

Shorts

Backcountry Film Festival in Monte Vista

MONTE VISTA — The San Juan Nordic Club is hosting the Backcountry Film Festival at the Vali 3 Theater in Monte Vista at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Doors for this “Collage of human-powered stories and backcountry-inspired experiences,” open at 6 p.m. Admission is \$15 for San Juan Nordic Club members and \$20 for non-members.

DN Food Bank distribution Nov. 18

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Food Bank will be open for its November distribution on Saturday, Nov. 18. It will serve its regular clients from 10 to 11 a.m. New clients will not be served until after 11 a.m. Anyone in need of food assistance is welcome.

If you are unable to attend during distribution hours and need food assistance, call 719-850-2643.

ASU concert this Thursday

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Percussion Ensemble will perform in concert at 7 p.m. on Nov. 16 at Richardson Hall Auditorium.

Crossroads event on Nov. 17 at SLV Museum

ALAMOSA — Noted local author and former ASU English professor Pete Anderson will be the guest speaker at the final “Crossroads” event from the Smithsonian Institution. The program will be held at the San Luis Valley Museum at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 17. The event is free and open to the public.

Chapter DP, PEO selling pecans, cashews on Nov. 18

ALAMOSA — Chapter DP, PEO is selling pecans and cashews from 9 to 11 a.m. on Nov. 18 at the First United Methodist Church in Alamosa. Sales help raise money for the chapter’s PEO scholarships and grants. For more information, call Helen Sigmond at 719-589-6626.

Annual Bake Sale is Nov. 18

ALAMOSA — On Saturday, Nov. 18, the First Christian Church in Alamosa will hold its 23rd annual Craft and Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The church is located at State Avenue and First Street in Alamosa.

Missing Saguache woman’s sister speaks about disappearance

By MARIE MCCOLM

SAGUACHE — Edna Quintana was last seen on Wednesday, May 3, 2023. Her family continues to search for her and advocates to keep the case active with law enforcement.

A prayer vigil was held for Quintana in Saguache on Nov. 4. Following the vigil, Edna’s sister, Marilyn, spoke with this reporter about her sister and what the family thinks may have happened to her.

Marilyn said her 56-year-old sister was a doting daughter and would go to her mom’s every day to visit and help in the house.

“The day that my sister disappeared,” Marilyn said. “The last time I had seen her was on a Monday. I had gotten out of work, and she was helping my mom make supper at her house. She went over the next day on Tuesday, my mom and brother got to see her, but I

didn’t. Wednesday, I called my mom, and she told me that Edna had left her clothes in the dryer at her house. I told her OK well I will message her for her to go do her laundry.”

She called her sister, but she did not answer, so she went to her mom’s house and asked if she had heard from Edna. Her mom said she had not heard or seen Edna.

“I sent Edna a message that night and I was kind of mad,” Marilyn said.

“I figured she would call my mom the next day because she usually did, when I was mad at her, to tell my mom I was mad. She never called.”

Marilyn works in Center and ran into a woman who “always sees my sister, so I asked her, have you seen Edna, and she said no. At this point I got to thinking a little bit. I remember getting home on Thursday and thinking she hadn’t

Please see MISSING on Page 2A



Photo by Marie Mccolm

The Saguache Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary held a fundraising bake sale on Friday, Nov. 10, in front of the Saguache Town Market.

Saguache Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary hosts a fundraising bake sale

Auxiliary also gives information about the Fire Department.

By MARIE MCCOLM

SAGUACHE — The Saguache Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary held a fundraising bake

sale on Friday, Nov. 10, in front of the Saguache Town Market. The bake sale was held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The women at the sale were all smiles and plenty of people lined up to purchase baked goods.

The items offered at the sale included a fresh variety of sweets and breads with sugar-free and gluten-free options as well. The

auxiliary sold zucchini, pumpkin, banana, and cornbread, cookies, pies, muffins, and much more. Around noon, the group was down to just a few cookies and a few muffins.

Co-chair for the auxiliary Chella Moores said they had done well.

“We sold a lot this morning.”

Please see SALE on Page 6A

Alamosa Commissioners hike wastewater fees in Mosca

By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA COUNTY — Higher rates are in store for customers of the Mosca Wastewater System. At the Alamosa County Board of Commissioners meeting on Nov. 8, commissioners voted to raise rates for users of the system to cover operating costs.

Alamosa County Land Use and Building Director Richard Hubler, gave the commissioners an overview of the financial situation stating, “Our expenses, were far outpacing our revenues, and at the board’s direction, we did an analysis and review and discovery related to adjusting rates at the Mosca Wastewater System. I want to be clear, we are not trying to get to 100% match this year.” The rate increase is intended to cover part of the operating costs of the system.

Since the system opened in 2018, revenue generated has fallen far short of operating costs at the county-owned facility. The system has operated at a loss for several years; in the fiscal year 2022, the loss was about \$55,000 and is projected to operate at a loss of \$46,000 in fiscal year 2024.

Currently, the 46 residential users pay \$40 a month to use the system. That will increase to \$50 a month in 2024 and increase incrementally

Please see FEES on Page 6A

Crestone Food Bank has a new location

STAFF REPORT

CRESTONE — The Food Bank in Crestone is moving to a new location. The food bank will be moving to 67487 County Road T.

Recently 11 volunteers held a painting party to repair and give the walls of the new building a fresh coat of paint and fresh look.

The new space for the food bank will be next to the Baca Grande Library on County Road T. Along with the painting there are a few more repairs before the Bank can open completely.

Please see BANK on Page 2A

The Food Bank in Crestone is moving to a new location. The food bank will be moving to 67487 County Road T. Recently 11 volunteers held a painting party to repair and give the walls of the new building a fresh coat of paint and fresh look.

Courtesy photo



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MISSING

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called anyone. I saw my mom on Thursday and my mom said she still hadn't heard from her. I started to think well this is all really weird, it just didn't make sense to me."

By this time, Marilyn was worried and remembered one of Edna's friends and an individual that Edna was seeing were looking for Edna by her mom's house. She said it struck her as "really weird," that everyone was suddenly looking for her sister. "When they went to look for my sister, they just asked for her," Marilyn said. "They didn't say anything to us about her going to the mountains with them or anything."

Marilyn began asking other family members if they had seen Edna. "I went to my cousins to ask if they had seen her, and when I went over there, the person my sister was seeing was there too. I asked my cousin and her husband if they had seen Edna, and they told me well we would like to ask you the same thing. My cousin's husband also started telling me that she had been left in the mountains, and they couldn't find her. They supposedly sent one of her friends to tell us about it too, but instead, all the friend did was ask for her at my mom's."

This was the first time Marilyn had heard that Edna had gone to the mountains with her guy friend on this occasion. Marilyn knew they frequently went up to the mountains together to go hiking and to look for some type of valuable rocks that they would sell together.

Marilyn said she asked the boyfriend that Edna was seeing if they had gone to the mountains, and why he did not say something sooner.

"He said, 'well I didn't tell you about it, because I know you don't like me.' I explained to him that it was only common sense that if something like this were to happen, that he should tell one of us. This is the first time we had heard about it," Marilyn said.

Marilyn said one thing that stood out to her was that the boyfriend that her sister was seeing was just listening to all of this at her cousin's house, as her cousin's husband was telling her about it, and the guy was just leaning up against the door while eating and nonchalantly suddenly said, "Well, I do have her purse." Marilyn said that he didn't seem bothered or sad by it at all, though her sister had been seeing

him for a couple of years.

"He also told me he had her purse with her phone, and I asked him to give it to me," Marilyn said. "So, the story I was told was that my sister and the guys she was seeing had gone up to the mountains, and I don't know how long they stayed. They supposedly went to their favorite spot, and the guy supposedly told her to not go very far because he couldn't hear. He also stated that she seemed to be waiting for a car while walking around. He also later stated that he heard a car pulling up, and it was misfiring in the mountains, but told my sister he wouldn't be able to hear her if she went too far. None of that made sense to me."

Marilyn said that none of this was adding up. She was also told they had reported her sister missing to the police twice, but when she went to the police, they said they could not do anything until her sister had been missing for 48 hours.

"When I went to go report it, the lady there stated, she had heard something about it too," Marilyn said. "I was really upset because nobody had told us. I told everyone, when you leave someone up on a mountain you need to let their

family members know. I don't know how or why, but they couldn't find my sister. I remember not being able to sleep that night either, wondering where on the mountain she could be. I kept thinking she could be cold. There could be animals. Then she was on medication for seizures sometimes, too. It was a horrible night for me."

Marilyn said she missed work the next day to go with Edna's kids' dad to search the area on the mountain where her sister went with her guy friend.

"I had asked the guy she went with up there to draw me a map and tell me where the place was," Marilyn said. "I went up there and I got to thinking if my sister had come down there was a road. There were houses. I went knocking on the houses. I asked if anyone had seen her. Everybody said that nobody had seen her."

Marilyn said that when they got back from the mountains her cousin called her and told her law enforcement was there.

"When I got there, everyone was

telling the cops the story again," Marilyn said. "The guy my sister was seeing only talked about everything for about 5 minutes. He told the cops very little and didn't seem very worried. I don't know, none of it really adds up."

Marilyn then said with tears in her eyes and in an emotional voice, "My sister is such a nice person. She doesn't deserve anything if anything has happened to her. I don't want to think anything bad and I hope she's OK, but she didn't call my mom for her birthday or Mother's Day. We are just so worried. I never thought something like this could happen. It is so frustrating, and it hurts so much to not know where she is. We still look out the window for her. We still look for her outside the door. We are waiting for her to come home. We really wish she would."

Marilyn is hoping that somebody will read her story and come forward. If anyone has any information about the whereabouts of Edna Quintana, they are asked to contact their local law enforcement agency, or the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

OBITUARIES

Mary A. Martinez

Longtime Monte Vista resident Mary A. Martinez, 100, passed away peacefully at her home on Friday, Nov. 10, 2023, surrounded by her loving family.

Mary was born in Antonito, Colo., on Oct. 24, 1923, to Gregorita (DeHerrera) Lobato and Martin Lobato. She married the love of her life Ben R. Martinez on Aug. 7, 1946, in Monte Vista at the St. Joseph Catholic Church, they were married 63 beautiful years until his passing in 2010.

Mary loved to pray the Rosary 2 or 3 times daily. She enjoyed baking, doing crossword puzzles and word searches. She liked to watch wrestling, she was an avid Broncos and Colorado Rockies fan. Mary collected ceramic sheep, her special collections of ceramic farm animals and sheep are a prized collection, that anyone who knew her enjoyed contributing to. Mary absolutely loved visiting with her many friends, whom she loved dearly. She retired from the Colorado State Veterans Center food service department after 26 years of dedicated service.

Mary is survived by her only child Antonio "Tony" Martin Martinez, he was her pride and joy. Her love for him was her safety and security. He was her happiness! Her daughter-in-law Virginia Z. Martinez was her calmness, her guide, her safety and security. Mary enjoyed sitting with Virginia and talking and praying,

laughing and reminiscing, and looking at pictures (when she could still see well). Her granddaughters; Melissa R. (Juan) Martinez Palomarez, they were her tenderness, her love, her joy, her friends, and her protectors. Angelica K. (Eli) Heredia, they were her sweetness, her dancing partner, her joy, her protectors. Mary's great-grandchildren; Eliana H. Heredia who was her one and only great-granddaughter. She was her beautiful and loving pride and joy. Antonio C. Martinez, was her grandson who shared the same name with her Antonio. He was her handsome and tall great-grandson and loving pride and joy. Eryc Heredia, was her youngest great-grandson and her soft-spoken grandson that was so handsome and her loving pride and joy. Mary's pride in life was living long enough to be blessed with her 5th generation, great-great-grandson Aiden Heredia-Montoya. She loved him so much. She loved attending all of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren's activities and sports. She was their biggest fan! She always said her biggest accomplishments in life was living long enough and with good health to enjoy many happy moments and create many happy memories with her family. To have good energy to enjoy being included in everything. Mary is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews whom she was a mother figure for and they all loved



her dearly.

Mary was preceded in death by both her parents, her husband, her brothers; Eluterio Lobato, Manuel Lobato, and Joe Alfonso Lobato; her sisters in law; Jane Lobato and Adelina Lobato.

A visitation will be held Friday, Nov. 17, 2023, from 1-4 p.m. at Rogers Family Mortuary at 404 Morris St. in Monte Vista. A vigil and recitation of the Rosary will be Friday, Nov. 17, 2023, at 7 p.m. at the St Joseph Catholic Church in Monte Vista. A Funeral Mass will be Saturday, the 18th of November at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Monte Vista at 10 a.m.

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

BANK

Continued from Page 1A

After painting the new space, a new floor will have to be laid before any refrigerator or freezer units can be brought in for food storage. The community is seeking vinyl planks but does have some vinyl planks to begin the process of the flooring and finish the project. Lead Volunteer Joe Eskew hopes to finish the entire job before the end of the month.

For people who are registered, as registration cut off on Oct. 18, the food bank will be hosting the Thanksgiving

box giveaway. This will take place in the parking lot between the new location and Baca Grande Library on Nov. 18 at 1 p.m.

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

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Cash is king

According to Google, the phrase “cash is king” originated after the stock market crash of 1987. Just goes to show you that Google doesn’t know everything because Ol’ Dutch knew long ago that anyone with cash in any situation has a distinct advantage over others who do not.

During the Great Depression cash was almost non-existent in many places so if people did have it, they could buy a lot of things cheaply. A lot of land was purchased back then for \$1 an acre and people got rich as Croesus himself.

Now for those of you headed out to holiday dinners and gatherings of every sort, Croesus was an exceedingly wealthy King over in Persia way back when. Knowing such tidbits of interesting trivia will come in handy when Uncle Knothead tries to corner you in a conversation about politics. It’s sure to drive even him away.

The house building down on the farm in Texas is coming along pretty good considering the crew that I have — my lonesome self and sometimes Miss Trixie.

There was a crew on the original foundation pouring during Covid. My son, Bubs, and two of the littlest girls you can imagine. But we got it done. Now three years later, Ol’ Dutch is ready to build the house. I’ve been laying concrete blocks around the perimeter getting ready for the floor which I hope is next week depending on my “crew.”

Last Sunday Bubs and Grand #2, now 9 years old, showed up late in the afternoon. Trixie and I had already been working on the house when they arrived, but they pitched in and helped out. Number Two grabbed a shovel and rake to chip up concrete dribbles and level the dirt. She wore us all out in the end.

Things have changed somewhat since pouring the foundation three years ago when I paid them each \$10 for a full day’s work. Since then, her sister, Grand #1, has been working at a local horse barn and getting paid real money. Now, Grand #2 wants some mammon herself. She negotiated a steep \$10 per hour.

Now far be it from Grandpa to not pay her for working no matter the result but she was worth every dime and in the end, I tried to get her to skip school this week and come back out to work. Trixie found some cash laying around and true to her Momma’s influence stiffed that poor child ten dollars. Instead of paying the negotiated \$10/hour, Trixie only paid \$8. Ever her mother’s daughter.



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

Now while that may seem like a lot to pay a 9-year-old, let me tell you, my reasoning. First, she worked harder than most people you can hire today. Second, she is my Grand #2 and Ol’ Dutch knows that nothing feels better than some jingle in your jeans.

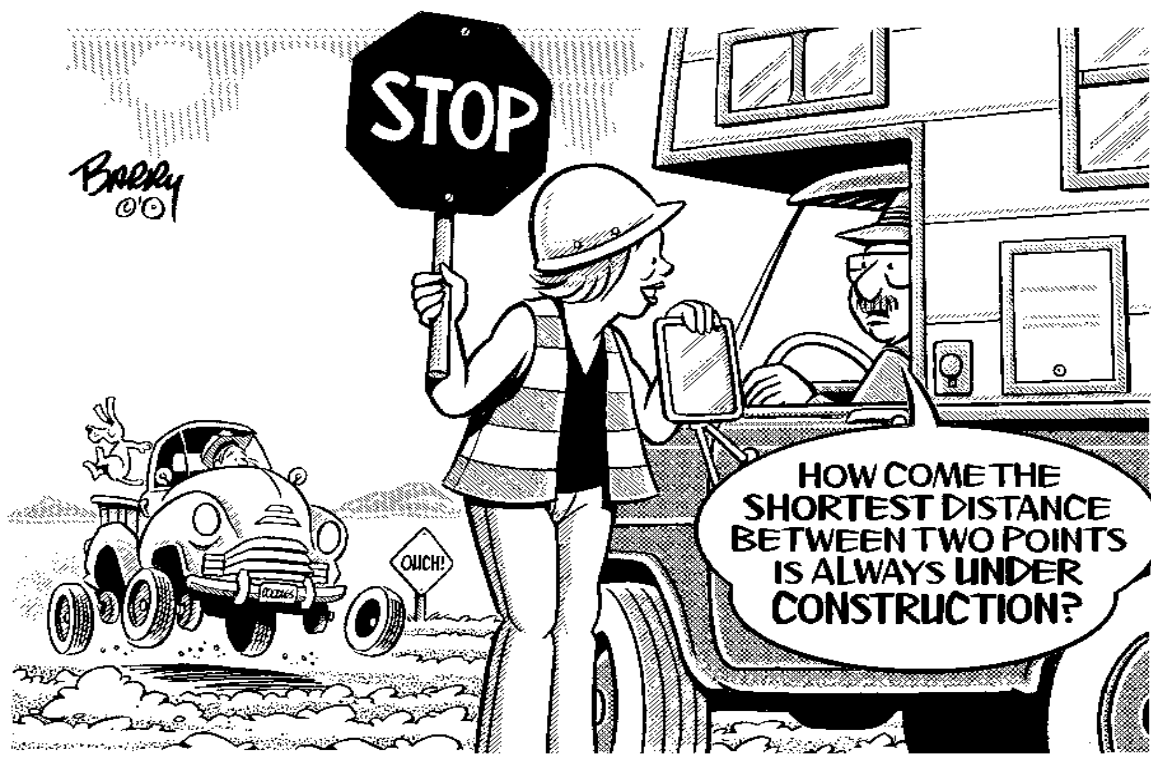
Her mom, Tinkerbelle, called later and said that when Grand #2 got home she was beaming and bounced off to shower with a song in the air. I’m not sure if that was because of the jingle in her jeans or that she realized that she earned more than her older sister for the day, or maybe both.

You don’t have to have grands to know that cash is a valuable commodity when trying to do anything as people like to avoid the dreaded IRS. Just last year they went so far as to want to tax even garage sales as they need every dime they can beg, borrow, and steal to fund their phony-baloney government spending. Now before you turn me in for paying her in cash, the same highway robbers do let you give away \$17,000 a year tax free to some lucky recipient so we are gonna come in way below that threshold — I hope.

I am sure she went off to school with a smile on her face and plans to be out here bright and early during Thanksgiving week to help. Her sister will want to cash in also and poor Ol’ Dutch will have to feed a monster of his own creation.

If you, too, can drive a nail, scoop a shovel, carry a board or are just cute as the dickens, come on out and get some jingle in your own jeans. Watch Miss Trixie at payout, though, she’ll stiff you.

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.



Creative builders get rural housing done



Writers on the Range
by Dave Marston

Here’s a statistic to be unhappy about: Colorado and Utah host the fifth and sixth most expensive housing markets in the country, according to Bankrate.com.

But here’s the good news: two rural housing champions in those states have found creative ways to build affordable housing.

Moab, Utah, along the Colorado River, draws at least

5 million tourists annually for mountain biking, rafting, four-wheeling, and visiting two nearby national parks. But the town’s real estate has long been pricey, and back in 2004, a Moab loan officer named Emily Niehaus realized that the only affordable housing in her hometown was mostly older trailer homes.

She also knew that national loan programs such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac excluded loans for trailers built before 1976.

Harnessing both frustration and ingenuity, she founded a nonprofit, Community Rebuilds, to tap into USDA’s Section 502 Direct Loan Program. It pegs monthly payments for housing to residents’ income. To cut costs she looked for “dirt cheap materials,” coming up with strawbale construction that mixes dirt and straw.

Today, 72 new houses — and counting — have gone up. Niehaus, who also served as mayor of Moab, said that she liked getting things done fast, learning along the way.

In the beginning, Niehaus had little operating money and no workforce. Then she met 20-something Noah Aptekar, who was “couch-surfing” his way home from a cross-country bike trip.

Niehaus said she made him a deal: “For every student you’re able to recruit to build strawbale houses, I’ll give you a hundred dollars. I need eight to start.” Aptekar, who now works for SpaceX, delivered six women and two men.

Niehaus quickly points out that Moab is known as “a cool place” to hang out. Offering young people a place to sleep, a stipend for food, and an education in handmade housing won’t work everywhere in the West, but in Moab it was magic.

When Community Rebuilds sells a home to qualified residents, the cost is about \$220,000, though the houses are worth \$500,000 on the open market. To block flipping, the \$280,000 in equity is transferred to the owners over a period of 20 years.

Niehaus said that USDA’s Direct Loan Program for rural areas restricts buyers to those who make 80% of an area’s median income. Typically, that’s \$37,000 for a household of two.

There’s a long waiting list for houses, but Niehaus, who has been succeeded as boss by Rikki Epperson, said applicants usually spend those years cleaning up their credit to qualify for a mortgage. Niehaus added that financial counseling is a key component to spurring



home ownership.

Over in the western Colorado town of Montrose, Carlton Mason has also developed a novel way to build houses for the rural unhoused. The ex-builder constructs communities for young adults aging out of foster care, and recently he included senior citizens needing housing as well.

He got into housing because of his job as director of CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates, for the 7th Judicial District in western Colorado, covering six counties.

Mason said he found that 18-year-olds newly on their own needed lots of help. But what they especially needed was somewhere to live. His first project, called 1st Place on 2nd Street, was completed in 2018 by tapping into state, federal and foundation grants, providing housing in Montrose for up to 12 residents.

The suicide of one of those residents shook Mason. In response, he beefed up residential support: “Residents needed to build relationships with trusted adults who could also give advice about saving money and staying employed or in school. They needed to know adults actually cared about them.”

“We’ve thrown money at housing for decades,” he added, “and often we end up with blighted communities. Providing adequate and safe housing is just the first step in helping the most disadvantaged people.”

Both Mason and Niehaus agree that their method of harnessing a variety of funding isn’t for everyone.

“I’ve been asked to advise other communities on how to build houses for middle-income residents,” Niehaus said. “But I only know how to build houses for low-income residents using volunteer labor and USDA funding.”

As for Mason, who’s on a roll to build more needed housing on non-agricultural land, he said, “I’ve had to learn as I went, but as support got bigger, I saw we can get things done I never thought possible.”

Dave Marston is the publisher of Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring conversation about Western Issues. He lives in Durango.

LETTER

Davis family appreciates community support

Editor,
The family of Marvin Davis wishes to thank all those who came to us, sent flowers, brought food and fellowship. My husband, our father, grandfather and

friend left a legacy of great friendship and fellowship. We appreciate your presence in person and spirit.

Helen Davis, Janet Spruce, Dan Davis and Cindy Davis

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Creede Repertory Theatre announces 59th season

CRT presents an adventure of discovery with its 2024 summer season

By CREEDE REPERTORY THEATRE

CREEDE — Beginning May 25, Creede Repertory Theatre (CRT) will produce its 59th season, which includes mystery, comedy, a classic, a world premiere with local ties, and a concert series with Creede Musical Arts Collective. CRT will continue to champion its flourishing educational and audience engagement programming.

The 2024 season starts May 25 at the Ruth Humphreys Brown Theatre with Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery.” From the award-winning mastermind of mayhem, Ludwig (“Sherwood”; “Dear Jack, Dear Louise”), comes a fast-paced comedy about everyone’s favorite detective solving his most notorious case. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson must crack the mystery of “The Hound of the Baskervilles” before a family curse dooms its newest heir. Watch as five actors deftly portray more than forty characters. Does a wild hellhound prowl the moors of Devonshire? Can our heroes discover the truth in time? Get your deerstalker cap

on – the play’s afoot! CRT’s historic Mainstage Theatre will feature Mel Brooks’ “Young Frankenstein,” with a book by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan, music and lyrics by Mel Brooks, and based on the story and screenplay by Gene Wilder and Mel Brooks. The grandson of the infamous Victor Frankenstein, Frederick Frankenstein (pronounced “Fronken-steen”) inherits his family’s estate in Transylvania. With the help of his sidekick, Igor (pronounced “Eye-gore”), and sultry lab assistant, Inga, Frederick finds himself in the mad scientist shoes of his ancestors. Eventually, of course, the monster escapes and hilarity continuously abounds. “Young Frankenstein” has all of the panache of the classic film with a dose of theatrical flair, so you’ll be “Puttin’ on the Ritz” and having a monstrously good time! Starring CRT favorites Anne Faith Butler as Frau Blücher and Matthew Tyler Horn as The Creature. “Young Frankenstein” opens June 8.

Also on the Mainstage is the classic comedy, “The Importance of Being Earnest,” the most renowned of Oscar Wilde’s comedies which tells the story of two bachelors, John ‘Jack’ Worthing and Algernon ‘Algy’ Moncrieff, who create alter egos named Earnest to escape their tiresome lives. They attempt to win the hearts of Gwendolyn and Cecily, two women who, conveniently, claim to only love men called

Earnest. The pair become tangled in a tale of deception, disguise and misadventure. This classic comedy of manners pokes fun at Victorian sensibilities with some of the best loved characters to be found on the modern stage. Creede Rep’s production features Christy Brandt as Lady Bracknell in her 50th season, and Anne F. Butler as Miss Prism. Performances begin June 28.

The second play in the Ruth Humphreys Brown is the world premiere of “Prima’s Guide to Funerals” by New Mexico-based playwright Leonard Madrid (Cebollas). Three cousins (primas), an urn, and one really long day. It’s the day of her mother’s funeral and Arcie is in a rut. But her cousins Nando and Clara are having none of it. A quick-witted world premiere comedy set along the waters of the Rio Grande in the San Luis Valley of Southern Colorado, “Prima’s Guide to Funerals” tells the story of family, laughter, grief, and love that is only possible with the ones who know you the best: your primas. The world premiere was commissioned and developed as part of the Headwaters New Play Program. This exciting new play opens July 12.

The Mainstage will also feature a concert series featuring artists from both Creede Rep and Creede Musical Arts Collective (CMAC), which brings in world-class artists from around the world. Each unique concert will feature a variety of



Courtesy photo

Creede Repertory Theatre’s 59th season begins on May 25. The critically-acclaimed theatre company has produced such classics as ‘Steel Magnolias’ over the years.

songs and performers throughout July and August.

Creede Rep will also continue its dynamic education programs; Boomtown! Improv comedy, now in its 18th year; and its biennial Gala on Aug. 2 at the Rio Grande Club and Resort in South Fork.

Flex Passes for the 2024 season are currently on sale and will again offer pass holders an exclusive booking window beginning in January before single tickets go on sale to the general public on Feb. 1.

And don’t miss Creede Rep’s holiday show, “Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol” starring Lavour Addison and running Nov. 24 to Dec. 16 at the Ruth Humphreys Brown Theatre. For tickets, information, or to purchase 2024 Flex and VIP passes, visit www.creederep.org

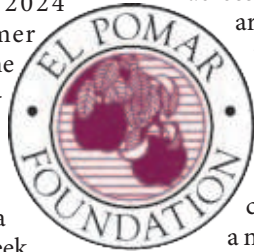
creederep.org, call the box office at 719-658-2540, or email boxoffice@creederep.com.

Founded in 1966, Creede Repertory Theatre (CRT) is a professional theatre company located at 9,000 feet of elevation in the historic town of Creede, which offers beautiful mountain views, hiking trails and stunning campsites in a county comprising 97 percent public land. From its Rocky Mountain roots, CRT serves as an artistic home to our rural community and beyond, through the creation of repertory seasons, dynamic educational programs and compelling new works. With deeply rooted values in equity, diversity and inclusion, CRT is committed to being a haven for artistic excellence, belonging, and intrinsic joy.

Applications open for El Pomar Foundation’s 2024 Fellowship and Internship programs

By EL POMAR FOUNDATION

COLORADO SPRINGS — El Pomar Foundation is seeking applicants for its 2024 Fellowship and Summer Internship programs. The Fellowship is a paid, two-year program for recent college graduates and early career professionals. The Internship is a similar, condensed 10-week summer opportunity for current undergraduate students. Applications for the Fellowship are open through January 7, 2024, and for the Internship through February 9, 2024.



The Fellowship develops high-achieving, service-minded individuals into dynamic community leaders primed to make an impact across multiple sectors. Fellows are employed full-time with the Foundation, working with the leadership team and staff to help execute the work of El Pomar’s leadership development, community engagement, and administrative programs. They spend 80 percent of their time in hands-on support for the programs and grant making work of El Pomar and 20 percent of their time participating

in a comprehensive professional development curriculum. Fellows obtain valuable learning opportunities through direct exposure to Colorado’s philanthropic and nonprofit arenas, targeted professional development, peer management, program oversight, and connection with an engaged network of nearly 300 alumni.

To learn more about the Fellowship or to request a conversation with a current Fellow, visit El Pomar’s website or email recruiting@elpomar.org.

To learn more about the Internship, visit our website or email internship@elpomar.org.

Letters to Santa
Will be published in the December 13, 2024 issues of your local newspaper
Send your Letters to Santa to be included in this very special issue by Monday, December 4 to email: bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com or mail: Valley Publishing PO Box 607 Monte Vista, CO 81144

Early Deadlines due to Thanksgiving
November 22 & 23 issues:
Display, Legal, Classified Advertising - Wednesday, Nov. 15 @ 5 p.m.
Editorial - Thursday, Nov. 16 @ 5 p.m.
Our office will be closed on November 23.
Valley Publishing Have a Safe & Happy Thanksgiving
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SFFR douses brush fire



On Nov. 13, at approximately 1:51 p.m., South Fork Fire Rescue responded to brush fire at approximately Mile Marker 180 on US Highway 160. Upon arrival, approximately a tenth-of-an-acre was found burning in low brush and heavy downed timber. Crews extinguished it, and the cause was determined to be a compromised low voltage line.

Courtesy photos

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Fall has been busy for HVCC

By HIGH VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

Fall has been a great season for all of us over at HVCC! The kiddos have been having a blast with the activities we have for them, and it has been such a treat to see the smiles on all of their little faces.

As a reminder, we have updated our program hours! Program hours are now 4-6 p.m. Tuesdays - Thursdays and 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Fridays. When you come to pick up your child, please remember to have your PIN available to make the check-out process easy for everyone!

We will not have After School Program on Nov. 17-27 — we will be closed for Thanksgiving! Programming will begin again on Nov. 29.

Our Girls' Basketball team has been fighting hard for a victory this season! They had a ton of fun on the court and learned so many valuable lessons on teamwork, skills and strategy.

Boys' Basketball registration is

currently open, so sign up now! The registration for the co-ed Hot Shots (Kindergarten-2nd) will close Dec. 15. The registration for the 3rd-6th grade boys' team will close Dec. 1. You can register your kiddos online at thehvcc.org by clicking on the Sports category and selecting the appropriate team. Make sure to get them signed up as soon as possible so they don't miss out on the fun!

The Choose Your Fun activities are coming to an end this week. The kids has so much fun getting to learn how to code, all about different places around the world, creating culinary masterpieces and why

science is so cool. As the holidays approach, we will be transitioning back to our regular HVCC activities and programming. This Friday was our last field to Hooper for the year! The kids had a swim party to celebrate everything they learned these past few months. We love going to the pool with them, but with winter coming in, it's getting just a bit too cold to keep up our swim lessons!

That covers what's been happening over at HVCC! We're excited to spend one more week with the kids before we break for Thanksgiving. We'll see you soon!



Grand opening Rena Marie Boutique Nov. 17

MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce is having a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for Rena Marie Boutique Design and Christian Store will be noon on Friday, Nov. 17, at 250 Adams St. Food will be provided. Door prizes will be awarded.

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Crack sealing to begin on CO 149

Motorists should plan for delays between South Fork and Creede

By COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MINERAL AND RIO GRANDE COUNTIES — The Colorado Department of Transportation is performing month-long surface treatment repairs on a 9-mile segment of Colorado Highway 149, beginning Tuesday, Nov. 14. Operations will take place 10 miles north of South Fork, Mile Points 10-19. Daytime work hours will range from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Surface treatment operations help treat road damage caused by harsh winter conditions creating a smoother and safer road surface for motorists. Work is weather permitting.

Map of Colorado Highway 149 maintenance operations located between South Fork and Creede. Operations will take place Nov. 14

through Dec. 14. Monday through Friday, motorists can expect brief delays on CO 149 between South Fork and Creede while CDOT performs crack sealing operations.

Traffic Impacts
Motorists should plan for 10-15 minute delays and should allow for extra travel time.

Expect one-lane alternating traffic guided by signs, cones and flagging personnel.

Drivers should slow down and use extreme caution when approaching and driving through the work zone.

A speed reduction of 40 mph will be enforced through the work zones.

Know Before You Go
Travelers are urged to “know before you go.” Gather information about weather forecasts and anticipated travel impacts and current road conditions prior to hitting the road. CDOT resources include:

Road conditions and travel information: COtrip.org

Download the COtrip Planner app: bit.ly/COtripapp

Sign up for project or travel alerts: bit.ly/COnewsalerts

See scheduled construction lane closures: bit.ly/laneclosures

Connect with @ColoradoDOT on social media: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

The following tips are to help you stay safe while traveling through maintenance and construction work zones.

- Do not speed in work zones. Obey the posted speed limits.
- Stay Alert! Expect the unexpected.
- Watch for workers. Drive with caution.
- Don't change lanes unnecessarily.
- Avoid using mobile devices such as phones while driving in work zones.
- Turn on headlights so that workers and other drivers can see you.
- Be especially alert at night while driving in work zones.
- Expect delays, especially during peak travel times.
- Allow ample space between you and the car in front of you.



Anticipate lane shifts and merge when directed to do so. The Colorado Department of Transportation's mission is to provide the best multi-modal transportation system that most effectively and safely moves people, goods and information. CDOT maintains more than 23,000 lane miles of highway, more than 3,400

bridges and 35 mountain passes. Our team of employees works tirelessly to reduce the rate and severity of crashes and improve the safety of all modes of transportation. CDOT leverages partnerships with a range of private and public organizations and operates Bustang, an interregional express bus service. Find more details at codot.gov.

FEES

Continued from Page 1A

to \$80 a month by 2030 under the rate structure approved by commissioners. The 24 commercial connections will also experience increased rates.

The annual revenue generated by user fees is currently \$30,245 and will increase to \$66,480 and will cover 83.38% of operating costs by 2030.

“It's not that the costs are going up,

it's that we are finally remedying the situation,” said Commissioner Vern Heersink.

In other commissioner meeting news, Controller Mari Cruz Mora presented a “recommended budget that should not be viewed as a final budget document, but rather as a decision-making tool to facilitate financial discussion, and to promote

understanding.”

Alamosa County Administrator Roni Wisdom said of the proposed budget, “Because proposition HH did not pass, this is the budget we're going to work with, although there may be a special [legislative] session...and this is the budget we will have the approval [by the county commissioners] of on Dec. 6.

SALE

Continued from Page 1A

The support we have gotten from the community and the locals has been so great. We had a lot of baked goods with us, this has been great,” Moores said.

Co-chair for the auxiliary Jessica Phillips also spoke about the volunteer department and other fundraising events.

“There are 13 members in the volunteer fire department,” she said. “They have around 200 fires per year. The volunteers are also first responders, so they answer all other calls as well. We try to hold a bake sale two times a year. As another fundraising event, we will also be holding our annual New Year's celebration, a dinner and dance, and an auction at the Saguache County Community building. Everyone is invited to attend that too.”

Phillips said that the volunteer fire department is excited about auctioning off a .22 Tribute Rifle that was donated to them by the Salida Gunshop, at this year's New Year's celebration. She said that since Saguache doesn't really have a business community, they rely on the entire Valley including Salida, Alamosa, and Monte Vista to help with things.

“We really appreciate all the support the businesses give us. Kudos to all the businesses that help us out,” she said.

Phillips said that the fire department also does other things for the community. Phillips, who is

also a teacher, said that October was Fire Prevention Awareness Month. The department visited schools dressed in full gear to talk to the kids about fire safety. They also gave the kids coloring books and crayons along with packets with helmets and a little craft for the kids to put together a small fire truck.

Cassandra Bison of the auxiliary said that they also had a junior crew on the fire department. There were two children sitting with the women as well. Bison introduced Hadley Livings, and Wesson Hall. Bison

said that both kids make it to all the meetings.

“We brag about the demographic because we finally have a crew that has all age groups. That is our goal to keep a demographic of all the kids and have them make it to all the meetings too,” Bison said.

The Saguache Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1902. The Chief is Kendal Adolph.

For more information about the Saguache Volunteer Fire Department, visit their Facebook page.

Saguache County Free Dump Day

Saturday
Nov. 18th, 2023

8 AM - 3 PM

For Saguache County Residents Only - You must bring a valid ID to participate.

Not Accepted

- Freon
- Hazardous Materials
- Hot /Smoldering trash
- No Electronics
- No paint cans (Wet or Dry)

Accepted

- Recyclables
- Trash
- Yard Waste
- Tires (up to 6 per load)

Saguache County Landfill
25125 Kelly Road/CR 55
Saguache, CO 81149

ELECTION OF THE SAN LUIS VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on Tuesday, the 5th day of December, 2023 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The Board of Directors of the District has designated the following polling place within the District:

Office of the San Luis Valley Irrigation District
296 Miles Street
Town of Center, Saguache County, Colorado

At said election, the electors of the District shall vote for Director(s) to serve the following term(s) of office on the Board of Directors of the District:

One Director for Division III for a 3-Year Term

The name(s) of person(s) nominated and term(s) of office for which nominated are as follows:

Tuck Slane, Director for Division III for a 3-year term

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that an elector of said District for the purpose of said election is a person who (1) owns taxable real property within the District, and (2) is over the age of twenty-one years.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that applications for absent voter's ballots may be filed with the Secretary of the District, Amy S. Dean, at 296 Miles Street, Center, Colorado until 4:00 p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election. Affidavits of intent to be a write-in candidate must be filed no later than 4:00 o'clock p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election (Friday, the 1st of December, 2023).

San Luis Valley Irrigation District
By: /s/ Amy S. Dean
Secretary

No. 1689 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, November 16, 23 and 30, 2023.

<p style="font-size: small;">DISTRICT COURT, COUNTY OF SAGUACHE STATE OF COLORADO 501 4th Street Saguache, CO 81149 719-655-2522</p> <p>SHANE THOMAS ANDIS</p> <p>Plaintiff</p> <p>v.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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,</p> <p>Defendants</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">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</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">COURT USE ONLY</p> <p>Case Number: 2023CV30027</p> <p>Div.: Cir.: _____</p>
<p>SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION</p>	

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. 1688 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, November 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2023.

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Colorado House Speaker praises Rep. Martinez, work of legislature

McCluskie gave keynote address at JFK Dinner in Monte Vista

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — The Rio Grande Democratic JFK Dinner's keynote speaker was Colorado House Speaker Julie McCluskie. She praised fellow Democrat and local Rep. Matthew Martinez and talked about what the legislature has accomplished.

Approximately 35 people attended the dinner at the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex on Nov. 4.

The dinner began with Jessie Anthony Guerrero giving a general introduction and thanking everyone for attending the dinner.

"We have some awesome candidates joining us tonight you will be hearing from all of them as well as state representative Matthew Martinez, and our keynote speaker, the Speaker of the House Julie McCluskie," he said.

McCluskie thanked the Rio Grande County Democrats for inviting her and all the volunteers that put on the event. This is her third term in office.

Before getting into her background, McCluskie said Martinez had done a "brilliant job" in his first term. Martinez was elected to represent District 62 in 2022 and has already indicated he will be running again in 2024.

"I have had the opportunity to work with legislators these past few years," she said. "You get to know who is willing to put in the hard work, who does their homework at home, and who pays attention to the people that they serve. Representative Martinez showed up on the job eager, willing, earnest. It was no small thing that he was appointed. His success with House Bill 1037 demonstrates his commitment to students and to those who end up in vulnerable situations, sometimes making poor choices, who really do deserve a second shot at a full and thriving life."

McCluskie was born and raised in



Courtesy photo

Arnold Salazar was given an award Rio Grande Treasurer Award and Rep. Matthew Martinez was given the Rio Grande County Democrat Higher Education Award at the Rio Grande Democratic JFK Dinner.

Denver. She grew up in Lakewood. Her family were farmers in North Dakota.

"I really do believe that I was born with dirt under my fingernails. I had a commitment to agriculture from an early age," she said.

She attended Colorado State University, Fort Collins, where she met her husband. I spent a lot of time in North Dakota on the farm.

"We had that dream of living in the mountains, so we moved to Vail fresh out of college. We skied, we mountain biked," she said. "We enjoyed the rivers and the forests. We fell in love with our state. I left the mountains for a brief period, but we have been in Summit County now nearly 24 years. We raised our children there and it is truly my home. I spent most of my time in the mountains and in public education."

McCluskie worked at a rural school district like those in the Valley.

"A rural school district that welcomes children from a diverse array of backgrounds and experiences and does its best to provide every child a world class education," she said. "I decided to run for office because I was frustrated with the lack of funding that we had in our K12 system. I was very fortunate to first take office in 2018."

McCluskie spoke of the

importance of funding education.

"I think it matters to all of you, that we invested an additional \$650 million in education last year," she said. "This year we will be paying off what we have called the negative factor, the budget stabilization factor. A tab where we have pulled money away from schools to help fund other necessary vital needs in our state."

She added that teachers, schools, and students will continue to benefit from that kind of investment.

"If you think about it, another \$150 million and we will be able to say but that we fully fund education, because we do need to put even more money into the into our schools to make sure teachers earn a living wage. This legislature will deliver on that promise to our schools for the first time in 14 years," she said.

McCluskie also spoke of some of the challenges she faces as Colorado House Speaker.

"I will say that having served in the legislature is a privilege and



Photo by Marie Mccolm

The Rio Grande Democratic JFK Dinner's keynote speaker was Colorado House Speaker Julie McCluskie. She praised fellow Democrat and local Rep. Matthew Martinez and talked about what the legislature has accomplished.

an honor, but also a tremendous challenge," she said. "This state has faced a great deal these past few years with the global pandemic. We continue to see challenges around economic mobility for many of the citizens in the state. While I believe our legislature has made some great strides in investing in the people that we serve, and the programs that deliver for Colorado. It is not a job that is yet complete we have more to do."

McCluskie said the legislature had 611 bills that ran through the House and the Senate this year, 484 of those bills were approved by both chambers and signed into law.

"Those bills included things like a commitment to higher education, bills around housing, healthcare, childcare, and certainly our K12

education system," she said. "I would say without question it was the busiest and most challenging session that we have seen in a long time."

With the election only days away, McCluskie spoke of the importance of voting, and to engage with politicians.

"In a community like Monte Vista in the San Luis Valley it is so important that all voices be heard," she said. "In closing tonight as you venture out the doors, and election day is only a couple of days away. Make sure you get your ballot in. I hope you will come by and see Representative Martinez and I hope you will come by and see me. I always have coffee and chocolate and I am willing to share. Thank you all."

What's in Your Heart?

Proverbs 4:23 says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it" (NIV).

The Bible has a lot to say about your heart; not your physical heart, but what's going on inside of you—your thoughts, motives, and desires. These "hidden" things are important because they eventually come out through your words, attitudes, and the things you do. If you have a healthy heart, then it leads to a healthy life.

So, I want to ask you today: What is in your heart? Is it full of murmuring and complaining? Or is it filled with praise and thanksgiving to God?

Just like it's possible to have a physical heart murmur, I believe we can also suffer from a spiritual heart murmur. We can get into a habit of complaining or "murmuring" about the things we aren't happy with in life. These murmurs are often the result of jealousy, resentment, or a lack of gratitude.

For instance, I can remember a time years ago when my next-door neighbor was given a brand-new coat—the very coat I had been praying for! I thought, Surely, they delivered it to the wrong house by accident. Instead of being happy for her, I seethed with jealousy and grumbled about how I deserved it more than she did.

The truth is, God can never bless us to the degree He wants to until we learn how to truly be happy for other people. If all we can do is complain about what others have and what we don't have, it just keeps us stuck.

The Israelites are the perfect example. Because of their unbelief and bad attitudes, they literally wandered around in the wilderness for 40 years. The Bible says "All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, 'If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness!'" (Numbers 14:2 NIV).

They complained when they were hungry, and so God supernaturally provided them with manna every morning. Although they were satisfied

for a little while, they began to grumble because they wanted meat instead (Exodus 16:11-16; 17:1-7).

It's easy to read about the Israelites and think, How could they be so ungrateful? However, we often do the very same thing! We can pray to have children, then later complain about all the hard work that comes with it. Or we can desire a bigger house and then get upset because we have to spend more time cleaning it.

I used to be a chronic complainer. I would make my list and ask God for all the things I wanted, while complaining about the things I already had. One day, the Lord spoke to my heart and said, "Joyce, if you're not thankful for what you have now, why should I give you more to complain about?" That got my attention!

Maintaining a grateful heart is the cure for a spiritual heart murmur. Psalm 50:23 says, "He who offers a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving honors Me; and to him... I shall show the salvation of God" (AMP). When we are thankful, it opens the door for God to answer our prayers and bring blessings into our lives.

What we focus on has the ability to make us either happy or miserable. We can either dwell on the negative things or choose to magnify the good. When we choose to be thankful, we become happier, and we bring more joy to those around us.

The old saying "Count your blessings" is terrific advice. I think it's easy to get used to all of the wonderful things God does for us and take them for granted. That's why it's so powerful to take even just a few minutes each day to thank Him for the blessings in our lives.

It felt a little awkward at first, but I've made a habit of being thankful. As I go about my day, I'll thank God for His help with my work, the beautiful day He has provided, and even the coffee I get to drink. I praise Him for the people He has placed in my life and for the



strength He gives me to keep on going when I feel too busy or overwhelmed. It's not only important to thank God for who He is and all that He does for us, but we also need to regularly thank the people who make our lives better. I think you would be amazed how much your relationships would improve if you simply began saying, "I appreciate you" from time to time.

Are you dealing with a heart murmur of your own? Have you been tempted to complain about the things you don't like instead of focusing on the blessings in your life? If so, I encourage you to practice being a person of gratitude. Voice your thankfulness to God for the wonderful things He does for you each and every day.

As you do, you will fill your heart with joy and gratitude...and release the power of God's goodness into your life like never before.

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

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

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



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LOR Foundation gives presentation at URGED meeting

By LYNDIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — The Upper Rio Grande Economic Development meeting for November was held in the Rio Grande County Commissioner Chambers in Del Norte on Nov. 14. The group welcomed LOR Foundation representative Ivette Atencio as the keynote speaker who gave a brief presentation on what the foundation has done since coming to Monte Vista 18 months ago.

The foundation is fairly new to the area and has successfully helped fund projects throughout the Monte Vista community and will continue to do so for the next three and a half years. According to Atencio, the foundation is a privately funded grant maker that is currently focusing on western mountain rural communities.

“We are focused on Monte Vista at this time, but we also provide funding resources to communities outside of Monte Vista to help fill that gap,” she said.

LOR stands for Livability, Opportunity and Responsibility which are the focus and mission for the foundation.

“LOR is a start-up accelerator for community-driven ideas. Our goal is to be nimble, moving quickly to help solve problems communities have identified as priorities. Sometimes that help is funding, and sometimes it’s simply connecting people and organizations with resources — and to each other,” Atencio said.

Over the course of the year, LOR has been active in the Monte Vista area, several projects have been funded including sponsorships for educational opportunities, teacher wellness rooms, basketball courts for local students at the Byron Syring DELTA Center, a therapy playground designed for children with autism in the community, fixing kennels at the Conour Animal Shelter, just to name a few.

“We focus on enhancing quality of life for the communities we serve, no matter what that looks like. My job is to work with people who have ideas that will benefit the communities and to gain grant approval through the foundation. We fund mostly projects that are \$10,000 or less, but we can also go up to \$30,000 when the need arises. I have a quarterly budget that I work

with, and we fund projects that focus on youth, housing, economy, water issues and more,” explained Atencio.

The foundation is funded through private donors and when an idea is submitted it passes through Atencio to her manager and then to the director of this region who makes the final decision on what kind of funding is allocated for the proposed project. Though Atencio did not have specifics on exactly

how the foundation determined which communities can be served by LOR, she did state that it was the Ski Hi Center that brought LOR to Monte Vista, among other factors.

“LOR looks at where the foundation can do the best and be an impact on the community. The foundation is currently serving in New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming and our Wyoming location will be the first to leave a community in the coming year. We

strive to make all of the projects we fund sustainable and therefore are looking at what it will be like to remove the foundation from a location and how that will impact a community. It’s a learning process,” she said.

LOR Foundation locations are set up to serve a community for a five-year period and the goal is to do as much work as possible within that timeframe within the guidelines of their specific grant budgets.

“My goal is to do as much as I can in the time we have here in Monte Vista so if a non-profit or organization has an idea for a project that will benefit the community, I encourage you to reach out to us and share your idea. We do what we can to fund projects but if we can’t, we can offer resources that may be able to help,” she said.

For more information or to propose an idea to the LOR Foundation, visit lorfoundation.org.

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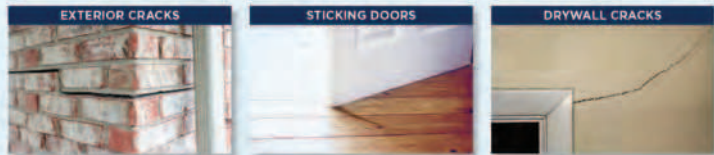


National Adoption Day Nov. 17

ALAMOSA — On Friday, Nov. 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., please join the 12th Judicial District in recognizing recent families in our communities who have welcomed new additions to their homes through the adoption process.

A short ceremony will be followed by food and fun for all who come. This event is open to all communities and partners in the Valley. The event is at the Alamosa Combined Courts located at 8955 Independence Way in Alamosa.

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Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference registration opens

By LARRY BROWN
SLV Area Extension Director and Ag Business Agent



MONTEVISTA — Registration for the 2024 Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Education Conference and Trade Show opens in November. The conference will be Feb. 6-8, 2024, at the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex. The theme of the 42nd annual conference is “Adapt and Innovate: A conference on balancing fundamentals and innovation.” You can register by going to the website, www.agconferencesrm.com.

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

We will have legislative, economic, and market updates from Colorado Farm Bureau, Rocky Mountain

Farmer’s Union, CO Bank, and Potatoes USA.

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

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

There will also be sessions on several low-water use, alternative crops: some which are producing amazing forage yields, and others

Please see SRMAC on Page 3

‘Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol’ returns to CRT

By CREEDE REPERTORY THEATRE

CREEDE — Creede Repertory Theatre (Creede Rep) announces the return of “Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol” by Tom Mula to the Ruth Humphreys Brown Theatre in Creede, playing Nov. 24 through Dec. 16. This production stars Creede Rep favorite Lavour Addison in a one-person version of the show.

Marley was dead, to begin with... but what happens to Ebenezer Scrooge’s old business partner after that? Chained and shackled, Marley is condemned to a hellish eternity, tormented by a malicious little hell-sprite. Desperate to escape his fate, he sets out on a fantastical mission to redeem Scrooge and thus free himself.

“I’ve always loved this take on the Dickens’ classic, A Christmas Carol,”

says interim artistic director, Kate Berry. “Redemption takes many forms and Marley makes the choice to help Scrooge, at first selfishly, but then goes on to learn so much about himself in the process. And this time, we imagine the play with just one versatile actor, which is how playwright Tom Mula originally envisioned the show. We can’t wait to share it with our

Please see CRT on Page 3

RGH receives recognition throughout October

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

DELNORTE — Several businesses throughout the San Luis Valley were notified through the Valley Courier that they had won this year’s Best of San Luis Valley awards and Rio Grande Hospital was the recipients of two awards. This was one of many recognitions the hospital received during the month of October.

According to Rio Grande Hospital Development and Communication Officer Eva Timberlake, the hospital was honored to receive such awards from their communities.

“Rio Grande Hospital received recognition for the Best Hospital in the San Luis Valley (SLV) for three years in a row. Wound care and pulmonary rehabilitation were also bestowed Best of SLV. So many good things are happening at the hospital, and we are honored by the recognition,” she said.

In addition to the Best of San Luis Valley awards, the Colorado Rural Health Center recently presented this year’s Rural Health Excellence award to hospital CEO Arlene Harms.

Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) recently presented the 2023 Rural Health Excellence Award to Rio Grande Hospital’s CEO, Arlene

Harms. The award is presented annually to an exemplary member of CRHC, who has made a notable contribution to healthcare in rural Colorado.

Michelle Mills, CEO of CRHC presented the award at the annual CRHC conference, describing Arlene as a champion for rural health care for many years and a trailblazer in health and wellness, most recently with her dream and ambition in bringing a wellness center to the community, based on the health concepts of the Blue Zones.

Timberlake also reported that construction on the new Wellness Center is well underway and on schedule for a spring opening. It is expected to be finished in 2024 and will be comprised of a community center where members of the community can come host meetings, meet for coffee or utilize resources offered by the center.

“It will be an intersection with our employees who can take their breaks there, there will be games, books and computers to use and also the other thing we want to do, is help our families that have members in the hospital. If they need the computer, they have access to one,” Timberlake said.



Photos By Lyndsie Ferrell

The Rio Grande Hospital Wellness Center is taking shape as the hospital is recognized for the Best of San Luis Valley and for the Rural Health Excellence Award through the Colorado Rural Health Center. Hospital CEO Arlene Harms was honored by the CRHC.

The center will also house a teaching kitchen so that families can come to learn how to cook healthy meals, a greenhouse and herb garden, an educational room, meditation room, access to the nearby trails and hiking as well as so much more.



Letters to Santa Will be published in the December 13, 2023 issues of your local newspaper. Send your Letters to Santa to be included in this very special issue by Monday, December 4 to email: bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com or mail: Valley Publishing - PO Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144

Peyton's Pay It Forward Foundation just a few steps away

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — A cohort of people in Alamosa and Rio Grande Counties are combining efforts to make one of Peyton Sanchez's dreams come true by creating the Peyton's Pay It Forward Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit devoted to helping others.

Peyton Sanchez will serve as president and chairman of the board whose members will include Ruthie Brown, Jane Allen, Joelle Boos, Horacio Naranjo, and Larry Zaragoza.

"Peyton has a legacy of helping others and that's the whole idea of the foundation," says Gordon Bosa, former judge and Alamosa attorney who is donating his services in forming the non-profit. "We're going to try charitable fundraising and then help people who need help, whether it's a life-threatening illness or a serious disability. That's the whole idea. It was Peyton's idea and his brainchild and we're just trying to honor it."

Over the course of his life thus far, 17-year-old Peyton Sanchez has become well known in Alamosa for his fundraisers, most notably a lemonade stand where a donation of any size gets a free glass of lemonade. Other kids have held fundraisers to contribute, as well.

He has been at it "his whole life," he says, and he has been highly effective in raising thousands of dollars over the years. His first cause was Children's Hospital, where he has spent so much of his life. Other causes followed, including, among others, the Make-A-Wish Colorado, the Cancer Relief Fund, Kolton's Heroes, the Pet Shelter plus a long list of individuals experiencing different challenges in their lives.

He also funds the Peyton Sanchez Scholarship which is awarded to an Alamosa High School graduating senior each year who embodies those qualities of kindness and service to others that he values so deeply.

"He's always been this way," says Sheila Sanchez, Peyton's mother. "In the second



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Peyton Sanchez, left, listens to Gordon Bosa, far right, explain progress on forming the foundation. Also pictured Ruthie Brown and Peyton's grandmother, Sylvia Sanchez. Copper is at Peyton's feet.

grade, one of the boys in his class told him the lunches Peyton brought to school looked really good. So, for that entire year, Peyton packed a lunch for his friend, Israel, every morning. He's always been aware of other people and their needs, whether it was a kid, a bus driver, a teacher... he would always check in with them."

Such a commitment to others is remarkable in any 17-year-old, but it is truly exceptional in the case of Peyton Sanchez whose heart and spirit are focused on the well-being of others even as he faces almost unimaginable challenges in his own life.

When he was just six months old, Peyton was diagnosed with neurofibromatosis (NF), a disease that causes tumors to grow on nerves throughout the body.

By the time Peyton was four years old, it was discovered he had tumors on his optic nerves. Doctors began chemotherapy to try to save his vision, but treatment was unsuccessful, and his vision continued to deteriorate.

"He began learning to read and write in Braille while in preschool," Sanchez says. "Then, in 2015 we were dealt our biggest blow when a large, infiltrative

tumor was discovered on Peyton's brainstem."

The brainstem connects a person's brain to their spinal cord and controls major bodily functions like breathing, moving, speaking, swallowing and a person's senses like hearing.

For the next two years after the tumor was discovered, he was enrolled in clinical trials taking place in Houston, which meant traveling every four weeks at the family's expense to receive medication that, it was hoped, would shrink the tumors.

To cover the cost of travel, Sheila and Charlie, Peyton's father, sold their pick-up truck and then took turns making the arduous journey with Peyton once a month.

"After 2 years, the drug was no longer working for Peyton and disease progression forced us to stop the trial. It became FDA [Food and Drug Administration] approved a short time later and is now helping many patients with NF worldwide. We were saddened to know it didn't keep working for Peyton, but happy we were able to participate in helping it win FDA approval and save the lives of many with NF."

Since 2017, Peyton's disease has

continued to progress. In the spring of 2018, he took his last steps. The tumor on his brainstem has also robbed him of the ability to talk. Essentially, he's trapped in a body that does not work, but his mind is fully functioning.

"Doctors once told us it is a cruel and relentless journey," Sanchez says, "and they have been absolutely right."

Everyday things are much harder now than just a few short months ago. He struggles to breathe. His energy level has made it impossible to go to school, and he tires very quickly. He got a feeding tube put in earlier this year. Chewing and swallowing food and water is now dangerous due to the risk of choking.

Yet, like always, Peyton continues to keep his focus on others, something that, Sanchez believes, speaks of the intrinsic spirituality at the core of who he is. "He's really been struggling a lot lately and, just the other night, we were saying our special prayers for others, and I asked Peyton, do you want me to say a special prayer for you tonight? And Peyton said, why? I have God."

Peyton, who is on a recliner nearby with his dog, Copper, at his feet, hears his mother tell the story. In response, he lifts his hand and makes a thumbs up sign.



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Wolf Creek Ski Area sets opening dates

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

WOLFCREEK — Ski resorts across Colorado are gearing up for the 2023-2024 ski season and Wolf Creek Ski Area is among the many that will be opening on weekends later this month. With snow in the forecast for the San Luis Valley, and predictions from the National Weather Service in Pueblo, the season is going to be snowy and cold.

According to a press release, Wolf Creek Ski Area is excited to kick off the 2023-2024 ski season on Saturday, Nov. 11, and Sunday, Nov. 12.

The Nova beginner chairlift will be open Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 11 and 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nova and Susan's trails will be available to skiers and snowboarders. The Magic Carpet will also be open for children in the WolfPup and WolfRiders Program. The Ski School, Ski and Snowboard Rental, Treasure Sports, Base Camp, Pathfinder Bar, and the Upper Lodge, which will serve a full lunch menu, will all be open.

To start the new season, lift tickets will be at the Beginner Lift rates of \$44 for all ages.

Wolf Creek will close Monday, Nov.



Courtesy photos

Wolf Creek Ski Area has announced its 2023-2024 opening dates beginning Nov. 11. The resort is busy making snow, adding to the amount that fell at the end of October and will be opening some runs with early season conditions.

13 through Thursday, Nov. 16, but will reopen for 7-day a week operation on Friday, Nov. 17. Details for the 7-day a week operation will be announced closer to the reopening date.

Ten inches of snow fell Oct. 28 and 29, establishing an all-natural settled base of 6 inches at the midway with supplemental snowmaking operations on Nova and Susan's trails.

Wolf Creek is gearing up for the upcoming season and is taking applications for all departments: lifts, ski school, food and beverage, base operations, retail, ticket office and more. Check out the Employment Page online to download an application.

For more information or to purchase tickets online, visit www.wolfcreekski.com.



SRMAC

Continued from Page 1

which are starting to show real promise as potential cash crops, including millet.

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

and agency partners who have first-hand experience using this exciting and challenging new technology.

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

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

our neighbors as close as we do our crop and herd."

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

To learn more details of the speakers and topics, and to register, go to www.agconferencesrm.com. Or you can also call us at 719-852-7381 or email usat.L.Brown@colostate.edu; or Jennifer.Norris@colostate.edu. CSU Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

CRT

Continued from Page 1

audience."

The production takes advantage of Creede Rep's multi-talented staff with direction by interim artistic director, Berry; scenic design by Morgan M. Manfredi (Managing Director); lighting design by Jake Harbour (Director of Production and Facilities); props design by Jenni Harbour (Education Director) and stars Addison ("An Iliad," "Ken Ludwig's Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood," "Clue: On Stage," "The Royale"). Addison will tackle nearly 20 characters in this delightful and heart-warming show.

"Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol" opens during Creede's annual Chocolate Festival over Thanksgiving weekend; and don't miss Creede's Holiday Market on Saturdays through mid-December.

Show times are 7 p.m. on Fridays and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturdays between Nov. 24 and Dec. 16. Tickets start at \$25 for adults and \$10 for children.

For tickets, visit www.creederep.org, call the box office at 719-658-2540, or email boxoffice@creederep.com.

Founded in 1966, Creede Repertory Theatre is a professional theatre company located at 9,000 feet of elevation in the historic town of Creede, CO, which offers beautiful mountain views, hiking trails and stunning campsites in a county comprising 97 percent public land. From its Rocky Mountain roots, CRT serves as an artistic home to our rural

community and beyond, through the creation of repertory seasons, dynamic educational programs and compelling new works. With deeply

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05 Notices

Rio Grande County is soliciting sealed bids from qualified contractors for 2023 AIRFIELD PROJECTS, to be constructed for RIO GRANDE COUNTY, COLORADO. Bids will be received at the County Office until 1:00 pm on Tuesday, November 28, 2023. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud on Tuesday, November 28, 1:00pm at the County Office, 925 6th Street, Room 207, Del Norte, CO 81132. An Optional Pre-Bid Conference will be held on November 07, 2023 at 1:00 pm at the Astronaut Kent Rominger Airport, 883 Co Rd 22, Del Norte, CO 81132. The project consists of a 2-inch asphalt overlay to Runway 6-24, a new 450 feet Proposed Taxi-lane construction East of Taxiway B, and the rehabilitation of existing taxiways and apron pavements with a 608H Seal Coat treatment. Bids will be received for a single prime contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum and unit price basis with additive alternate bid items as indicated in the Bid Form. Digital copies of

the bid documents are available from the county at www.riograndecounty.org. Those downloading the contract documents electronically are responsible for verifying the completeness of contract documents received view download. Failure to download a complete set of digital contract documents will not be a factor considered in the evaluation of bids or form the basis for any bid protest. In order to submit a responsive bid as a Prime Contractor and to receive all necessary addendum (s) for this project, you must be on the Planholder's List, which requires the plans being downloaded from www.riograndecounty.org. Bids shall be accompanied by a bid security in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. The successful Bidder must furnish Performance and Payment Bonds in accordance with the Contract Documents. Bidders must be licensed to perform work within the state of Colorado. Bids must remain in effect for 60 days after the bid opening date. Within 60 days from the bid date, the Owner may award the contract to

the lowest responsive, responsible Bidder or reject any or all Bids for the Project. The RIO GRANDE COUNTY, COLORADO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive irregularities in the Bids and bidding deemed to be in the best interests of the RIO GRANDE COUNTY, COLORADO, and to reject nonconforming, nonresponsive, or conditional bids. (11-15)

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

For information on meetings for ALANON NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS AND ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Please visit slva.org or call 719-937-5083.

07 Help Wanted

Cafeteria Staff needed at Upper Rio Grande School District. Must have a high school diploma and or GED and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or a willingness to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. (12-06)

The Del Norte Jr/Sr High School is accepting applications for a Secondary Foreign Language Teacher and English Language Learner (ELL) K-12 Site Coordinator. The applicant will need to be able to teach Spanish. The applicant will also be responsible for managing the ELL requirements of CDE including ACCESS testing for ELLs, ELL identification, and ELL classroom supports. If interested please send a completed application, resume, and cover letter to Annie Hardy, DNHS Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at (719) 657-4020 for more information. Applications can be downloaded from www.urtigers.co.

Looking for a guy with a 1-ton pickup to pull a gooseneck trailer to and from work. David 719-480-2145 (12-06)

MDS Waste and Recycle is hiring! Interested in furthering your skill set? We are hiring under CDL drivers with a company sponsored, fast-track program to getting your

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20% OFF ALL ITEMS
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Black Friday Hours
9am-4:30pm



Creede Underground Mining Museum

15% OFF EVERYTHING AND A 50% OFF SECTION






30% OFF EVERYTHING
7AM-10AM
\$5 Mimosas & \$1 Off Drinks ALL DAY



Ooh La Spa & Boutique

42% OFF 7AM-10AM



25% OFF 10:01AM-4PM



Select Items on Sale
11AM-4PM Friday

Open Through December 23



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Come join us for our Black Friday Red Dot Sale! Great Savings on many items throughout the store! Puzzles, Knives, Toys, ect... Sale is all day on Friday!



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WANDER

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BLACK FRIDAY 9AM-4PM

Bring in this ad for 20% off one 375ml bottle



Black Friday sale
from 7am-2pm



COFFEE ON THE FLY

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Valley Wide Classifieds

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MOFFAT MODULAR: 3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, Acreage, \$1,850/month plus utilities. No pets/substance/smoking. Security, Last, Rental Insurance negotiable depending on References. 719-588-3373.

17 Real Estate For Sale
FARM FOR SALE in Waverly Area Sub-district #6, 1 1/2 center pivots in grass and alfalfa, large hay shed,

2 bedroom home, 3 steel grainers, numerous out buildings on 8 Mile Road. Ready to farm 2023 season. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc 719-580-0770. (TFN)

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

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

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

FOR SALE: Beautiful 3,280 sq. ft., 3 bath, 3 bedroom, large kitchen and 2 living room with mountain setting, separate 2-3 car garage with nice apartment upstairs, large horse barn, chicken house and OWNER FINANCED!! Price to sell \$895,000.00. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc 719-580-0770.

FOR SALE: 35 shares of Santa Maria Reservoir Water. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc

719-580-0770. (TFN)

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

32 Fuel & Heating
Laars Mini - Therm JVH Gas fired boiler, 160,000 BTU \$4,500. 1/2 HP Inline Cast Iron Pump 1inch inlet / Outlet. \$150.00 719-379-3921.

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SOLD

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

Darling authentic 1,232 Sq. Ft. 2-bedroom 2 bath log cabin with upgrades galore! Located in Log Haven. Tucked along the mountain side backing up to national forest with beautiful views of the surrounding cliffs. Open living room, dining, kitchen area with new propane Vermont Casting stove to keep you cozy and warm all winter long. Kitchen is quaint and bright with custom granite countertops. This cabin has a covered front porch and wonderful back deck. The perfect place to enjoy the wildlife, peace and quiet and that first hot cup of morning coffee. Nice fence back yard with gate opening to the national forest. Hike for miles out your own back door. Downstairs has a master bedroom and a full bath. Upstairs additional bedroom, bathroom and nice size sitting nook, great space to enjoy that best-selling book or use for your office den. This cabin comes complete with one car garage, storage shed, central well and town sewer. Cabin can be used as a full-time residence, or home-away-from-home winter or summer get-a-way! Rentals are not allowed in this subdivision. Don't wait! Start your adventure today! Only a short 17-mile drive from Wolf Creek Ski area. The mighty South Fork and Rio Grande River, Beaver Mountain reservoir & Million reservoir are just moments away. Bring your fishing pole and enjoy hours of world class fishing. Ski Wolf Creek, go 4 wheeling, hike, camp, hunt, Enjoying everything outdoors! Let's get started call /text and schedule your showing today! **\$325,000** MLS #800364
 31517 Us Highway 160 • South Fork
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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 consists 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 3/4 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
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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
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SOLD

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



Valley Publishing CALL TODAY!
719-852-3531
 Sandra Marquez — smarquez@valleypublishinginc.com
 Brian Williams — bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com

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



Valley Wide Classifieds

Burns more consistently & lasts longer so you can do more of what you want & less time carrying wood. 719-849-8261 (3-01)

36 Miscellaneous
1970 Ford F-250 camper special restorable \$800, OBO, books, I buy patches. 719-849-0975 (12-06)

For Sale: A new base board trim, electric wood splitter, Crossbow exercise machine, & one ton of coal. 719-850-2027 (12-06)

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

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

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

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Smaller, We Stock Inverters, Charge Controllers, and Batteries in Brand Names of Outback, Magnum, Aims, Rolls, and More. Custom Cables and PV Wire. Bontrager's Variety Store. 9726 S. CR 3E Monte Vista. 719-852-0500. (TFN)

42 Feed & Seed
3x3x8 horse hay, grassy alfalfa, \$90 per bale in Del Norte. Call 405-250-4508 (11-29)

48 Pets and Supplies
Large doghouse made of fiber glass. Will accommodate any size dog. \$50.00. Must pick up. call 719 379-3921. (11-22)

54 Snowmobiles/ATV's
60" ATV Show Blade Inelydes. Extended for tracks universal mount, \$300 OBO 303-358-1352. (11-08)

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

for details, 719-661-8390. (11-29)

64 Autos for Sale
1999 Ford 7.3 Diesel 4x4 \$4,500. 2006 Toyota Tundra. Excellent condition \$4,800. Suzuki Samurai 1988. Motor and transmission good. Needs interior and some body work. 405-250-4508 (11-29)

65 Professional Services
4-Ever-Cleaning Homes, Air B&B And More Call Rene 719-480-4273 For More Info. (1-04)

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



Steffens & Company Realty
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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5042 E. County Road 1 S. Monte Vista
This gorgeous brick home sits on 5 acres just East of Monte Vista. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms PLUS a large office and an INCREDIBLE shop. Scan the QR code below Dee's Picture and check out this listing in her blog for 3D interior scans of the home and shop plus a video and drone tour. This home features a domestic well and a fenced acre with a lean-to for horses. MLS#806831 \$550,000



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

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



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(719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

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



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654 Vail Pass Road South Fork
THE BEST VALUE IN SOUTH FORK! This 3 bedroom 1 bath home sits on 1 acre and has a well and septic. It's a stick-built home, not a modular or mobile home. Scan the QR code - this one has an interior 3D scan, video tour and drone video too! MLS# 804011 \$199,900



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



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Two adjacent lots in South Fork totaling 1/2 acre. All utilities available at the lot line. Air B&B OK subject to town guidelines. MLS#808211 \$38,000 each



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



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



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(719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

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



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(719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

Dates set for a Holiday in Creede

By LYNDIE FERRELL
CREEDE — The picturesque small mountain town of Creede is gearing up for the coming holiday season and has set some dates for the annual Chocolate Festival and the second annual Holiday in Creede. Creede is preparing to pull out all the stops and plans to transform into a winter wonderland for the holidays. Thanks to the efforts of several local businesses and organizations the Holiday in Creede was a huge success last year. The market features local vendors, artists, local businesses, local food, and entertainment, including holiday productions by Creede Repertory Theatre. This combined with the atmosphere of the small mountain town creates the perfect

holiday setting with old holiday market flair. Beginning with the annual Creede Chocolate Festival on Nov. 24 and 25, the town will be kicking off a month of holiday festivities in December. The festival goes from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. each day and the annual Parade of Lights will be on Friday night, Nov. 24, at 5 p.m. and run-down Main Street. The annual event brings the best of Creede to the forefront, challenging participants to make a unique chocolate treat to share with ticket holders for two days. Rules for the event are simple, the treat must contain chocolate, carob, white chocolate, or cocoa and must be homemade. Visitors must purchase tickets at the Creede and Mineral County Chamber



File photos
The annual Creede Chocolate Festival and Second Annual Holiday in Creede markets will kick off at the end of November and run through the holidays at the end of December.

Paint and sip fundraiser for AHS After Prom Nov. 16

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa High School After Prom Committee will host a paint and sip fundraiser beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 16 at the Wet Paintbrush.

The cost is \$40 and will benefit this year's After Prom event. The featured painting is a Christmas snow globe. To purchase a ticket or for more information, email AHSafterprom24@gmail.com.

Holiday Bake Sale and Bazaar set for Nov. 17

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Christian Reformed Church will be having its Holiday Bake Sale and Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 17, and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18. Cinnamon rolls, coffee, and cider will

be served on both days, and there will be many vendors with great gifts. The event will be held at the Waverly Youth and Community Center, 1836 County Road 10 South in Alamosa County. For directions or information, call 717-589-2072 or 719-589-2001.

of Commerce for the event and are asked to vote for their favorites by the end of each day. During the two-day period, guests can wander through downtown Creede's many shops and vendors that will be open and ready for holiday shoppers. After the Chocolate Festival, there are still several opportunities to enjoy the charming downtown holiday

decorations and take part in the Holiday in Creede markets that will be held on Dec. 9 and Dec. 16 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Each market will feature children's activities, vendors for holiday shopping, adult beverages allowed within the boundaries of the market near Basham Park, and entertainment from Eliana Joy Jay Trio thanks to the Creede Musical

Arts Collective. The Creede Repertory Theatre will also be hosting a production of "Jacob Marley's A Christmas Carol" throughout December. To sign up as a vendor, email creedefarmersmarket@gmail.com or to volunteer to help set up decorations, follow Creede Holiday Festivities on Facebook for dates and locations.

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle

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6		3						
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Fun By The Numbers
 Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

A	B	A	S		M	A	N	T	E	S					
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Photo by Marie Mccolm

During the First Friday Art Reception, the Kosmowski family performed and talked about their art.

First Friday Art Reception features Kosmowski family

By MARIE MCCOLM

CRESTONE — The Baca Grande Library hosted the First Friday Art Reception on Friday, Nov. 3, featuring the Kosmowski family. About 20 people attended the reception. Light refreshments were served. Noemi Kosmowski and her husband, Chris, were two of the featured artists with several of their paintings hanging on the walls.

The Kosmowski's are singers as well, and while the crowd drank their choice of water, soda, or wine that was served, the two sang many songs including, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," and many other well-known favorites.

Noemi Kosmowski spoke about her art in between the music.

"Thank you all for coming to see all this work that we have done," she said. "I have many paintings here. My husband Chris of 41 years is also a painter. He has painted many things over the years. He used to only paint sports, and musicians, and now he is painting modern landscapes. He also paints T-shirts. There is a gentleman who came today, and he is wearing Chris's T-shirt. He paints bigger paintings also and has some on display in Vail, but they are giant paintings. I am a spiritual painter, but I really paint anything. I paint Budha, Jesus, Uganda. You name it I am doing it, dragons, spiritual wolves. I love to paint spiritual things. Thank you all for coming. Please eat, drink, and enjoy."

Noemi Kosmowski said that she has been painting her entire life. She cannot remember a time when she was not painting.

"The painting it is in my blood. My genes decided this for me. I am from three generations of artists," she said. "I was painting before I was walking. I was raised in my father's art studio. I have

been painting all my life. The only time I didn't paint was when I was a teenager. I said I would never paint or marry an artist and exactly the opposite is what happened to me."

She said she can remember painting with her kids when they were little.

"It is a tough choice, but I cannot do anything else. I think this was fate. It's like great performers on stage, it drives me every day. I paint until midnight every night. I go home, I eat, I talk with my family, and I paint," she said.

Noemi Kosmowski spoke about the paintings hanging at the Baca Grande Library and being a teacher.

"I teach art also. I have classes at my studio in town," she said. "These are my three pictures here. One of them looks like my students did it, they helped me. The other two I did the work on."

Kosmowski pointed at three pieces of art. One of them looked like two dragonflies intertwined on a leaf, the painting that her students helped her with. One was a vision of two peacocks standing together, and the third appeared to be a spiritual circle with different splashes of color throughout the circle.

The Kosmowski's recently opened a small art gallery in town, and they are proud of the gallery.

"We like that our art is displayed there," she said. "We were made the offer to join other people there. It is a tiny gallery but perfect for our paintings. Everything around you is art. The art is the one thing that is most important to me. There is art in everything. If you look around there is art in paintings, there is art in everything. The coffee mug you drink out of is art. The world is art. If I am not painting, I am thinking about painting and about the art. Painting is my life. It is how I live; it is my fate."

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

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6247-0121

MV Chamber Holiday Bazaar kicks off holiday festivities

By MONTE VISTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce Holiday Bazaar will kick off the holiday festivities in Monte Vista on Dec. 1 and 2 at the Outcall Event and Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex.

Farmers, ranchers continue to battle dry conditions

By DIANE DREKMAN COSTILLA AND CONEJOS COUNTY — Some farms and ranches in the southern San Luis Valley continue to struggle with dry conditions, despite some parts of Costilla and Conejos counties battling flooding earlier this year.

Costilla County cattle rancher Bob Johnson says, "It's been rough on everyone. Some people have had to sell their cattle to make ends meet. It's dry as a bone."

Conejos County sheep farmer Elena Miller Ter-Kuile of Cactus Hill Farm, shares Johnson's sentiment.

"It has been so dry. We struggled to keep things growing...We need the moisture," she said.

Both come from agricultural backgrounds with families that have been farming and ranching for generations.

Johnson worked on his grandfather's farm and his ex-wife's dairy farm in Wisconsin. Ter-Kuile's grandfather was a sheepherder in northern New Mexico and settled in Capulin.

As a farmer or rancher, one has to be optimistic.

"Hopefully next year we pray will be better. We'll get rain again," Johnson remarked.

Ter-Kuile said, "The season was good minus the drought."

People who are not in agriculture may not understand the role the weather and more plays in the daily life of a rancher or farmer.

"We have to battle Mother Nature and nature, like worrying about coyotes getting our animals," said Johnson, who has seen a lot of changes since moving to San Luis Valley seven years ago to raise cattle.

"Not good changes...If things continue there won't be a San Luis Valley in 25 years," he said. "The population has grown, people coming with their ideas wanting to change things."

In addition to battling the elements, predators and more, cattle ranchers like Johnson are battling the court system as well. Colorado is a fence out state. State law allows open grazing. Cattle graze on the open land alongside wild horses. Shepherds herd their sheep to their summer and winter pastures.

People can put up a fence on their property to keep out the grazing animals. Costilla County Commissioners are proposing something "opposite to state, that outlaws open grazing...and people are getting penalized for grazing," as Johnson what is being proposed.

Doing this Johnson says, "would hurt everyone. People would have to buy feed and find water...San Luis Valley needs to be left alone. They have had it the same way for centuries. We will be fine."

He has a word of advice for those who are moving from the city to San Luis Valley.

"Life is slower here. You need to go with the flow," he added.

Ter-Kuile grazes her sheep on private property and was not aware of the Costilla County proposal.

Cactus Hill Farm specializes in brightly colored handspun yarn from her many varieties of over 300 sheep she owns. For more information, visit online www.cactushillfarm.com.

This magical event is a perfect opportunity to start your holiday shopping. Local artisans, craftsmen, and businesses will offer their products and services at the bazaar. The Holiday Bazaar will be open to the public from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Vendor and sponsorship registration is open through Nov. 17. If you would like to become a vendor and or sponsor, visit montevistachamber.org or call 719-852-2731.

The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce will have a Christmas Raffle at the Holiday Bazaar — "You don't want to miss these prizes!" Raffle tickets are \$3 each or \$10 for four tickets.

If you are naughty or nice, come out to the Holiday Bazaar to see Santa and The Grinch at Whoville!

Professional photography packages with Santa and The Grinch will be available for purchase for children, families, and pets. You can make photo reservations by scanning

the QR code or by contacting Kim Marquez Photography at 719-992-8288. Photo sessions will be held from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, and Pet Photos from 3-4 p.m., and from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Bundle up for the Christmas Carriage Rides at the Holiday Bazaar, only available from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2. Listen to the sleigh bells as you take a ride around the arena at Ski Hi Park in a horse-drawn covered carriage. The cost is \$7 each for children and \$10 for adults. Cash

only. Following the Holiday Bazaar, join Santa and The Grinch on the Colorado Pacific Rio Grande Railroad Christmas Train from 4-6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2, at Fullenwider Park. Operation Lifesaver Coloring Books will be given to all children who come to see the Christmas Train! Community tree lighting and Christmas carols will begin at 5:15 p.m. at Fullenwider Park. Parade of Lights to follow at 6 p.m. in Downtown Monte Vista.

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ASU is changing the world, one food studies graduate at a time

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — Food is about more than what goes into the body. Each bite signifies different policies, production methods and social implications that affect everybody in the world.

That's why the food studies program at Adams State University is a diverse menu of classes based on four intertwined ingredients — health and wellness, sustainability, business and food policy, and sociology. Students work toward a Bachelor of Arts in interdisciplinary studies as they explore the importance and impact of food on human existence.

Their head chef, so to speak, is Reilly Caldwell, the university's food studies program coordinator and lecturer. She masterfully blends her knowledge of sustainable communities with her passion for human rights, energized by the goal of educating and enlightening students whose skills can improve the world.

"I feel like food is an accessible way to feel like you're making a difference, and to actually make a difference," says Caldwell, who grew up in Maryland and received her bachelor's in sustainable development from Appalachian State University, plus a minor in Spanish. She moved to Flagstaff, Ariz., for grad school at Northern Arizona University, where her thesis focused on the limitation of food access in Mohave County. The poverty rate there is 42 percent higher than the state's average.

She explored food shortage from multiple perspectives: What were the influencing factors? The current realities? The potential solutions?

Today, Grizzly students consider and discuss those kinds of big-picture questions during courses such as FOOD 250: Community Food Systems, KIN 120: Concepts in Wellness and SOC 425: Environment and Society.

"The first class of the program is called perspectives on food, and the whole point of the class is to look at food through different lenses," Caldwell says. "We had a week about nutrition and medicine and their relationships with food. We had a week about identity and

food. Another about the economy and food. At the moment, we're doing culture and food. We're learning about all of these different aspects that are intertwined — ones many of us don't necessarily think about."

In the same week, food studies students might explore how different regions and religions approach food, the complexity of economic models in the food industry, and innovative ways to approach agriculture. They get a holistic view of food, plus a career-helping deep dive into their chosen area of emphasis (health and wellness, sustainability, business and food policy, or sociology).

"The beauty of food studies is you can do so many different things with it, but if you're a food studies student concentrating on, say, health and wellness, it directs you in a certain way," Caldwell says. The program prepares graduates for a variety of food-related careers, including agronomists, chefs, food safety specialists, community lobbyists and nutrition educators.

Food studies students also benefit from the program's partnerships with local and regional community members and businesses, which provide access to internships and hands-on learning opportunities. Those partners include Rio Grande Farm Park, SLV Local Food Coalition, Valley Roots Food Hub, Gosar Ranch Natural Foods, and Rocky Farms.

"These connections are great because I can take students out to the Rio Grande Farm Park, and they can see that kind of farming, which is very diverse and community-oriented," Caldwell says. "And then I can also take them to one of the biggest potato growers in the San Luis Valley, and they can see what a farm looks like when it's 1,900 acres. Those connections are great experiences for students, and it's also helpful for them to realize that food-related issues are right here in their own backyard."

All the while, these Grizzlies aren't just preparing for food careers. They're cultivating the tools needed to nourish and transform the world, guided by passionate educators like Caldwell.



Courtesy photo
Reilly Caldwell is the food studies instructor at Adams State. Registration for spring classes begins Nov. 1.

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South Fork prepares for Christmas cheer

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

SOUTH FORK — With the Thanksgiving holiday only weeks away, towns throughout the San Luis Valley are setting their sights on the coming season and South Fork is getting ready to host its annual Yuletide Celebration and Winterfest.

The annual event began several years ago during the very first days that the South Fork Friends Foundation was formed. During that time, it was initially called the Friends of South Fork until they combined their efforts with those by the Greater South Fork Community Foundation and thus the South Fork Friends Foundation was formed.

The group works with several different organizations in and beyond the South Fork Community to bring opportunity to the area and to support different events like the Yuletide Celebration and Winterfest. Funds raised during these events are then given to community projects such as the new ice-skating rink/basketball court.

One of the first events held by the organization was the South Fork Parade of Lights and Yuletide Celebration and in the years since its inception, the event has grown into something the community looks forward to each year.

The weekend starts with the annual South Fork Kiwanis Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23. The event runs from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and includes a full-course meal, to-go orders, and a chance to give back to the community with a coat and food drive.

The following night visitors are invited to come and participate in the Yuletide Celebration. The park surrounding the South Fork Visitor

Center is adorned with lights and is transformed into a winter wonderland on the evening of Friday, Nov. 24. The event features the lighting ceremony at dusk, refreshments, entertainment, and a visit from the jolly old man himself! Santa will be adding to his Christmas wish list throughout the evening.

The next morning on Nov. 25, visitors are encouraged to head over to the Rio Grande Club and Resort for the annual Winterfest, which is a wonderful opportunity to get out and

do some holiday shopping without having to worry about the crowds in larger communities. The Winterfest features local artists and vendors with unique wares and a great place to find that perfect gift for family and friends.

These annual events are a great way to get the holiday spirit rolling so come on out and join in the fun! For more information or a full schedule of events, visit www.southfork.org or by visiting the South Fork Friends Foundation on its Facebook page.



File photos

The annual Yuletide Celebration in South Fork is set for Nov. 24 at the South Fork Visitor Center. The following day will feature the annual South Fork Winterfest hosted at the Rio Grande Club and Resort.

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