The company was founded in 1994 as Eggplant Mountain Gear by Fritz Howard, who according to the company website wanted to live in a real mountain town, not a resort town. “Melanzana is a local apparel manufacturer, deeply rooted in a legit mountain town,” reads Howard’s LinkedIn page.

Due to a trademark conflict, the company changed its name to Melanzana, the Italian word for eggplant.

The company originally rented a 3,000 square foot rental property in Leadville, and in 2008 bought property totaling 7,500 square feet. The company now has 76 employees, all in Leadville

Melanzana is currently looking to hire 12 positions in Alamosa for sewing, cutting and one sewing machine mechanic. The jobs pay \$19 to \$21 an hour. The positions offer a 4-day work week, time off, health and dental, profit sharing, and stock ownership.

In response to burgeoning demand at the Leadville store, Melanzana implemented a “By Appointment,” system. With available appointments now booked months in advance, the company is taking strategic steps to make their products more accessible. While the ramp-up in Alamosa is expected to be a long-term project, Melanzana aims to eventually reduce

lead times and make the shopping experience more accessible. The company has yet to announce the location of the new Alamosa facility.

The decision to establish an additional production facility in Alamosa was carefully considered according to the company. After exploring various cities across Colorado, Melanzana found that Alamosa, with its unique charm and hardworking agricultural history, aligns with the brand’s values and the spirit of its original home in Leadville. The town’s robust workforce and distinctive vibe make it an ideal location for Melanzana’s continued commitment to crafting high-quality, handmade outdoor apparel according to a company statement.

Howard, founder of Melanzana, expressed enthusiasm about the expansion, stating, “Hopefully, we can grow something there that is as great as what we have here in Leadville – an awesome staff with good jobs and a business that plays an important role as an anchor in the community. Melanzana needs a huge boost in our manufacturing firepower, so we are excited to invest in a sister-city like Alamosa!”

The additional factory in Alamosa will hire and train locals to make Melanzana’s classic hoodies and other outdoor apparel. While recognizing

the need for increased production to keep up with demand, the company is committed to maintaining its high-quality handmade approach to local manufacturing. The hiring process will begin in January and job opportunities and how to apply are listed on melanzana.com

The Leadville production operations will remain unchanged. Melanzana has no plans to open additional retail locations in Alamosa or anywhere outside of its Leadville headquarters. As the company embarks on this significant production expansion, Melanzana remains focused on its core values, ensuring that the handmade, local, and community-oriented ethos is carried forward to the Alamosa production facility. The company is excited to bring its commitment to quality, craftsmanship, and community to another small mountain town.

Erin Farrow, Communications Specialist at Melanzana, expressed her commitment to the company’s mission and the Leadville community, stating, “The thing I love most about Melanzana is our mission to stay local and support the community. We love Leadville, and we are not going anywhere! I’m psyched that with more output, shopping in the Leadville factory may eventually get back to normal.”



Courtesy photos

Outdoor apparel company Melanzana is hiring for 12 newly created positions in Alamosa.

Left: This promotional photo from the website of the outdoor apparel company Melanzana, may soon be changed to include that their products will also be made in Alamosa.

LIVING AMAZED

“Amazing grace...how sweet the sound!” “How great Thou art!” “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus...” “There’s just something about that Name!” “Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!”

These are all lyrics to a few old hymns of the church. Their words convey a certain wonder and adoration of the greatness of God. This kind of wide-eyed, jaw-dropping amazement should certainly promote a hopeful outlook on life.

Today we have numerous ways to experience God’s goodness. We can watch and listen to Bible teachings on TV, radio, and the internet, find encouragement in social media, listen to uplifting music, read inspiring books—the list is almost endless.

However, even with all the ways the Word is available to us, it seems as though we have lost some of the reverence and respect for God that we once had, and familiarity may be the culprit. Now, it’s not that familiarity is a bad thing necessarily, but when something—or someone—becomes common or ordinary to us, we begin to take it for granted and it is no longer special. I believe this can happen with our relationship with God.

Several years ago, I asked the Lord, “Why don’t I have exciting, special things happen in my life anymore?”

God spoke to my heart and said, “Joyce, I still do those things all the time. You have just gotten used to it.” God wants us to live amazed by His goodness in our lives...to actively take notice of the truly wonderful things He does for us. Why? Because when we live amazed, we will never be without hope! Let’s look at the story of Abraham...

God had blessed Abraham abundantly. However, there was one thing that he and his wife, Sarah, didn’t have—a child. Abraham said, “...Lord God, what can You give me, since I am going on [from this world] childless...?”

“And He [God] brought him outside [his tent into the starlight] and said, Look now toward the heavens and count the stars—if you are able to

number them. Then he said to him, So shall your descendants be (Genesis 15:2, 5 AMPC).”

Although Abraham’s circumstances looked overwhelming, the Lord brought him out of his tent to amaze him and remind him that He can do the impossible.

I believe we can all spend too much time “in our tent,” looking at our own problems. That’s why the Bible says to look away from all that will distract unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

Every time we decide to pray, read His Word or simply dwell on the great things He has done for us in the past, it produces hope. And, like Abraham, we soon begin thinking, Wow, maybe He can do this for me!

If we can’t find anything else to be amazed about, we can at least rejoice that we will live for eternity! But in the meantime, there is much more to inspire our wide-eyed wonder; all we have to do is simply pay attention.

Think back to a time shortly after you began your relationship with God. How did you feel? Were you extremely happy? Were you amazed by the presence of God...His grace... His love for you? How did you express your love and gratitude to Him? Did you laugh, cry, or dance before Him? Did you shout praises to Him or maybe bow in silent reverence? Whatever you did was your expression of the value, or importance, of your new and growing relationship with God.

It’s like a jar of salad dressing sitting on a shelf—most of the seasoning settles to the bottom of the bottle. But when you shake that bottle up, all the ingredients mix together and then the dressing can add flavor to a salad. In the same way, we can stir ourselves up and regain the reverence, respect, and awe we once had for the Lord. Shake up those memories of what God has done for you. Begin to do what you did when you first experienced God’s presence, grace, and love. Learn to maintain that amazement, because



the more amazed you are, the more hopeful, joyful, and peaceful you’ll be—and the more “flavor” you’ll add to this world.

There are several ways we can stir ourselves up. Just stop and think for a moment. Begin to reminisce about the goodness of God in your life. Remember things He’s done for you. Keep a journal to record your prayer needs and then the answers and breakthroughs, or a gratitude notebook to just write down things you are thankful for. Share with others what God is doing in your life! It doesn’t matter whether they’re big or small things; remembrance is vital to maintaining hope, and these things can help remind you.

When you focus on how wonderful God is and all the great things He’s done...is doing...and even will do in your life, your natural response will be praise, adoration, and awe. Don’t let yourself ever get used to it...stay amazed!

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

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

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

San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2023-2024

BOYS

Sierra Grande 59	Cheraw 44
Sargent 55	La Veta 41
Antonito 57	Creede 50
Centennial 58	Trinidad 31
Cotopaxi 48	Centennial 42
Sangre de Cristo 42	Custer County 37
Moffat 74	Antonito 25
Sargent 61	Creede 15
Sanford 58	Mancos 47
Cotopaxi 52	Del Norte 36
Del Norte 43	Center 32
Sanford 48	Escalante NM 44
Sargent 61	Dolores 48
Alamosa 72	Montezuma-Cortez 33
Centauri 62	Bayfield 39
Pagosa Springs 39	Centauri 37
Ignacio 37	Alamosa 32

GIRLS

Sargent 86	La Veta 22
Cheraw 33	Sierra Grande 25
Creede 61	Antonito 41
Sierra Grande 45	Lake City 13
Cotopaxi 57	Centennial 10
Sargent 68	Creede 29
Moffat 45	Antonito 42
Pagosa Springs 44	Centauri 39
Pueblo County 35	Alamosa 24
Mancos 41	Sanford 37
Del Norte 33	Center 25
Sanford 54	Escalante NM 31
Sargent 64	Dolores 16
Alamosa 50	Montezuma-Cortez 39
Centauri 48	Bayfield 8
Alamosa 53	Ignacio 47

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RGC welcomes new Human Resource Director

By LYNSIE FERRELL
RIO GRANDE COUNTY — Rio Grande County has a new Human Resource Director. Deb Hite was brought on in the fall of 2023 and has since worked to streamline the Human Resource Department through innovative and strengthening ideas. Hite decided to relocate from a suburban area in Boston, Mass., to Colorado in July 2023, joining Rio Grande County in September 2023 as the Human Resource Director/

Specialist. The main motivation behind this move was to be closer to her daughter, who has lived in the region for over five years. With a human resource background, Hite has gained much experience throughout her career. She has worked for government organizations such as the State of Nevada, Massachusetts, and Santa Clara County in California. At 21, Hite began her professional journey as a Paid Reserve Deputy for Stanislaus County, Calif., before

advancing into positions within the Department of Corrections, specifically serving maximum security prisons. As a sergeant, she managed the Prison Investigations Team and Security Squad. Eventually, she was promoted to Training Director based in northeast Nevada while working with the State of Nevada. Additionally, Hite possesses firsthand involvement in overseeing the construction and transition of a new super maximum prison

in northeast Nevada. There, she recruited, hired, and developed training programs for recruits and badged personnel. The American Correctional Association recognized her efforts in managing security for a multi-million-dollar convention during her tenure. At Santa Clara County in Calif., she worked as a Training Manager for the Department of Corrections. She developed and managed staff development programs for recruits, badged personnel, and administrators. She served as a Bay Area Training Consortium member with the Standards and Training Division of the State of California, which collaborates with local corrections systems to improve the professional competence of local corrections staff in California. While relocating to Massachusetts, she simultaneously expanded her family. This meant more than just moving to a new location, it entailed the addition of new members to her household. Nonetheless, she embraced the opportunity wholeheartedly, fully committed to providing a nurturing environment for her loved ones in their new home in Massachusetts. Subsequently, she worked as an assistant to the director of a regional school district. During her time there, she was responsible for assisting in human resources and fiscal duties. She also served as



president of a local bargaining unit. Consequently, after obtaining her degree, she continued studying at the University of Massachusetts with a focus on Human Resource Management and Diversity Recruitment. Having grown accustomed to the hustle and bustle of urban living, she finds herself constantly amazed by the breathtaking and majestic views of the area. She enjoys cycling, traveling, and exploring the outdoors. She enjoys encaustics, mixed media painting, and photography. Hite is eager to use her knowledge of labor laws, diversity, and inclusion to adapt to the changing work environments and continue to foster a positive work culture for Rio Grande employees. Her aim is to provide guidance for employee growth and success.



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Stephen Hunzeker is looking forward to serving the communities he loves through compassion and professionalism throughout the San Luis valley.

MORTUARY

Continued from Page 1A

respect and focus on the families I hope to serve is one of the main reasons I wanted to do this," he said. After Romero Funeral Home consolidated its branches down to their main one in Alamosa, Hunzeker saw the opportunity to bring in his service and is looking forward to becoming even more active in the community.

"Romero Funeral Home consolidated their other branches and being able to come in and take this building over with an option to buy in a year was really great for me. They are still a part of the Valley and they do still offer their services, I just wanted to be able to add to that here in Monte Vista," he said.

Hunzeker said that serving as Rio Grande County Coroner has been one of his greatest privileges and that he will continue to offer the services of all funeral homes in the Valley.

"We never suggest one over the other and I think that is one thing that makes this Valley such a wonderful place. The partnerships we build through our tight knit community is what makes us stand out," he said.

"Helping fill a void through compassion and care is our only goal. Having 14 years of experience in the Valley has taught me the ins and outs of community life here and we are happy to be here," he said.

The facility itself is under transformation but offers several tranquil aspects that are in place to help comfort and surround grieving families. From the outdoor courtyard to the conference room and gallery, Hunzeker has set out to create a place where families and loved ones feel secure.

Hunzeker is also looking to fortify his impact in the community through outreach, education, and support.

"Being in this position gives us the opportunity to be supportive of the community through charitable events. It can be as simple as helping with the local baseball teams or as big

as making donations to organizations that are in need. We really want to be a community minded business and that is what we set out to do," he said.

Hunzeker hopes to keep funeral prices affordable and to seek further education and insurance licensing in the next few months.

"We want to grow and offer what we can to the community we serve," he said.

In addition, Hunzeker was appointed to the Colorado State

Funeral Director's Board.

"It's an honor to be able to serve as a rural funeral director and be able to bring a new perspective to the table for consideration as changes are being proposed through legislature. Having a voice on that board is going to be a huge benefit," he said.

Hunzeker will host a ribbon cutting event soon, and more details about the new funeral home can be found on their website at www.mvmortuary.com.

DISTRICT COURT, COUNTY OF SAGUACHE STATE OF COLORADO 501 4 th Street Saguache, CO 81149 719-655-2522	
SHANE THOMAS ANDIS	
Plaintiff	
v.	
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;	▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲
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.	Case Number: 2023CV30027
Defendants	Div.: Ctrm:
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	
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION	

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.

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SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE



Eric Guttormson

First Southwest Bank announces appointment of Guttormson as Sr. Lending Officer

By FIRST SOUTHWEST BANK

DURANGO — First Southwest Bank (FSWB), a locally owned, independent community bank, and one of two Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) banks in Colorado, announces the appointment of Eric Guttormson as Sr. Lending Officer.

Guttormson will be responsible for providing strategic direction for the Lending Department, while also ensuring compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. He will provide lending solutions to business customers, including those in underserved rural communities.

“I’m thrilled to join the committed and innovative team at First Southwest Bank” said Guttormson, “and look forward to forming new relationships with colleagues and customers who are making a positive impact every day by bringing social capital partners together to empower equitable economic progress in Southern and

rural Colorado.”

Guttormson spent the past seven years at Sunrise Banks in Minnesota, a CDFI bank focused on financial empowerment, where he served as a Commercial Credit Analyst, Commercial Portfolio Manager, Commercial Loan Officer, and VP Commercial Loan Manager. Prior to Sunrise, he was a Commercial Credit Analyst at MinnWest Bank. He finds fulfillment in continued learning and mentoring others to expand their knowledge and skills.

“I’m thrilled to have Eric as part of our First Southwest Bank Team! Eric brings energy and CDFI lending experience that will allow FSWB to elevate our small business solutions and expand our reach to underserved rural communities. We are grateful to have Eric’s leadership and mission-focused mindset to further support the social and economic landscape of rural Colorado.” Kristy Esquibel, EVP, Chief Credit Officer, First Southwest Bank.

Happy New Year from HVCC

By HIGH VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

DEL NORTE — We are so grateful for an incredible 2023, and we are looking forward to another great year in 2024! Seeing all the kids again after a long break was just what we needed to start off the new year.

January is full of all sorts of fun stuff! This last week, we welcomed the kids back to High Valley. Our teens worked on their skills in science, math, and teamwork by building and programming a robot. This will be a longer project, and we will keep you updated as they continue to make progress! Our K-5 graders learned all about Egypt and had the chance to become a junior archaeologist and uncover their own treasures from an Egyptian Pyramid.

After a successful week, we celebrated with our kiddos on Friday by going bowling at Stars and Strikes! Despite the freezing temperatures, the entire HVCC group had a ton of fun at the bowling alley and had some friendly competition to spur them on.

Our January calendar is on our website — there is a calendar for K-5 and a calendar for 6-12 grades. Make sure to check them out to stay up to

date on what is happening at HVCC!

One important date to note for this month is Jan. 18. Elementary students do not have school, so we will be open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. We will take them on a field trip and provide valuable time with them! We will return to HVCC by 4 p.m. so that our junior/high school students will have someone to hang out with after school. Please make sure that all students are picked up by 5 p.m. that day.

You may be missing your usual Encore deliveries and the program as you know it. We have not forgotten you! We want to make sure

we’re using our funding and resources to meet the greatest needs, and we’re excited to share that we have a few ideas. We’re hoping you might help to lead our community gatherings — we will provide the space, snacks, supplies, advertising, etc. Give us a call for more information and to get started! You can expect our new meal services to be announced soon, and we’ll be implementing them by the beginning of February.

We greatly appreciate your support and readership! If you are reading this, come on by HVCC to receive a free gift from us!

Here’s to the new year!



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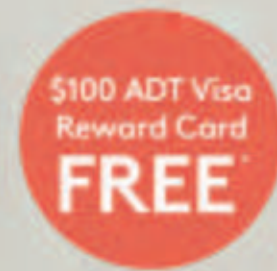
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DF-CD-NP-G421

Cotten, top water guy in the SLV, talks water

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“We’re 12 years into that 20-year period and [water in the aquifer] is lower

than 2012. The state engineer sent some letters a few years ago saying they had to build the aquifer back up or face the possibility of wells being shut down. Shutting down wells would devastate our agricultural economy,” he said,

As a result, Cotten said, Subdistrict No. 1 developed a new plan that’s currently in water court and is based on the rule that any water pumped out of the aquifer must be replaced one-to-one.

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

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

A group of well owners called Sustainable Water Augmentation Group (SWAG) with land northeast of

Center who don’t have many surface water rights have objected to the new water plan for Subdistrict No. 1, he said. Their objection will lead to a trial in water court.

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

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

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

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

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

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

A brief article on the nps.gov/grsa website related to hydrology in the Great Sand Dunes describes the situation in more detail. “As in our



Craig Cotten
Division 3 engineer

own bodies” the website reads, “water is the glue that holds this complex system together, through flowing streams, wetlands, and moisture that allows unique plants and animals to survive in the sand. [These streams] are critical parts of a huge natural system that shapes and maintains the Great Sand Dunes as we know them today.”

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

Rio Frio Ice Fest

January 26TH - 28TH 2024

“Penguin Party”

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday January 26th
 6pm - 7:30pm: Packet Pickup at Milagros Coffee House
 6pm - 8pm: Cross Country Luminara Ski @ BV Pond

SATURDAY JANUARY 27TH
 8-9:30am: Race Packet Pickup @ Alamosa Senior Center
 10am: Rio Frio 5k @ Rio Grande River
 11am (After Race): Race Awards (Race Start/Finish)
 12pm: Ice Carving Demonstrations @ Main Street
 12-2pm: Disc Golf (SOCO Ice Bowl) @ Disc Golf Course
 12-3pm: Shop Local Raffle Extravaganza @ San Juan Ave.
 1-4pm: Info Tent @ San Juan Ave.
 4-6pm: Rio Frio Flights
 6:30pm: Fire and Ice Bonfire

SUNDAY JANUARY 28TH
 12pm: Polar Plunge/Ice Carousel & Pond Skating @ BV Pond
 9am-4pm: Ice Climbing Trip

Website: Rioraces.com
Facebook: @RioRacesAlamosa, #RioFrioIceFest

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.

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Photo by Diane Drekmann

Ira Vanderberg was the keynote speaker of the Latino Farmers and Ranchers International Caucus at the Painted Sage in San Luis on Jan. 5.

Latino Farmers and Ranchers International Caucus meeting held

By DIANE DREKMANN

SAN LUIS — Some ranchers in Costilla County attended a special meeting for the Latino Farmers and Ranchers International Caucus at the Painted Sage in San Luis on Jan. 5.

Ira Vanderburg, with the Latino and Ranchers International Caucus, based out of Cubero, N. M., was the keynote speaker. He was invited to share his expertise with discriminatory practices against Latino and indigenous people like Vanderburg, a Navajo, and describe alternative, better crop practices.

Vanderburg told everyone at the meeting, “(We) want to bring everyone together. Bring the small farmers together...the main thing is to build an economy around the farmers...where young people can become farmers. After COVID, kids lost their high-tech jobs and came back to the family farm.”

Vanderburg hopes, “in 10-15 years San Luis can thrive.”

He stressed the importance of using organic heirloom seeds. The current way of thinking, he said, is to produce genetically modified food and plant a couple crops like alfalfa and corn.

Vanderburg feels quality seeds would produce better crops. He also feels hemp would be an excellent crop to grow here in the San Luis Valley and described its many benefits. Hemp does not have any CBD or THC like its cousin marijuana. Hemp is grown for its long, strong fibers, which can be used for a variety of things, like making clothing, paper, or insulation.

Hemp “pulls carbon and pulls out

toxins like uranium...it makes an excellent fertilizer called biochar...it is also mold resistant and makes a good insect repellent. Hemp requires little water and can be used as a rotation or main crop,” he said.

Vanderburg shared that of all the beef produced in New Mexico, only 1 percent remains in the state. He feels that “we have to stop giving our best food away.”

Vanderburg would like to see what he calls a “circular economy. Everything in a 100-mile radius stays here — local...small local groups making their own stuff. ...Hispanic remains Hispanic. Navajo remains Navajo. That’s what makes us beautiful.”

Vanderburg discovered Latino and Navajo ranchers were losing their farms because they “were rejected for loans or given higher rates so the banks could buy the land back.” The Latino Farmers and Ranchers International Caucus filed a lawsuit against USDA to hold them accountable for what they had done in the last 10-15 years and to have resolution for the next 10 years.

Vanderburg asked, “How do we keep our multigenerational land.” He said, “Navajo and Latino need to join together.” The Latino Farmers and Ranchers International Caucus helps ranchers “who lost their land, don’t have equipment, or can’t farm it. They also provide good quality seeds to produce good crops...(They) help get what you need.”

Vanderburg will be going to Washington D.C. in a couple of weeks to discuss these issues. He will be in San Luis again in February.

SRMAC keynote speaker is Temple Grandin

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — The Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference (SRMAC) will be held at the Outcalt 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.

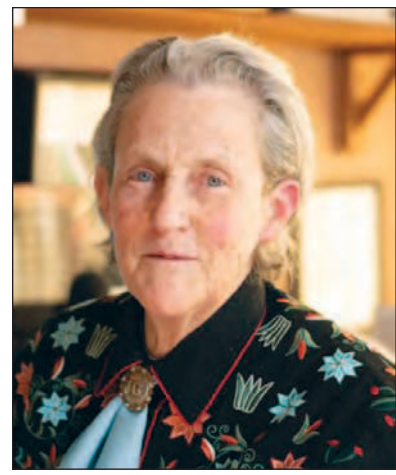
Grandin’s second session will be

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 restrainer 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 Agricultural Conference takes place once a year. Ag producers are always looking for more ways to enhance



Temple Grandin

their knowledge, and skills in modern day agriculture works. The Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Confer- Please see SRMAC on Page 7



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.

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.

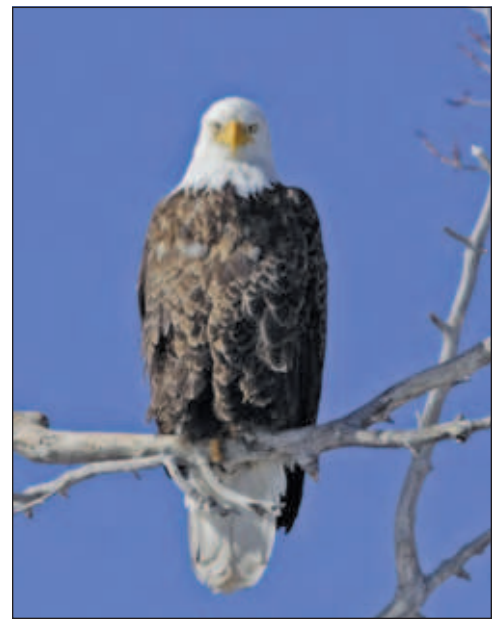
This 2023 count had 662 counts worldwide and included two local counts and over 50 other counts in Colorado.

The Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge held its annual Christmas

Please see COUNT on Page 2

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

Photo courtesy Evert Brown



Youth hockey tournament in South Fork on Feb. 3

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — The South Fork Chamber of Commerce recently announced the first youth hockey tournament will be held at Rickel Park on Feb. 3 in partnership with the Town of South Fork.

South Fork's new ice rink in Rickel Park is all set to host the inaugural Hockey on the Rio Youth Tournament from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 3. Youth hockey enthusiasts aged 14 and under can engage in 3-on-3 gameplay across various age brackets.

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

"We want this to be a family centered event and we are excited to welcome youth hockey participants from Alamosa, South Fork and Creede. We will be playing a round-robin-style tournament with a 3-on-3 format. The winner of each age group will receive a customized hockey puck and a picture in the South Fork Times," said new South Fork Chamber of Commerce Administrator Renee LeSueur.

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

For updates, visit www.SouthForkChamber.com or follow the South Fork Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

COUNT

Continued from Page 1

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 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.

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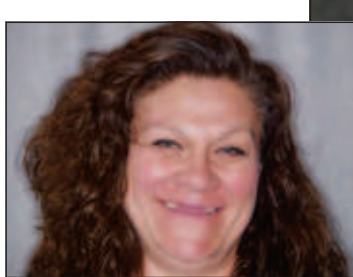
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RATES

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05 Notices

RIO GRANDE COUNTY, COLORADO IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR THE RIO GRANDE COUNTY ELEVATOR REPAIR AND COMPONENT REPLACEMENT PROJECT. Sealed proposals are due to the Rio Grande County Administration office by 4:00pm (MT), Friday, February 2nd, 2024. The proposals will be reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners on February 7th, 2024. The project consists of: Repairs and component replacement of the County Courthouse elevator in accordance with all requirements described in the Statement of Work. Digital copies of the bid documents are available at www.riograndecounty.org. Bidders must be licensed to perform work within the state of Colorado. Bids must remain in effect for 60 days after the bid opening date. RIO GRANDE COUNTY reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities in the bids and bidding deemed to be in the best interests of RIO GRANDE COUNTY, and to 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 slvaa.org or call 719-937-5083.

07 Help Wanted

POST Certified Deputy - Patrol Deputy - Lateral. Mineral County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) is seeking

applicants with experience as a full-time peace officer who are currently employed by a state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency and in good standing. MCSO is looking for someone who has a strong work ethic, is an initiative-taker, loves what they do and is motivated to share their knowledge and experience with those who they work with. If you are looking for a law enforcement agency where your hard work and team building skills will allow your career to take off, then this position is for you! You will be expected to perform a variety of law enforcement functions. Enforce local, state, federal laws, and ordinances for the protection of life, health, safety, welfare, and property of the public and community. Assists community members in solving problems and maintaining the peace. Position is \$22-27 DOE FT w/benefits, 40 hours/week. Applications are available from Mineral County Human Resource office at 1201 N. Main Street, Creede or at 719-658-2331 or at mineralcounty.colorado.gov/job-postings. (1-17)

Victim Advocate Coordinator.

The Victim Advocate Coordinator is a part-time, grant-funded position with the Mineral County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) and will be responsible for managing the MCSO Victim Advocates (VA) team. This department head position will coordinate with the volunteer Victim Advocates to provide comprehensive assistance to and for victims of violent crimes. Additionally, this person will be responsible for provision of direct services to victims of violent crime in Mineral County through outreach, liaison with local criminal justice entities, and collaboration with community

resource providers. 50% of this position will be dedicated towards providing direct services to victims of crime and 50% will be dedicated towards the training and coordination of MCSO volunteer Victim Advocates and MCSO Deputies. Position is approx. \$544/month PT, on-call status to provide services 24-7. Applications are available from Mineral County Human Resource office at 1201 N. Main Street, Creede or at 719-658-2331 or at mineralcounty.colorado.gov/job-postings (1-17)

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 1201 N Main St Creede, CO 81130 Phone: 719-658-2331 (1-17)

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\$1,200,000 | MLS# 808246
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Nestled amidst the serene beauty of Del Norte, this expansive 35.5-acre ranch. With San Francisco Creek flows flowing through the entirety of the property allowing fishing on your own land. The residence itself is secluded, ensuring privacy with its 1/4-mile driveway that shields it from the main road. Call Bruce Steffens today for a showing appointment.

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



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Valley Wide Classifieds

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 1201 N Main St, Creede, CO 81130. Phone: 719-658-2331. (1-10)

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, 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: ahardy@urtigers.co, 719-657-4020. Applications may be found on our website; 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

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

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242 Birch \$69,000
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 MLS#810125.
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4100 Wilderness Canyon Road - Mountain Luxury at the end of the road, secluded and private, this gorgeous, bright, energy-efficient home sits on 42 acres bordering the National Forest with views of the Natural Arch. Ghost Mine Ranch, near Del Norte. Ride or hike out for hundreds of miles, right from your backyard. Gated community with minimal covenants. **\$899,000**

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

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

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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

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Valley Wide Classifieds

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 please contact Gibbs Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: gsanchez@urtigers.co 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: ahardy@urtigers.co, 719-657-4020 for further information. (1-17)

10 Apartments

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

17 Real Estate For Sale

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

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23 Lawn and Garden

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32 Fuel & Heating

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36 Miscellaneous

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SRMAC

Continued from Page 1

ence 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 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 online agconferencesrm.com.

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It's time for Snowmen!

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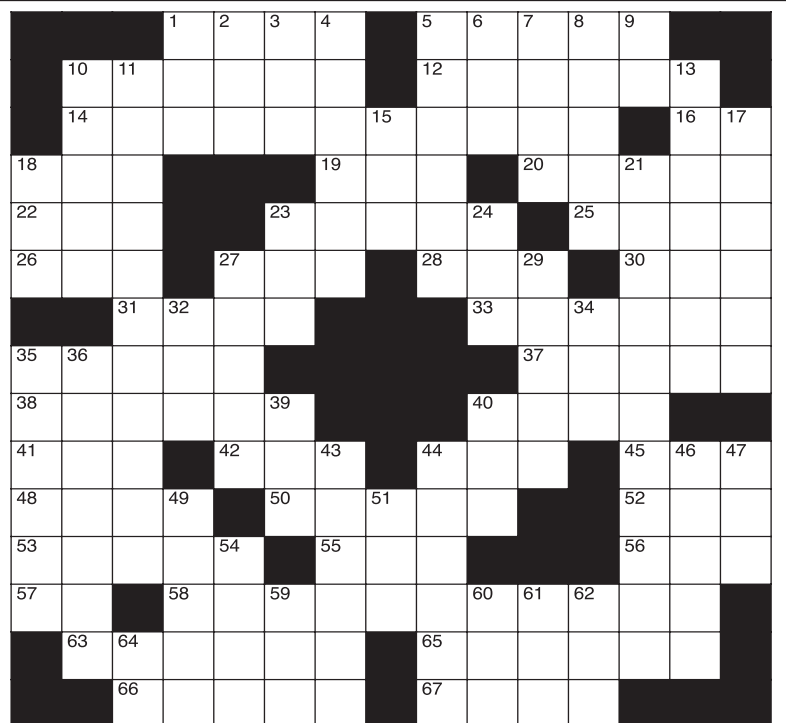
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Crops sown in winter in India
5. Nursemaids in East Asia
10. Investigates
12. Treated like a child
14. About religious belief
16. Widely used exclamation
18. Car mechanics group
19. Not good
20. Indigenous people of Alberta
22. Everyone has one
23. Fencing sword
25. Soaks
26. The human foot
27. Of she
28. Erythrocyte (abbr.)
30. Soldiers
31. Energy, style and enthusiasm
33. Playwright O'Neill
35. Stone parsley
37. Small stones
38. Gas descriptor
40. Monetary unit of Samoa
41. Jeans manufacturer
42. NHL great Bobby
44. Cool!
45. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
48. Winged
50. Partner to "oohed"
52. Defensive nuclear weapon
53. Coated
55. Furry household friend
56. Chinese principle underlying the universe



57. Prefix meaning "within"
58. Makes easier
63. Transferred property
65. Branched
66. Hillsides
67. Abba __, Israeli diplomat

CLUES DOWN

1. Eggs in a female fish
2. Military mailbox
3. Unit to compare power levels
4. Line on a map connecting similar points
5. One who accepts
6. Partner to cheese
7. Ancient Greek sophist
8. About hilus
9. Southeast
10. Where actors ply their trade
11. Beloved Philly sandwich
13. Intend
15. Talk excessively
17. Bronx cheers
18. Drain
21. Renews

23. Monetary unit in Asia
24. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
27. Carthaginian statesman
29. Aged
32. Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano
34. Firearm
35. Consolation
36. An island in the north Atlantic
39. Pitching statistic
40. Disconsolate
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Call it a career
46. Behave in a way that degrades someone
47. Health insurance
49. Recommend
51. Baltic peninsula
54. Father
59. After B
60. Bar bill
61. Doctors' group
62. 2,000 lbs.
64. Equal to one quintillion bytes

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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 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



Courtesy photo

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.

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.

Catalyst Church impacting Costilla

FORT GARLAND — Catalyst Church is a new "a fellowship" in Fort Garland, says Pastor Josh Webb.

They have already made their presence known throughout Costilla County. The focus of Catalyst Church is "community".

"It only takes one person to do something... People want to do good things but don't know how to start," Webb said of the name.

Catalyst Church provides a hot home-cooked meal each Sunday at 4 p.m. at 612 Pfeiffer Ave. in Fort Garland with a bible study afterward. Since their start this past August, they have fed 1,500 people. The church also prepared and distributed 1,100 food boxes filled with ham, mashed potatoes, vegetables and apple pie between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Pastor Webb said, "Donations came from Walmart, Safeway, City Market, purchased by families and then donated, or donations from churches out of state."

Webb trained to be a pastor in Indiana, working under a senior pastor and learning how to take care of people and their needs. He was a missionary in Mexico for six years.

Catalyst Church recently became a non-profit and is now eligible to receive more donations to do more good for the community, Webb said.

"It is all about the community, "Webb reiterated. "If we all work together, it makes light work."

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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



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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 the 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 an area with beautiful carved mantel stone fireplace, custom designed 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

SOLD

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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

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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

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

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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

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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

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