

Shorts

Center Town Board petitions available

CENTER—Nomination petitions for the upcoming Center Town Board Election are currently available at the Center Town Hall, 294 Worth St., with a submission deadline of Jan. 22. Election Day is scheduled for April 2. Five of the seven trustee seats will be up for election.

For more information, visit online townofcenter.colorado.gov or call 719-754-3497.

SLV Extension Office offering Servsafe Course

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

ServSafe is a nationally recognized program developed by the National Restaurant Association, that provides food safety training, exams and educational materials to food service managers.

Food Service Managers who are not certified by an accredited Food Safety Course should attend. The Colorado Retail Food Establishment Rules and Regulations state that “at least one employee with authority to direct and control food preparation and service shall be a food protection manager who has been certified by an accredited program.”

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

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

Creede Elks make use of grants totaling \$6K

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

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

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

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

Saguache County Sales Tax Grants available

By SAGUACHE COUNTY

SAGUACHE — The Saguache County Commissioners invite the public to apply for a Sales Tax Grant through the county’s official website at <https://saguachecounty.colorado.gov/saguache-county-sales-tax-grant>.

Individuals and agencies can complete the grant application online or download it.

Funding ideas must fall under one of these three categories. Grants awarded range from \$500 to over \$7,500.

- Youth and Senior Services and Programs
- Alternative Energy Projects and/or Business/Job Creation Opportunities
- Emergency Services, Public Health and Safety

The Saguache County Sales Tax

Grant was established through a ballot initiative that created a fund to distribute to individuals, groups and organizations to better the Saguache County community. This funding is derived from a 1% sales tax on most goods sold in Saguache County.

The grant application deadline is 3 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 9. All applications must be submitted by

one of the following ways — online, hand delivered to the Saguache County Administration office located at 505 3rd St., Saguache, or mailed in time to meet the 3 p.m. deadline, as stated above, to Saguache County Administration/Sales Tax Grant, PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149.

For more information, visit online saguachecounty.colorado.gov.

Community supports Saguache VFD Fire and Ice fundraiser



By MARIE MCCOLM

SAGUACHE — Nearly 100 people attended the second annual Saguache Volunteer Fire Department Fire and Ice benefit celebration on Sunday, Dec. 31.

The celebration is a fundraiser for the Saguache Volunteer Fire Department. The event was kid friendly.

Members of the fire department wore firefighter button up shirts and blue jeans. There were tables and chairs spread out in the Saguache Community Building where the celebration was held. People ate a hearty dinner, enjoyed the country music of the local group Kicker, and took part in a silent

Please see VFD on Page 8A

Nearly 100 people attended the second annual Saguache Volunteer Fire Department Fire and Ice benefit celebration on Sunday, Dec. 31. People ate a hearty dinner, enjoyed the country music of the local group Kicker, and took part in a silent auction.

Courtesy photo

T-Road Brewing ushers in 2024 by going back to 80’s

By MARIE MCCOLM

CRESTONE — Back to the 80’s was the theme of the New Year’s celebration at T-Road Brewing Company in Crestone on Sunday, Dec. 31. The event was hosted by the brewery and Cosmic Pop-up Events.

Tickets to the event were \$30 each and the event included dinner and a drink, a live DJ, a gift bag, and a champagne toast at midnight.

Arielle Blackwell of Cosmic Pop-up events spoke about the celebration and how everything went.

“It was a great turn out and we had a lot of people attend the celebration. There were strobe lights, streamers, a disco ball, there was tons of 80’s music playing, including, Wham, Prince, Madonna, Michael Jackson, just about every 80’s song you could think of. People were dancing and laughing, everyone had a great time.”

Please see BACK on Page 7A

Back to the 80’s was the theme of the New Year’s celebration at T-Road Brewing Company in Crestone on Sunday, Dec. 31. The event was hosted by the brewery and Cosmic Pop-up Events.

Courtesy photo



Max Gibson

New leadership for SLV Local Foods Coalition

By JOHN WATERS

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

The San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition is an organization dedicated to fostering an equitable local food distribution system that restores public

Please see GIBSON on Page 4A

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OBITUARIES

Please see OBITUARY on Page 7A

Darlene Carnicia Bandy

Del Norte resident Darlene Carnicia Bandy, 86, passed away on Dec. 24, 2023, at the Rio Grande Hospital with her loving daughter by her side.

Darlene was born on Sept. 22, 1937, to Harry and Georgiann (Ellaschuk) Maine in San Francisco, Calif. Darlene met the love of her life Jimmie Lee Bandy and they were married Sept. 25, 1956, in San Diego, Calif. Together they raised 4 children.

Darlene had a deep love for her Heavenly Father. She cherished her family and took great joy in spending time with them. She was a nurse; her compassion and care were always appreciated by those she cared for.

Darlene could often be found reading, sewing, and gardening. She revered opera and classical music, she got to attend the Santa Fe Opera three times and absolutely loved that! Darlene loved to cook and passed that love of cooking down to her two sons. She was an amazing grandmother for both her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Darlene is survived by her daughters Renee Austin of Hobbs, N.M., and Catherine (Steve) Lewis of Creede, Colo.; her sons Clay (Kathie) Bandy of Hartsel, Colo., Johnathan Bandy of Alamogordo, NM.; her grandchildren Laura Lewis, Andrew (Jessica) Austin, Sara Rosene (Andrew) Marino,



April Austin, Jessi (Kevin) Wheatley, and Casey Farnsworth; her great-grandchildren Logan, Mylee, Elizabeth, Joshua, and Liam; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

Darlene was preceded in death by her husband Jimmie Lee Bandy, both of her parents Harry Kostenuk Maine and Georgiann Catherine Ellaschuk Maine, her two brothers Morian Maine, Elmore Maine and her sister Rosene Maine.

Cremation was chosen and a Memorial Service will be held in Albuquerque, N.M., at a later date.

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

Karen Rose Gere

South Fork, Colo., resident Karen Rose Gere, 78, passed away on Dec. 21, 2023, at the Rio Grande Hospital in Del Norte surrounded by her loving family.

Karen was born in Valentine, Neb., on the 9th of October, 1945, to Homer and Arvelyn (Olson) Hinton. She lived in Nebraska up to her young adult life then moved to Colorado. She made her home with her life partner Blaine Burt in the beautiful town of South Fork, Colo.

Karen was an avid reader, she loved curling up with a good book. She also loved to travel. She and Blaine traveled to Hawaii, Alaska, New Zealand, and many locations in the US. Karen loved to spend time with her family.

She was very proud of her career; she was a manager in the bakery department with King Soopers for over 32 years! Everyone knew they could depend on her for the most fabulous cakes and pastries. Karen had a generous heart, she enjoyed helping others.

Karen never said an unkind word about another human. She will be greatly missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Karen is survived by her longtime partner Blaine Burt of South Fork, her son Mathew Gere of Lakewood, Colo.; her granddaughter Jade Gere of Golden, Colo.; nephews Bruce McCracken of Gering, Neb., and Gary McCracken of Broken Bow, Neb.; cousins Elaine Schaffer, and Larry



and Wayne Heath.

Karen was preceded in death by both of her parents; her still born baby Kenneth Gere; another son Scott Gere, her sister Anne McCracken, and cousins Kay Connery and Mary Jo Cowden.

Cremation was chosen and several Memorial Services will be held. One will be at the Chapel of the South Fork, 116 Laden Dr., in South Fork. Another will be in Denver at a later date and the final one with burial following will be in Cody, Neb., this summer. In lieu of flowers, contributions are suggested to Chapel of the South Fork, 116 Landon Dr., South Fork, CO 81154.

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

Richard B. Quintana

A man of stubborn wit, Richard B. Quintana, 67, gave his last testament of defiance against the holiday spirit as he passed on Dec. 24, 2023.

Born to Jose R. Quintana (Deceased Sept. 1995) and Maria "Ruth" (Gonzalez) Quintana on Feb. 13, 1956, in Capulin, Colo. Accompanied through life and survived by his younger siblings Nora (Bobby) Maez, Emily (Eddie - deceased) Maestas, and Elvira "Sandra" (Ray) Valdez. Further proceeded to death by his mother-in-law Virginia S. Lopez, his sister-in-law Bernadette B. Lopez, and his aunt Carol R. Quintana.

Richard attended Centauri High School (Class of 1977) where he met his high school sweetheart Theresa E. Lopez. They would go on to marry and share the Quintana name on May 3, 1978, and fill their humble home with two (questionably) wonderful children — Richard R. (Shasta) Quintana and Lisa V. Quintana (Alan) Scheibe.

While a hardworking man, through illness and all, dedicating 45(ish) years to the Valley Courier, in various roles, his true blessings

were his eight grandchildren — Naomi (Chris) Aldridge, Miranda (Francisco) Quintana, Aspen Hunter, Sierra Scheibe, Tiffany Quintana, Victoria Scheibe, Makan Quintana, Alyssa Scheibe — and his two great-grandchildren — Ezequiel Moreno and Ryker Scheibe. To whom he would always say, "Grandpa doesn't spoil you; he LOVES you." They may have only been ever outshined by his pets, who were along for the ride in life and now in death (His "Lucky" Buddy, who passed in July, is no longer without his best friend).

As a man of various interests, and plentiful friends (mostly named Steve, but special gratitude to his best friend David Martinez AKA "primo") he took time to show them the world. Thus, in many lives, never lived alone, Richard became a DIY mechanic, music contour (biasedly favored toward Elvis), an avid car collector (toys and real. If it had wheels, it most likely came home. One time there was even a boat), movie critic (no program was safe, and yet he loved his portable tv), a (sporadic) road trip enthusiast who rarely had enough gas, and so much



more. While a Grinch, his heart was never three sizes too small.

Services began with a Rosary on Friday, Dec. 29, 2023, at 7 p.m. and a Funeral to follow on Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023, at 11 a.m. All services will be held at St. Joseph's Church in Capulin, Colo. The burial will take place at Gomez cemetery.

To leave your condolences, please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Alta B. Berkstresser

Alta B. Berkstresser, 89, passed away on Dec. 24, 2023. Born in Lindsay, Neb., on April 19, 1934, Alta studied to be a nurse in Sioux City, Iowa, where she met and married George W. Berkstresser. Alta and George moved to Sargent, Colo., in 1964 where they raised their family and built an extensive community over the years.

Alta loved to bake and was well known in the area for her whole wheat potato doughnuts. Alta was active in the life of Sargent Community Church where she volunteered for many years with the Mary Martha's group. Her love of community and volunteering extended also to many years of service with PEO, the Boy Scouts, 4-H and Beaver Creek Youth Camp. Her devotion to Beaver Creek Youth Camp went especially deep as she raised monies for many years to build an all-season lodge that is now named after the family.

Alta had a passionate love of nature and especially for the wildflowers of the Southwest. She had an extensive knowledge of the many varieties of flowers in the region and spent years collecting photographs to catalog her discoveries. She shared her passion for flowers with the world through her volunteer work along with her husband George at Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad in Chama, N.M. There they spent several weeks each summer with fellow volunteers and friends as George worked on the



trains, tracks and station and Alta planted flower gardens. To this day, the gardens delight travelers from around the world.

After their children were grown and left the house, Alta and George combined their love of

travel with their joy of community through their involvement with Servas International, a non-profit organization that organizes travel with host families around the world. Alta and George stayed with host families in Asia, Europe and New Zealand as well as hosting families from around the world in their home in Sargent. They built friendships and community that lasted decades.

Alta is survived by her children Mark, Cheryl and Charles and her two grandchildren Breian and Kristen. Her legacy of love, community, and appreciation for the natural world lives on in the hearts of those she touched.

A memorial service to celebrate Alta's extraordinary life will be held in the summer of 2024 at Beaver Creek Youth Camp. Further details will be provided in due course, allowing family and friends to come together and honor a woman whose light will continue to shine in our hearts forever.

OBITUARY POLICY

Valley Publishing charges a flat fee of \$75 for each obituary published. Pending arrangements or death notices run for no charge.

This charge affects funeral homes, as well as family or other representatives, that directly place obituaries. All paid obituaries will continue to be published on our website(s) for no additional fee.

In the event the newspaper errors in publishing an obit, corrections will be made and the obit will be rerun. If the errors are on the part of the submitting party, an additional fee will be assessed. Obituaries can be emailed to: bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com or call 719-852-3531 for more information.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Happy New Year

I hope that most of you are enjoying the New Year as by the time you read this it will be underway and 2023 will be a crossed-out blemish on the calendar of life.

I am sitting in my recliner writing this column as the year winds down on the clock and glad I am here safe and sound.

Perusing the channels on the idiot box I see there are celebrations going on all over the country and world. People are massed together singing and gyrating and all Ol' Dutch can think is how glad I am not there.

No traffic to navigate, no drunks to dodge and no obnoxious strangers blowing a horn in my face and wishing me a happy new year. Bah Humbug.

My plan early on was to celebrate here with Miss Trixie and maybe even sneak in a New Year's smooch but she was called away today to help her ailing aunt and uncle.

So much for pitching woo with my sweetie, at least on this night. I guess Mr. Cooper and I will have to hold down the fort alone and he is not much on kisses, let me tell you.

Looking back on 2023, Ol' Dutch has plenty to be thankful for. We had some real health miracles with some close family members and those are always most appreciated of all blessings.

We started building a new house and although it's slow going as Ol' Dutch is superintendent, foreman, laborer, cook and chief bottle washer on the project. But it's coming along, and I am thankful that I will finally have a home again when completed.

Resolutions are part of every New Year and Ol' Dutch is full of them. Well, he is full of something, according to Miss Trixie.

The first resolution is pretty straight forward. Ol' Dutch really needs to reduce tonnage and it seems no matter how hard I work around the farm, I just do not make much of a dent on the scale of life.

Not too long ago I had to fill out some questionnaires about my health and one question was "What kind of shape are you in?" I just typed in "Round." That pretty much describes anything they might need to know about me, I think.

It was not sufficient for the bean counters however and they pestered me night and day for two weeks for a clarification and better description of my decrepit self.

So, looking back I really think I have very little to complain about. In 2023, I heat, food and hot showers every day and so I am thankful for the little things, so it seems.

The year ahead looks to be challenging at least on the world stage as there are wars and rumors of wars in the news every day and it's worrisome at the least. I guess we need not be surprised about all that as it says that exact thing in the Bible, so it's been with us it seems like forever.

I think the saddest thing about any war is that the common people never want one. We all just want to go to work, go home and take care of our families. No sane person could ever want to be subjected to the hardships that conflicts bring but somehow, we let others lead us down the paths of destruction.

2024 will also bring us a national election and it's times like this that Ol' Dutch is glad he does not have any of the television channels that will pour out the vile lies from politicians seeking office. I can sit comfortably in my RV and watch Andy Griffith or Green Acres on the antennae and avoid all the hubbub.

Wherever the New Year finds you, be a blessing to those around you and especially to those less fortunate than yourself. And if you find yourself in need of help yourself, my prayer is that each and every one of you find a path forward in this New Year and that you yourself will become a blessing to many.

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.



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick



Courtesy photo

The Bureau of Land Management San Luis Valley Field Office, the National Park Service Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, the US Fish & Wildlife Service San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and the US Forest Service Rio Grande National Forest worked together to build a float to participate in the Alamosa Light Parade and promote the responsible use of your federal lands.

Multi Agency Parade Float Discourages Mischief on Public Lands

As twilight descended on the relatively quiet mountain valley town there was a sense of building energy. While it's hard to describe the feeling, I know the others around me were feeling it too. The cold began to set in as the last light of the day gave way to the inevitable darkness of the daily cycle. Yet, where we were, there was a mounting glow of not only light, but an exciting inner feeling shared by hundreds. The last-minute preparations have all been done and the idea machine was now turned off. Now was the time to put the idea into motion. Literally. The 2023 Alamosa Christmas Light Parade was set to begin in just a short 30 minutes, and we were in it.

This day, "we" was defined as your four federal land management agencies of the San Luis Valley. The Bureau of Land Management San Luis Valley Field Office, the National Park Service Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, the US Fish & Wildlife Service San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and the US Forest Service Rio Grande National Forest worked together to build a float to participate in the parade and promote the responsible use of your federal lands.

To do this, we decided to use two well-known holiday icons to help us — the Grinch and Elf on the Shelf. Both characters represent some form of mischief, and we were able to use them to help deliver our message. Like many parade floats, we started with a base idea and let the individual creativity of the participating employees expand to develop the final idea. The Grinch was riding a snowmobile recklessly through decorated Christmas trees and up onto a closed road. The agencies all have similar needs for special rules that help manage our respective lands. These rules often include road closures. The point of the Grinch was to encourage folks to respect the road closures, even if they don't make sense to you. There is definitely a good reason for road closures and complying with the closures is the legal and moral thing to do.

The Elf on the Shelf was having a campfire but when Elf decided to leave, the ever-watching Smokey Bear was there to encourage Elf to use the lighted bucket of water to fully extinguish the fire before leaving. This message has been the same since the beginning of the public land agencies and indeed since our beloved Smokey Bear was born some 79 years ago. The only responsible thing to do is have water to fully put out your campfire or not

have one. Our society is getting better at doing this, but we still need help to encourage everyone to do it right. We have too much to lose from a wildfire started by a campfire that should have been put out. And, even on that cold December evening, we're pretty sure the parade watchers got the message.

Why do "we" do this? I see this as an opportunity to connect with the communities that we serve on a different level. We also want to highlight that, while we have different missions, the four agencies work regularly together and share a basic philosophy. We all promote sustainable land stewardship and use.

We also see an opportunity to remind folks that the employees of these agencies live and work here too. Our kids go to school with your kids. We go to the same grocery stores, churches and gyms. Some of our friends, spouses and children even participated in the parade. So, yes, "we" are definitely part of this community.

The parade ended and we quickly disassembled the float so we could have the rest of the evening with our families. I had fun though and it left me with a good feeling of participating in a community event, both on a personal and professional level. This was the second year of the float since I've been around, and I'll be a big advocate to rally the agencies again next year. I'm already looking forward to seeing what that will bring and how we can connect with the great folks of the San Luis Valley.

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



Land Water and People
By Gregg Goodland

LETTER

Not happy with the direction of the United States

Editor,
I am not responsible for someone's college debt. I don't think my government is either.

It looks like we have a one-man government. I would like 435 other folks we pay to take the government back or quit and go home.

The folks invading our country are not doing it for fun. Many have heard that we will give them money and a place to live, and they don't have to work. Many will laugh at us for a long time.

In 1756 one nation sent troops to take the country from us. They had single shot guns, as we did, and we sent them home. Now some people in this country want to take our guns away from us.

Then when another country wants to take the "USA" away from "we the people," we will have fight using bows and arrows and slingshots.

*U.S. Veteran Virgil L. Varner
Monte Vista*

CENTER POST - DISPATCH

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Xcel to replace aging Alamosa plant

By JOHN WATERS

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

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

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

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

Xcel plans the retirement of the existing Company-owned Alamosa plant at the end of 2026 without replacement it would

leave no firm production [excluding solar] resources located in the San Luis Valley. The Company believes it is essential from a reliability perspective to continue to have firm generation in the region. Xcel is proposing a 28 MW aero-derivative gas-fired unit with fuel oil as a secondary backup. This choice provides reliable generation to serve the San Luis Valley load at all hours in the event of transmission and/or natural gas supply issues, according to Xcel.

As reported in the Valley Courier last week, Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske sent a letter in support of the plan to the PUC in support of Xcel Energy’s Colorado Clean Energy Plan 120-Day Report and Xcel Energy’s Preferred Plan. The plan includes 22 projects statewide, and would double the amount of renewable energy and include an investment by the utility of \$14-\$15 billion. According to the letter from Laske, “With the retirement of Xcel Energy’s existing Alamosa Combustion turbine in 2025, Xcel Energy is proposing a new 28 MW combustion turbine to ensure reliable electric service in the San Luis Valley by backing up existing energy generation in the area. Furthermore, investments in transmission infrastructure will enhance reliability in the San Luis Valley and throughout the state.”

The plan also contains San Luis Valley Transmission Network upgrades of \$176 million. The Valley Courier has reached out to Xcel for details on these network improvements.



Photo by John Waters

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

Xcel Energy expands 2023 giving, supports communities and nonprofits

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

By XCEL ENERGY

DENVER—XcelEnergyemployees, contractors and retirees, supported by the company’s Foundation, provided over \$11 million and tens of thousands of volunteer hours in 2023 to support charitable organizations and causes. Throughout the year, they embraced opportunities to donate their time and act on a shared commitment to making a difference in their communities, volunteering more than 40,000 hours.

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

- STEM career pathways: Nearly one million students will receive hands on STEM learning, including approximately 506,000 female students.
- Community Vitality: 7,000 individuals will gain employment, generating over \$226 million in wages.
- Environmental Sustainability:

59,000 trees will be planted, offsetting 41,000 tons of carbon emissions.

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

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

The company’s 2023 Day of Service culminated in nearly 2,500 volunteers who volunteered over 7,200 hours at 110 nonprofit projects. The Power Your Purpose

Giving Campaign raised \$2.2 million to support over 1,300 organizations. Including the Foundation match, the campaign raised a total of \$4.1 million.

GIBSON

Continued from Page 1A

health, community, ecosystem, and ecology. The coalition includes the Valley Roots Food Hub, Rio Grande Farm Park, and the MoKi Food Truck. The coalition has 30 full- and part-time employees.

Gibson said he will focus on, “continuing to build up our internal infrastructure... we have a full admin [administration] team around me to facilitate this. A big piece of it is to figure out how this admin team works together and how we all can support our programs. I will continue to find the funding that keeps all of our work going. As part of the Community Food and Agriculture Assessment and Action Planning Process, will look to the community for what are the things we need to be doing in the future. Through this process, some things have come up for 2024. Hearing from partner organizations, community members, elected officials and hearing what the food coalition and other organizations should be taking on,” said Gibson.

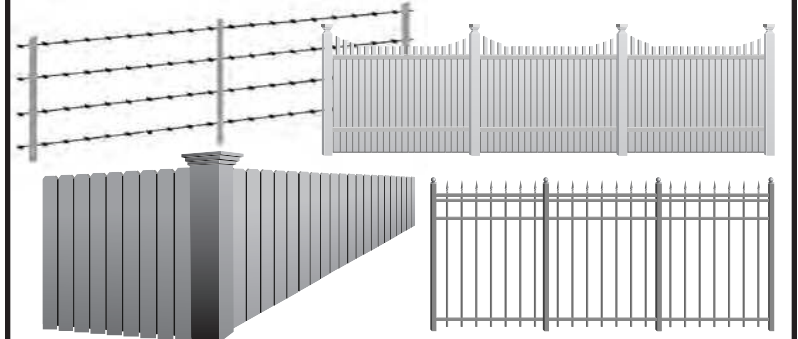
Gibson, who grew up in Kansas City and Colorado, has a master’s in public health and urban and regional planning from the University of Colorado Denver, and has worked in Colorado, Africa and the Middle East.

Gibson is also Board Chair of ScSEED (Saguache County

Sustainable Environment & Economic Development) a non-profit that has sponsored many community

organizations and efforts to create a better life in Saguache County since 1999.

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CPW partners with USFWS, Great Sand Dunes National Park to expand Rio Grande chub and sucker populations

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

MOSCA — A decades-long effort to establish new populations of imperiled Rio Grande chub and Rio Grande sucker fish in Colorado's San Luis Valley led to a historic day on the Medano Ranch of Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) collaborated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Park Service (NPS) on Sept. 26, 2023 to translocate a population of Rio Grande chub and sucker from Crestone Creek on the Baca National Wildlife Refuge to Big Spring Creek on the Medano Ranch.

More than 600 fish were collected from Crestone Creek and transported to Big Spring Creek, where aquatic biologists hope to create a new self-sustaining population of the native fishes. Currently, there are only seven known self-sustaining populations of Rio Grande sucker in the state.

"This is just a good collaboration between the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and CPW and shows good common-sense management to replicate this resource in newly acquired habitat," said CPW Native Aquatic Species Biologist Daniel Cammack. "Using these fish from Crestone Creek and moving them to a habitat where they are likely to thrive and start another population is a really great effort."

Rio Grande chub and suckers are currently petitioned to be listed as federally endangered. In Colorado, Rio Grande chubs are listed as a species of special concern and have lost as much as 80% of their historical range within the upper Rio Grande Basin. Rio Grande suckers are a state endangered species, whose occupancy has declined as much as 90%.

The NPS acquisition of Big Spring Creek and the Medano Ranch from The Nature Conservancy presented a unique opportunity to restore these fish to historic habitat in the low gradient creek. The creek is sustained by a perennial supply of spring water that averages 5 cubic feet per second, making it pristine habitat for the native fish species.

Through consistent monitoring of Big Spring Creek, the NPS determined conditions would be suitable for Rio Grande chub and sucker. As soon as it was deemed quality habitat, all three agencies worked together to quickly populate the stream.

"This is a great opportunity to replicate an imperiled population from 20 miles north of us on the Baca Refuge," said Dewane Mosher, biologist for Great Sand Dunes National Park. "It's important to secure those genetics from the wild fish

here in the National Park."

Crestone Creek exists on the Baca National Wildlife Refuge, adjacent to Great Sand Dunes National Park and is roughly 20 miles north of the Medano Ranch. Fish were first discovered in Crestone Creek in the early 2000s by Ron Garcia, manager of the Baca Refuge. CPW aquatic biologist John Alves identified the population of fish as Rio Grande chub and sucker, only the second known population of both species that existed at that time.

Since that important discovery, CPW has worked with USFWS to protect and expand the population on the refuge, which is considered one of the most important populations in the species' range.

"This is an ideal opportunity and it was a historic day to restore some native fish into Big Spring Creek here at the Medano Ranch," said Fred Bunch, Chief of Resources Management for the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. "We want to restore endangered species to their habitat. We are very optimistic about their chances of making it here. We want to help these species expand their habitat, and we want to be true to our word and do what we can to help these species."

The translocation project also allowed CPW and the USFWS to salvage a portion of the population within Crestone Creek. The creek flowing through the Baca Refuge has fluctuating water flows and was running below 1 cfs in September. The Rio Grande chub and suckers occupied small pools where high densities could have led to natural mortality in the winter.

"Historically, Big Spring and Crestone would have been connected here in the Valley and fish may have migrated from one creek to another," said USFWS Fish Biologist Cole Brittain. "However, with recent drying and lack of water from the abundance of agriculture and ranching related water use, we don't have those same connections today."

"With the NPS acquiring this property, we can manually transport these fish, and that's a unique opportunity. This project is 20 years in the making and one we wish we could replicate all over the place, but these properties don't come by very often. It takes a lot of work from a bunch of agencies."

Plans are in place to continue introducing more chub and suckers to Big Spring Creek in 2024 utilizing fish from CPW's John W. Mumma Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility and additional salvage of wild fish from Crestone Creek as opportunities are presented.

"Past experience with these reintroductions suggests that it can take anywhere from two to five years of stocking before a self-sustaining

population is created," Cammack said. "We will continue to monitor annually, hoping to detect young-of-year fish, providing evidence that natural reproduction is taking place."

CPW, NPS and USFWS will remain committed to the protection and restoration of these fish to their native range, as projects such as Big Spring Creek align with their shared mission.

"They're not the species people want to go out and catch on hook and line, but they are an important part of Colorado's natural legacy," Cammack said. "They evolved in this landscape, and if you want to consider the environment good as a whole, we want to keep all the pieces. It's important we not only pay attention to sport fish but also these native species that historically haven't been managed very well."

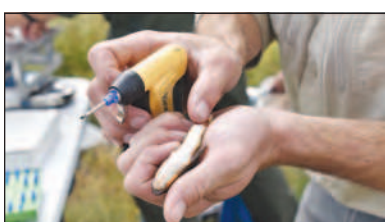


CPW photos by John Livingston

Big Spring Creek flows at 5 cfs through Great Sand Dunes National Park land.



Cole Brittain of the USFWS holds a large Rio Grande chub captured in Crestone Creek on the Baca National Wildlife Refuge. The chub was relocated to Big Spring Creek on Great Sand Dunes National Park land.



CPW's Daniel Cammack, right, and Fred Bunch of Great Sand Dunes National Park transfer Rio Grande chub and sucker captured from Crestone Creek into a holding tank for transport to Big Spring Creek on Sept. 26, 2023 in the San Luis Valley.



A collection of Rio Grande chub and sucker are pictured in a holding tank ahead of being redistributed in Big Spring Creek.



Fish are transferred from a net to a bucket to be stocked in Big Spring Creek by CPW's Rachel Jones.

Left: CPW's Daniel Cammack prepares to insert a pit tag in a Rio Grande chub after collecting it from Crestone Creek on the Baca National Wildlife Refuge.

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Colorado to offer new streamlined process for broadband connectivity using CDOT property along roadways

By COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Colorado communities and service providers looking to improve broadband access will have a new, accelerated, and discounted option to help expand high-speed internet access throughout the state. The Colorado Transportation Commission approved a fee schedule to facilitate access to CDOT rights of way - the land owned by the state alongside its roadways - for the purpose of third parties installing fiber and expanding broadband.

This adopted fee schedule, more than 90% lower than the version initially proposed, makes CDOT property available for broadband development in accordance with Gov. Polis's 2022 Executive Order to

accelerate broadband in Colorado and ensure people have access to the internet in every corner of the state. The fee schedule — the lowest of Colorado's surrounding states and southwestern neighbors — comes after months of engagement with local governments, industry members and community members, and is aligned with the bipartisan Senate Bill 22-083, sponsored by former Senator Don Coram and State Representatives Marc Catlin and Susan Bird.

"Just as our transportation system creates vital connections for all Coloradans, we all need the modern connectivity of broadband to fully access opportunities and services. The Transportation Commission has heard the perspectives of local communities throughout the state

as well as industry concerns, and the proposal that we approved today offers greater opportunities for broadband development, competes favorably with our neighboring states on costs, and meets the state's existing legal obligations to care for the public land under our responsibility," said Transportation Commission Chair Karen Stuart.

The new fee schedule charges an annual property use surcharge as well as a one-time upfront fee to cover permitting costs, set as low as possible to only cover some administrative costs. This follows the methodology used by the United States Forest Service for access to federal lands, which means that Colorado's structure uses a setup that is familiar to the broadband industry. This will

also make access costs in Colorado lower than in neighboring states. In scenarios modeled by CDOT staff, the costs for broadband companies to access similar amounts of land for fiber optic lines are less than 1/10th of the cost in Colorado compared to Arizona and New Mexico, 1/50th of the cost compared to Utah, and less than or equal to costs in Nevada.

"Underserved communities have an urgent need for improved broadband access, and today's access fee plan offers another option for high-speed internet development throughout Colorado. CDOT's right of way offers critical access to many of these communities, and so it is particularly important for this access proposal to move forward and offer these options as soon as possible. The fee structure works to strike a careful balance that reduces private sector costs and preserves assets owned by taxpayers, and we are committed to supporting these objectives so that more Coloradans can access broadband," said Transportation Commission Vice Chair Terry Hart.

The approved proposal followed an extensive public process throughout 2023. Thanks to extensive feedback and dialogue, CDOT made substantial revisions to its initial draft proposals, ultimately resulting in a fee schedule that is more than 90% lower than initial estimates. CDOT's Fiber Optic Development staff delivered public briefings to the Transportation Commission in February, March, April, May, and November, and the commission convened a fiber committee that held meetings from May through August. CDOT staff

also briefed the state legislature, presenting to the Joint Technology Committee on August 28 and the Joint Budget Committee on December 8. Those public meetings, along with numerous meetings with private industry throughout the year, led to the updated access fee schedule's public release in early November, ahead of its approval.

The fiber access fee schedule offers internet service providers an option in addition to the existing option under Colorado's Public-Private Initiatives Act. Under this state law, CDOT may consider unsolicited proposals that allow non-exclusive use to CDOT right of way and/or leasing of excess CDOT dark fiber (dark fiber is an industry term that refers to fiber optic strands that are not currently in use).

Broadband providers will pay \$0.10 per foot of fiber optic line in urban counties — with populations above 200,000 people — and \$0.03 per foot in rural counties, as well as a one-time charge of \$0.05 per foot to cover permitting costs. Urban counties include Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, and Weld.

"Fast, reliable, and affordable broadband service is critical for participation in our modern economy. To create a Colorado for all, equitable online access to educational opportunities and government services is imperative. To accelerate Colorado's economic recovery and continue to position Colorado as a top state to live and work in, we must invest in broadband infrastructure," the Executive Order states.

DN Parade of Lights sparks holiday cheer

By LYNSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — With temperatures dropping into single digits, the setting was near perfect for the annual Parade of Lights in Del Norte on Friday, Dec. 15. Parade participants began to line the streets of Del Norte at dusk

in preparation of the parade while business owners rolled out the red carpet for visitors and last-minute Christmas shoppers waiting for the night's festivities.

As 6 p.m. drew near, people made their way along Grande Avenue to grab the perfect spot to watch the parade as it made its way from the west side of town. Festively decorated vehicles, trailers, bikes and people made their way through town to the cheers of the crowd. Many participants had candy to toss and fun holiday cheer to spread to all who attended.

Over 50 floats went down through the streets of Del Norte as the fireworks lit the night sky from D Mountain Peak, signaling the end of the parade.

Once the parade ended, people were invited to the High Valley Community Center to see the big man himself, Santa and a few of his elves. In addition to seeing Santa, many of the businesses remained open well into the night, offering warm beverages, cookies and sweet treats.

The Del Norte Public Library was among the many who remained open and offered story time, Christmas books, crafts, and delicious treats.

Overall, the night was a wonderful success. There is still a chance to participate in the Del Norte Chamber of Commerce Merchant Passport program. The Del Norte Chamber of Commerce and the 1% For Del Norte Committee has set up a Merchant Passport that is available at participating businesses where a shopper can fill out the card while they shop and receive a local business discount, rewards or free gifts depending on how the card is filled out.



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The night sky was lit with fireworks after the Del Norte Parade of Light.

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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CPW seeks applications for projects that will restore wetland habitat

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

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

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

- Improve the distribution and abundance of ducks, and opportunities

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

- Improve the status of declining or at-risk species. Applications supporting this goal should seek to clearly address habitat needs of these species. See species list on the Wetlands Priority

Species page. Also see the identified threats, recommended conservation actions and progress to date for these species in the Colorado State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) Conservation Dashboards.

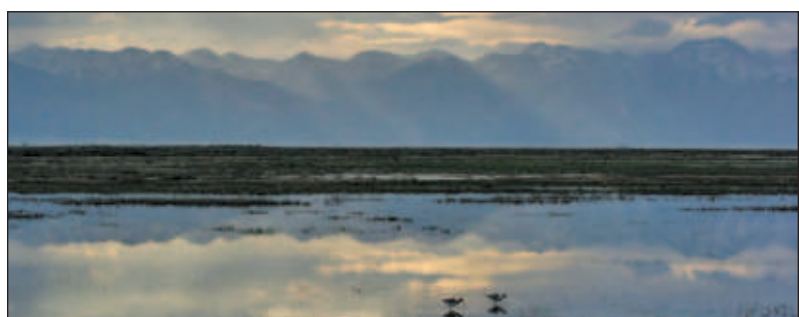
The application deadline is Monday, Feb. 12. The Wetlands Funding Request for Applications is available online, and can be downloaded.

What's new for 2024

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

About the program

The Colorado Wetlands for Wildlife Program is a voluntary, collaborative and incentive-based program to restore, enhance and create wetlands



and riparian areas in Colorado. Funds are allocated annually to the program and projects are recommended for funding by a CPW committee with final approval by the Director.

"Wetlands are so important," said CPW Wetlands Program Coordinator Brian Sullivan. "They comprise less than two percent of Colorado's landscape, but provide benefits to over 75 percent of the wildlife species in the state, including waterfowl and many declining species.

Since the beginning of major settlement activities, Colorado has lost half of its wetlands."

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

OBITUARY

Lois Marie Dillon

On Friday, Dec. 22, 2023, Lois Dillon, loving mother and matriarch passed away at the age of 97.

Lois Marie Hatton (Dillon) was born on Aug. 26, 1926, in Monte Vista, Colo., to Willis and Genette (Thayer) Hatton. After finishing Monte Vista High School, she attended and graduated from beauty college in Denver. After returning to Monte Vista, she married Gene Dillon on Dec. 26, 1945. Residing in the Center area, then later the Sargent area, they raised four children on their farm.

As a child, Lois enjoyed camping with her family. She loved to sing and in high school she sang in a girl's quartet that traveled all around Colorado.

She learned to sew and would use this craft all her life — making quilts, clothes for her daughters and herself, various costumes for extracurricular school and church activities.

Her family attended the First Baptist Church in Monte Vista. She was a member until the church closed, serving in many capacities — teaching Sunday classes, summer bible school, and church bookkeeper.

A stay-at-home wife and mother, she liked to keep busy, so she sat through many swimming, dance, and baton twirling classes served as Boy Scout leader, and volunteered for many of her children's school functions. She was an active member of Heart and Eagle Club (a Colorado Federated Women's Club) and belonged to several quilting clubs.

Lois always kept the farm records, but as the children got older, she decided to work outside the home. Among other places, you may have seen her at Cominair Crop Dusting, Center Motor Car Co., or SLV Information Center. After her husband passed away, she bought a home in Crestone Baca area and loved hiking through the Sangre de Cristos. She enjoyed going on cruises and traveling both in the US and abroad with friends and her growing family. She started taking a



variety of classes including swimming and flying lessons. Again, she kept busy with volunteer work including helping homeless and abused women throughout the valley. As she matured, Lois enjoyed painting and soon pictures of butterflies, her flowers, and birds that she fed brightened her home.

Lois was preceded in death by her husband Gene Dillon, parents Willis & Genette Hatton, an infant sister Elsie, brother Dale Hatton, and sisters Ruth Wadleigh and Velma Helmick, along with four nephews and one niece.

Survivors include sons Gary Dillon (Patty) of Ft Worth, Texas, and Joe Dillon of Monte Vista, Colo., daughters Judy Dillon Hinton and Kathy Dillon Tonso (Steve) both of Monte Vista. Other family survivors include 10 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren, along with nine nieces, and four nephews and their children.

Cremation was chosen with a celebration of life following at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made St. Jude's Children Hospital www.stjude.org/donate.

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

BACK

Continued from Page 1A

Blackwell said.

Blackwell said that after the success of last year's 70's celebration, it seemed only natural to do the 80's this year.

"Everyone was dressed in their 80's clothes. We had the high hairdos complete with rolled socks, some people had leotards on, there were so many different outfits. People were really into the 80's theme. We had a best costume contest, a dance contest, a lip sync contest, there were door prizes it was so great," Blackwell said.

Blackwell said they want to do it again next year.

"We want to just keep moving up next year," Blackwell said. "We will definitely do this next year if we can. Next year's event will be a 90's celebration. Everyone really seemed to enjoy the event, so we will just keep moving up, and doing this every year hopefully."

Don Salvator, of Center, attended the event and said it was a blast.

"I am from the 80's and I walked in with my leather jacket, my shiny penny shoes, and my hair feathered back. I took my shades in with me. I was wearing a nice



Courtesy photo

white shirt under my leather jacket, and I had some fun. My girlfriend wore her hair really high," Salvator said. "She even bought some Aqua Net from the store to make her hair stand up higher, it was just so funny. We both looked like we had just walked

out of an 80's photo album. The music was great, the people all socialized well. We got to drink and toast at midnight. It was a fun event, If T-Road does it again next year, I will be there. Back to the 80's took us back to the 80's to celebrate the New Year."

Loving Prickly People

Have you ever had that one person in your life? You know, that one person who seems to be able to push all your wrong buttons at all the wrong times? We've all been there. And in our world today—with all the anger, hatred, and violence—it's easy to feel overwhelmed. So, what should we do?

Fortunately, people who have flaws and faults are nothing new. All you need to do is read Genesis—the first book of the Bible, often referred to as "The Book of Beginnings"—to realize that. One of the earliest recorded stories in Genesis is about Cain, who killed his brother, Abel, because he was jealous of him (see Genesis 4:8). As the book goes on, we see a number of broken people do terrible, terrible things (see Genesis 4:19; 16:1-4; 19:30-38; 27:1-35; 37:18-20). And yet, the people involved in these situations are people God used for His plans and purpose—so this means there's hope for us too.

It seems like if we're going to love anyone, then no matter who they are, they'll have flaws. We must learn to live in peace and walk in love. And we absolutely need to learn to love people who are hard to love, which includes most of us, at least at times.

Love is so much more than a feeling; it's how we treat people, and it changes everything. Just imagine how different our world would be today if people truly loved one another. I have decided that I am going to love people, which includes those who are hard to love. I am asking you to make the same decision, and I believe if enough of us do it, we will impact the world in a very positive way.

In the animal kingdom, probably the most difficult animal to get close to is the porcupine. Porcupines are not usually considered loveable. Every one of them has about 30,000 sharp quills that can stick you and be very painful—but it's their way of protecting themselves.

People also often develop ways of protecting themselves, especially if they have been hurt in the past. I like to use the saying, "Hurting people hurt people."

For example, a person who has been hurt may be extremely defensive and think they are being rejected when that is not the case at all. Or, they may argue all the time, striving to be right in every situation because that is the only way they can feel good about themselves.

I happen to know a few people like this, and you probably know some too. I call them "porcupine people." They are dangerous to be around because you are likely to get hurt. It would be so nice if we could just place an order for the kind of people we would like to have in our life, but people come "as is" and we either take them as they are or end up alone.

God takes us the way we are and helps us become all that we should be. The question is: Are we willing to do this for other people? My husband, Dave, did it for me, and had he not loved me unconditionally, I probably wouldn't be in ministry today.

You see, when Dave prayed for a wife, he asked God to give him someone who needed help, and God certainly answered his prayer because I needed a lot of help. Growing up, I experienced terrible physical and sexual abuse from my father. And because of that past abuse, I ended up becoming a porcupine person. Dave said he knew the first night he met me that I was the girl for him. As it's turned out, he was right, but he had to be willing to love someone who was very hard to love for a very long time before he had a wife who was somewhat normal.

Now I pray regularly to be good to people and make them feel good when they are around me. I'm sure I don't always succeed, but I don't always fail either. I still stick out my quills occasionally, but God is working with me, and I always want to be willing to work with the porcupine people He puts in my life too. We may sustain little wounds as we walk through life with others, but we are much better off in relationships than in isolation.

Despite their prickles, I don't believe there is a person on the planet who



doesn't want to be loved. As a matter of fact, most people who are hard to love are the way they are because they have never experienced real love. They are dissatisfied and looking for something to fill the emptiness they feel, but often they don't know what they are looking for, so they search in all the wrong places.

But we can make a difference. When we have God's love in our hearts, we can let it flow through us to other people—even porcupine people. Everything God gives us should flow through us to others—His love, peace, kindness, mercy, forgiveness, joy, and many other blessings. Loving people who are hard to love will be difficult on most days and seemingly impossible on others, but God never asks us to do something that we cannot do with His help. You can do it because God is in you, and He will do it through you. So, let me ask: Are you willing to say yes to God?

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource **Do Unto Others**. 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 (Faith Words)*. She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

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Blue Mesa Reservoir fishing tournament returns in 2024 with \$10,000 purse

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

GUNNISON — Anglers will once again have the chance to earn cash prizes this winter while helping Colorado Parks and Wildlife achieve management goals of lake trout within Blue Mesa Reservoir.

The Blue Mesa Reservoir Lake Trout Tournament is scheduled to run Jan. 1 through April 30. The third edition of this tournament is sponsored by CPW in an effort to reduce the population of lake trout 24 inches in length and smaller. This is the first time CPW has held this tournament since 2021.

This harvest-incentive tournament will help aquatic biologists maintain adequate kokanee salmon fry survival by limiting predation from lake trout. Abundant kokanee are also key to maintaining excellent trophy lake trout growth and condition within the reservoir.

“Colorado Parks and Wildlife is asking anglers to be our partners in helping to manage the renowned Blue Mesa Reservoir fishery,” said Dan Brauch, aquatic biologist for CPW in Gunnison. “We know we can have an excellent kokanee fishery and a trophy lake trout fishery, but we need to continue our work for both species and we need the continued help of Colorado’s anglers.”

Anglers participating in the tournament must possess a valid Colorado fishing license and follow all Colorado boating and fishing regulations.

To participate, anglers who harvest a lake trout 24 inches or smaller can

turn in the whole fish or the fish head and place them in a plastic bag provided at one of three boat ramps at the reservoir. Bags can be found at the Iola, Elk Creek and Lake Fork boat ramps. Heads may also be turned into CPW’s offices in Gunnison or Montrose.

Previous tournaments were held in 2020 and 2021. In the most recent edition, 516 anglers participated and harvested 5,759 of the target-sized lake trout.

Cash prizes will be awarded in two categories at the conclusion of the tournament. Anglers who place in the top four of most fish turned in will earn a large portion of the total purse. First place will receive \$3,000, second will earn \$1,500, third place will take home \$1,000 and fourth will claim \$500.

In addition to those prizes, every angler will be entered in a raffle for each fish they turn in. A total of 20 winners will be randomly selected, and each will earn \$200. All winners will be contacted by May 31, 2024.

Unchecked lake trout population growth caused significant declines in kokanee abundance in previous decades. The two previous tournaments were successful, and subsequent lake trout monitoring resulted in a recommendation to not hold tournaments in 2022 and 2023.

“Recent monitoring has documented an increase in numbers of small lake trout, so ongoing harvest of small lake trout is needed to maintain numbers at appropriate levels,” Brauch said.

CPW research shows that smaller



Courtesy photo

A small lake trout is pictured after being caught at Blue Mesa Reservoir. The 2024 ice fishing lake trout tournament is set to return and offers a \$10,000 prize purse.

lake trout, those 24 inches and smaller, consume the most kokanee. Consequently, the tournament is focused on removing those fish.

Though recent drought conditions have led to reduced kokanee survival, it is expected that improved reservoir conditions – along with maintenance of small lake trout abundance at desired levels – will allow recovery of kokanee populations.

Maintaining abundant kokanee supports quality fishing opportunities for kokanee and provides a source of kokanee eggs for restocking needs at up to 25 waters in Colorado. Abundant kokanee are also essential for maintaining continued growth of trophy lake trout at Blue Mesa Reservoir.

“We appreciate angler participation in maintaining balance in the Blue

Mesa fishery,” Brauch said. “Working together, we will continue to provide quality opportunities for both kokanee and trophy lake trout.”

For more information about fishing at Blue Mesa Reservoir, including how to catch lake trout, research studies and management planning, go to: <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/BlueMesaReservoirFisheryManagement.aspx>.



Courtesy photo

Saguache Volunteer Fire Department Chief Kendal Adolph, left, awarded Zack Joyner with the department’s Firefighter of the Year honor during the Fire and Ice celebration on Dec. 31 in Saguache.

VFD Continued from Page 1A

Fire department member Jeff Phillips and Chief Kendal Adolph spoke about the history of the event and how it helps the department.

“What we do is use these funds to buy things we need for our station,” Phillips said. “After 2020 and COVID, we felt like there was a void, the dance hadn’t been here. For whatever reason it just hadn’t taken place in a long time, but it used to be here. We had a meeting and amongst all of us we decided we wanted to bring it back. We wanted to bring it a step above though. We’ve had a dinner, and we had a silent auction and we also brought in the best local music we could find. It’s been great. The community needed this as much as we do.”

Phillips said they appreciate all the support from the community.

“We cannot thank the community enough. Without the community, we

couldn’t do this,” Phillips said. “This is a big deal. We had the firefighters here from all the different districts, Center, Hooper, Mosca, they came in. We had two helicopters come in. Those guys came and supported us too. We can’t thank them enough.”

Chief Adolph said the 12-person fire department had 1,470 man-hours of 911 calls in 2023. They also had 552 hours of training hours.

“This is our way of thanking the community by holding this, and this is their way of thanking us by being here,” Adolph said.

The department also handed out awards. Warren Collin was named officer of the year. Firefighter of the Year was Zack Joyner.

The Saguache Volunteer Fire Department thanked everyone for attending, the local businesses that donated to the silent auction and its event sponsors.

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Ice Fest to showcase penguins

Save the dates, Jan. 26-28

By KEITH R. CERNY

ALAMOSA — You won't necessarily need a tuxedo to participate in the 2024 Rio Frio Ice Fest, but it would be fitting with this year's theme of a "Penguin Party," set for Jan. 26-28.

Organized by the City of Alamosa Parks and Recreation, Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce and "Visit Alamosa," the ice fest committee chose the penguin theme after making suggestions to the community. The annual ice sculpting downtown will follow the theme.

Headlining the event is the unique Rio Frio 5k race on the frozen Rio Grande, conditions permitting, but the race will go on regardless of ice conditions on Saturday morning.

With ample water back at Blanca Vista Park, just north of town, the popular polar plunge, ice carousel and ice skating will return on Sunday, Jan. 28 starting at noon. A limited number of participants are invited to sign up for an ice climbing trip on Sunday as well.

Aside from the popular race/walk, Saturday's highlights will include ice carving demonstrations beginning at noon, a disc golf tournament on the city course just north of town from 12-2 p.m. and the shop local raffle from 12-3 p.m. on San Juan Avenue, not to mention that evening's bonfire in ice.

Festivities begin Friday night with race packet pickups at Milagros Coffee House at 6 p.m. and a cross



File photo by Keith R. Cerny

Many costumes appeared at the 2023 Rio Frio 5k race. This group of penguins was a precursor to the 2024 Rio Frio Ice Fest as they were among the many costumed participants that appeared for the ninth annual Rio Frio 5k event in Alamosa's Cole Park last year. The race drew a record 275 entrants in spite of ice conditions not allowing the race to be run on the Rio Grande.

country/luminaria ski event at Blanca Vista Park, again snow conditions permitting, from 6-8 p.m.

Race packet pickup continues Saturday from 8-9:30 a.m. at the Alamosa Senior Center in Cole Park, followed by the race starting at 10 a.m. on the bordering Rio Grande. Race awards will be given on site following the event.

An information tent will be manned from 1-4 p.m. at Main and San Juan Avenue. Weather permitting, the SOCO Ice Bowl disc golf tournament will be from 12-2 p.m. Saturday at the disc golf course north of town.

The second annual "Rio Frio Flight" will offer drink and snack samples from 4-6 p.m. on San Juan, featuring a drink "luge", carved from a block of ice, and possibly an "ice

bar." Returning is the ever-popular "fire and ice" bonfire on San Juan Avenue beginning at 6:30 p.m. Saturday featuring a blazing fire inside a tower of ice blocks.

Registration is already underway for the Rio Frio 5k with nearly 100 pre-registered at this date. For more details, go to www.riofrioice.com or rioraces.com.



ASU business students continue to learn real-world business skills

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University business capstone students had another successful semester in the Business Strategy Game (BSG).

Two teams, Fresh Fusion: Marco Polo Tello Hernandez, Keaton Heyneman, Devin Hines; and Elite Footwear: Kiersten Bohler, Kayne Boyer, Esteban Tavira; were tough competitors in the Global Business Strategies course, taught by Zena Buser, Ph.D., professor of business. Fresh Fusion and Elite Footwear were strong competitors. Fresh Fusion took the lead early and held it much of the semester, but Elite Footwear worked strategically to overtake them for first place in the class during the last decision round.

The BSG game is a simulation that shows the nature of a company,

from its distribution and production to the financials of a company. "It was entertaining as well as educational to make decisions that would impact your company in a competitive environment," Hernandez said. "The game was an interactive review of the importance of production efficiency, the logistics behind warehousing and distributing, the company's finances, the trends in an industry, the price elasticity of demand, etc. To be honest, I never thought to be so immersed and interested in a game of this kind. I just loved it."

Bohler learned the complexities of running a business. "It opened my eyes to why big companies move their production facilities to other countries, and the process that entails. So many aspects go into running big companies and smart decision-making is crucial."

Throughout the semester the two Adams State teams scored in the Global Top 100 ranking on overall game-to-date score. "The experience gave me a perspective of what being a CEO looks like and how some sections of a company impact other sectors and the overall health and performance of a company," Hernandez added. "Also, it was a nice review of the financial ratios and their significance for a company. Finally, it was a great way to practice making informed decisions that had repercussions on our company."

BSG, marketed by McGraw-Hill Education, Inc., is designed to give students in higher education, throughout the world, the opportunity to compete in a global marketplace through a simulated environment. Each week represents a year.

Please see ASU on Page 2

Creede Elks make use of grants totaling \$6K

By CREEDE ELKS LODGE NO. 506

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

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

enjoyed dinner and socializing together."

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

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



Photo by Marie Mccolm

Sarah Frey laughing with a library patron at her farewell celebration on Dec. 22 in Saguache.

Goodbye party held for Saguache Library Director Frey

By MARIE MCCOLM

SAGUACHE — At least 24 people attended a celebration and special goodbye party that was given to long-time Saguache Public Library District Director Sarah Koehn Frey, at the Saguache County Library, on Friday, Dec. 22.

After almost 13 years of service to the Northern Library District, Frey said goodbye with tear-filled eyes, but a bright smile on her face.

"It has been an honor to help with so much and to serve with some many wonderful staff members and patrons of this great community," Frey said. "I am not leaving for good, I will still be around, if anyone needs me, I will be here. This is just the time I have chosen to let others take over this path, and I know that they will do an amazing job too. I want to thank the staff, public, and the patrons for all the years of support that they have given me and their dedication to our

library. I am moving forward with a smile and a tear in my heart, knowing that this is all going to be wonderful and for me it was a special time well served."

Frey spoke about her beginnings with the Library District at the celebration, and about her time as the Director.

"I came here because my husband was a teacher at the Moffat School. I came here and then I became a school librarian first. When this job came up, they hired a District Director. I was the first Director of this District and I have been here ever since, and it has been a wonderful experience."

Frey said all though it hurts her heart to leave, that it's time to get new ideas and leadership into the library, to help move the district forward in a way she may not be able to. "I am leaving but on such a good note. I love my job and I love everything

Please see FREY on Page 2

GOCO board awards \$19K grant to City of Alamosa for trail improvements

DENVER – Today the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) board awarded a \$19,700 grant to the City of Alamosa for trail maintenance and improvement projects within the City. This grant is part of GOCO's Conservation Service Corps program. GOCO partners with Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) to employ conservation service corps crews across the state on outdoor recreation and stewardship projects. CYCA represents a statewide coalition of eight accredited corps that train youth, young adults, and veterans to complete land and water conservation work and gain professional skills. With this funding, Alamosa Parks

and Recreation will partner with Southwest Conservation Corps-Los Valles youth crews for two weeks of work. Crews will conduct trail maintenance, remove half a mile of abandoned barbed wire fencing, and treat roughly two miles of trail affected by invasive plant species including Russian Knapweed, Hoary Cress, and

Canada Thistle. The City continues to grow its trail network, and this project, set to be completed in 2024, is crucial for the upkeep of existing trails. To date, GOCO has invested more than \$8.7 million in projects in Alamosa County and partnered to conserve 30,462 acres of land there. GOCO funding has supported Mosca

Community Park, Alamosa Riparian Park, and the local Generation Wild community, San Luis Valley Generation Wild, among other projects. Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers, and open spaces. GOCO's independent

board awards competitive grants to local governments and land trusts and makes investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Created when voters approved a constitutional amendment in 1992, GOCO has since funded more than 5,600 projects in all 64 counties of Colorado without any tax dollar support. Visit GOCO.org for more information.

ASU

Continued from Page 1
Every Monday, BSG compiled lists of the prior week's best-performing companies worldwide based on four measures: Overall Score (current year), Earnings Per Share, Return on Average Equity, and Stock Price. The idea of the BSG Simulation is to deploy a shoe company sourcing inputs/manufacturing as well as marketing a product internationally. Students make financial, marketing, management, economic, and labor decisions with each round (20) offering new conditions to which they must adjust weekly. "The best part of the collaboration was getting out of my comfort zone and working with people I had never talked to," Bohler said. The simulation was crucial in preparing the students for future careers. "Every decision makes a difference, make decisions as you can afford them, and being patient pays off in the long run."

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07 Help Wanted

The City of Monte Vista is hiring for a Streets and Parks Field Supervisor. This position plans and supervises the daily operation of the City's streets, parks maintenance, and personnel assigned to Streets and Parks. Coordinates, supervises and performs street construction, maintenance and repair. Develops and refines preventive maintenance programs; reviews new construction for street related capital projects; oversees progress of outsourced projects; assists in the preparation of the annual Departmental budget and prepares reports. Requires a valid Commercial

Driver's License (CDL), a minimum of five years of experience in planning, operation and maintenance of streets and utility facilities, including three years of supervisory responsibility and relative experience working with the public. This is an exempt position and salary range is \$60,000 - \$65,000 per year plus an excellent benefit package. Applicant must submit a completed job application and resume to the Human Resources Office, 95 W. 1st Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144. Applications and a full job description are available at <https://cityofmontevista.colorado.gov/> or at City Hall. Position will remain open until filled, first review is January 4, 2024. For more information, please contact Human Resources at jphillips@ci.monte-vista.co.us. EOE/ADA (1-3)

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Job description can be found on Mineral County Website: <https://mineralcounty.colorado.gov/job-postings>. Please return application to HR Director Della Brown: finance@mincoco.com 1201 N Main St, Creede, CO 81130. Phone: 719-658-2331. (1-10)

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

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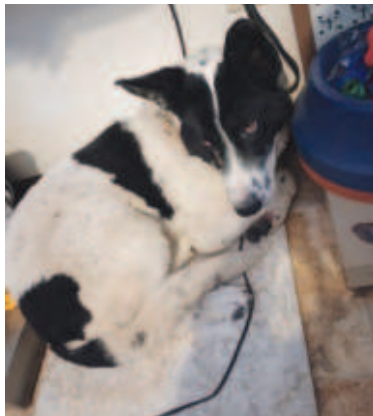
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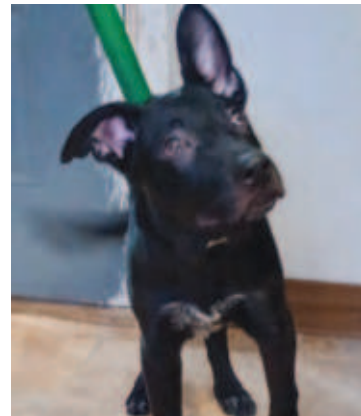


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Head Volleyball Coach needed at Del Norte Jr/Sr High School.

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)


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competition games include Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Mario Kart 8, Rocket League, Splatoon 3 on Nintendo Switch; Madden NFL & NBA 2K on PS4. Please complete our coach application found on our website, urtigers.co 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)

The City of Monte Vista is hiring for an Equipment Operator II



that will assist work crews in street construction, maintenance and repair as assigned. The Equipment Operator performs physical labor in construction, concrete and asphalt repair, and traffic control. Regularly operates a single or tandem axle dump truck, snow-plow, and other assigned vehicles, and performs other related duties and special projects as assigned. Requires a valid Colorado Commercial Driver's License (CDL) to operate City equipment and/or vehicles, including the appropriate



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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



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

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



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719-873-5605
30635 US HWY 160
South Fork

dee@steffenscorealty.com
Dee - formerly known as Diane Chapman - Local Luxury Home Broker. Licensed in 2011, Dee knows the area and knows local real estate.



All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.



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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

JUST LISTED!

This is a great opportunity to build your dream home on a ready-to-build lot located on Fairway Drive. The lot is also priced for an investment on the golf course, making it a great option for those who love golfing. The lot offers stunning views of Del Norte Peak and the Rio Grande Club golf course and is conveniently located within walking distance to the Rio Grande Clubhouse. The lot is surrounded by 95% National Forest, providing ample opportunities for outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, and wildlife watching. The Rio Grande River, which is known for its gold medal fishing waters, is also nearby and offers floating options. If you're a skiing enthusiast, you'll be pleased to know that the Wolf Creek Ski area is just 18 miles away. The trail system in the area is also amazing, and you could spend days on end traveling the backcountry. South Fork has plenty of local restaurants, stores, and outdoor activities to keep you entertained. With so much to offer, this lot is definitely worth a visit. Don't miss out on this opportunity to build your dream home in one of the most beautiful locations in Colorado! South Fork Colorado! Call and schedule your showing today! \$52,000 MLS #808453



113 Fairway Dr. • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

SOLD



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

2951 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

Thank you to everyone who let me help them find or sell a home in 2023!



Call Bernadette today!
Steffens & Company Realty, INC
 Cell 719-850-1993
 Bernadette Gingrass, Broker Associate
 30635 US Hwy 160 • South Fork
 www.bernadettegingrassrealestate.com

UNDER CONTRACT

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



44 Aspen Dr. • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

SOLD

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



74 Highland Court • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

IMPROVED PRICE



Look Reduced Price!! \$875,000 Owner Willing to Owner Finance for Qualified Buyer's! Must See Custom-Built 5,350 sq. ft. Commercial Property in Fabulous South Fork, CO. Great Highway 160 exposure!! This building is extremely well built. The building was built for retail with many amenities. The environment is warm and welcoming. The 3,000 sq. ft. main floor consist of large receiving office, full kitchen and bath and several large open spaces and two additional design show rooms and large 1,000 sq. ft. heated warehouse with plenty of shelving for storage and 12-foot overhead door. Lovely concrete outdoor patio with new vinyl fencing wired for low voltage lights this property sits on two lots with wiring running outside for lighting off outside signage. 1,350 sq. ft. Spacious upstairs with large open space, several large storage closets two additional offices, New ¾ custom tile bathroom and large storage over warehouse. This well-built property has radiant floor heating downstairs and upstairs baseboard hot water heat. Property is wired for Cat 5 telephone jack in all offices, design rooms, kitchen bar, receiving office - etc. Cable tv jack, upstairs big room. There are 3 gas fireplaces, 2 wall thermostats with remote control. Wired for speakers though out the building for music. Swamp cooler and wired for electric dryer, set up for washer and has a Propane fired boiler and propane hot water heater. This property is a blank canvas with so much POTENTIAL for the right builder or person. Because there is no existing business at the present time, this makes this building available for a variety of Business opportunities: Professional Work Environment for Professionals, Restaurant, Brew Pub, Events Center, Lodge or Cottage hotel, Retail etc. Come Paint your Canvas and start Your Business Adventure, Call and schedule your personal showing today! MLS#802191 Improved Price \$925,000! \$875,000 MLS #802191
 173 W Frontage • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

SOLD

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 consists of an open area with beautiful carved mantel stone fireplace. Stunning entrance to behold! Custom designed 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! Borders National Forest, with streams, creeks, lakes rolling topography, open fields, pine, fir, aspen trees, mountain views and abundant wildlife! Beautifully designed home tucked beautifully 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



37 Million Court • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

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 • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

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



31517 Us Highway 160 • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

NEW

Amazing Riverfront property located in beautiful well established Deer Park subdivision in South Fork, Colorado. This property is complete with paved streets, with sewer and water tap available. Flat building site overlooking the Mighty Rio Grande River with mature evergreen trees. Bring your fishing pole this property extends to the middle of the river. Located only a stone throw away from National Forest and public river access. Start your adventure call and schedule your showing today! \$175,000 MLS #804121

63 Doe Circle • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
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endorsements/restrictions. This is a 40 hour per week full-time position. The general starting wage is \$19.00 - \$22.00 per hour plus an excellent benefit package. Applicant must submit a completed job application to the Human Resources Office, 95 W. 1st Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144. Applications and a full job description are available at <https://cityofmontevista.colorado.gov/> or at City Hall. Position will remain open until filled, first review is January 4, 2024. For more information, please contact Human Resources at jphillips@ci.monte-vista.co.us. EOE/ADA (1-3)

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

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

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

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

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

check/investigation and drug testing. The position requires a valid Colorado Driver's license. High School Diploma or General Education Degree (GED Starting Salary \$37210.56 - \$38624.88 For more information, visit the Rio Grande County Website or email your application to humanresources@riograndecounty.org. If you have any questions, please call Debra J Hite at Human Resources at (719) 657-2744. (1-10)

Looking for someone to snowplow four locations in the South Fork-Del Norte area. Give me a call if you are interested. My name is Blair Jackson. My phone number is 970-749-4252. The locations are Family Dollar and Dollar General stores. (1-3)

17 Real Estate For Sale

Thinking of buying or selling your home or land this year, call Yvonne Hoffman, 719-580-1901, Broker Associate Steffens & Co Realty Inc. (1-3)

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

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

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

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

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Influential Swedish, Belgian clan
6. Swiss river
9. Nocturnal S. American rodent
13. Like coagulated milk
14. Lima is its capital
15. Lying down
16. Jai __, sport
17. Egyptian statesman
18. Napoleon Dynamite's uncle
19. Renovated
21. Chadic language
22. 18-year period
23. Beverage container
24. Natural logarithm
25. The "mecca" of basketball
28. A way to darken
29. Mackerels
31. Actor Pitt
33. Places to buy seafood
36. True firs
38. Neither
39. Fencing sword
41. Italian pastas
44. Island nation close to the U.S.
45. Begets
46. Resembles a pouch
48. __ student, learns healing
49. Sodium
51. Indicates position
52. The world has one
54. Partner to pains
56. Photographer
60. Chew the fat
61. Culture of the British Iron Age
62. Weaverbird

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13												
16												
19												
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25	26	27		28						30		
31			32		33		34				35	
36				37		38			39		40	
41					42			43		44		
45								46		47	48	
49	50		51				52			53		
54		55				56				57	58	59
60					61					62		
63					64				65			
66					67				68			

63. Advice or counsel

64. Asian nation

65. Brought on board

66. German river

67. Airborne (abbr.)

68. Leaf-footed bug genus

CLUES DOWN

1. Mark left behind
2. Cry weakly
3. Ancient region in modern Syria
4. Farewell
5. Blue grass state
6. Genus of mosquitoes
7. S. Israeli city
8. You can get stuck in one
9. One who mistrusts others unjustifiably
10. First month of ancient Hebrew calendar
11. Tigers legend Fielder
12. Make more attractive
14. Horses
17. Slight projection in typefaces
20. Male parent
21. Jack and Jill are two

23. After B

25. Licensed for Wall Street

26. Missile with about 600-mile range

27. Goddesses

29. A day kids love

30. Oily secretion

32. One-tenth of a meter

34. A father's male child

35. One point east of southeast

37. Silk garments

40. Cool!

42. The color of anger

43. Trade profession

47. It can get you around

49. Mother-of-pearl

50. Hurt

52. Legendary slugger Hank

53. Polio vaccine developer

55. Incline from vertical

56. Sea creature

57. Actress Kate

58. Affirmative votes

59. Nothing

61. Pie ___ mode

65. Expresses surprise

Valley Wide Classifieds

23 Lawn and Garden

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32 Fuel & Heating

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

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36 Miscellaneous

Books for sale, I buy patches, coins, a few all for \$500 OBO 719-849-0975 (1-10)

For sale: Electric wood splitter, 2001 Dodge Ram 4x4 pickup, new modern coal stove. 719-850-2027 (1-3)

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

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40 Auto Part

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47 Horses & Cattle

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55 RVs & Campers

2017 travel trailer, \$16,000. Clean, lightly used, everything works. Bunkhouse and Murphy Bed. Call

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for details, 719 661 8390. (1-17)

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FREY Continued from Page 1

here. I want to leave now and there is so much positivity. I have so much hope and excitement for the Library District, with the new leaders Amy and Matt. I think they are just going to be wonderful, with a wonderful board behind them."

New Directors for the library Amy Garoutte, who will take over as Administrative Co-Director, and Matt Pettigrew, who will become the Operational Co-Director, spoke about taking over the position and how the idea for them taking over first began.

Garoutte stated, "I was on the library board for six years, and I have known Sarah for ten years, and I have really enjoyed the library. I liked the library and I love to read so I feel like it was a combination of all those things, and the great people that work here, those things led me to apply. I am excited, I've been here a couple of months now. I have enjoyed it all."

Garoutte was asked what type of vision she had for the library, "Sarah has had everything rolling down a great track, I feel like I just want to continue it all and keep it going. I think me and Matt complement each other well and I feel like we are going to do a great job together."

Pettigrew spoke about his position. "I started off teaching, and I kind of bounced around into some odd jobs," Pettigrew said. "In my life I have spent a lot of time in libraries, and one day it just hit me that I wanted to work in libraries. I remember I applied for a clerk job and never heard back. I remember being in one of the libraries I applied for, and I asked someone, hey I never heard back. The guy said, have you ever thought of volunteering? So, I got into libraries by volunteering first."

I have worked in a library that was just huge. My start in libraries was in Florida. I then moved to Portland Organ and worked in a library there. That library system there was like on Parr with a New York Public Library. We are talking about a library that

had like a 60-million-dollar budget. This was such a busy library. When there was a position open, there were like thousands of applicants for it. Working here, I am drawing from what I learned there, but shaping and molding it from what I have learned

there, to fit this library. I have to acclimate what I have learned to where I am working now. I feel good about this. There is just so much to learn though too, Sarah is a body of knowledge. Like Amy said, we just really want to carry on with what she has already done too. Also, people have a concept of what a library is, but it's much more than that. If you think about it how many places can you go to and enjoy yourself all day, and not spend any money? If you go to a coffee shop you are expected to buy

stuff, but here, you can read a book, the paper, get on the internet, there is so much you can do. This is just one concept behind what we want to put out there too."

Frey thanked everyone who attended her farewell celebration, the new directors, and all the patrons of the library that have made it a success in the past and will continue to make it a success in the future.

For more information, contact the Saguache Public Library at 719-655-2551.



Photos by Marie Mccolm

At least 24 people attended a celebration and special goodbye party that was given to long-time Saguache Public Library District Director Sarah Koehn Frey, at the Saguache County Library, on Friday, Dec. 22.



New Saguache library directors Matt Pettigrew and Amy Far pose for a photo at Sarah Frey's farewell party.

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