



Shorts

Christmas tree permit sales options

By RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST

DEL NORTE — Christmas tree permits for the Rio Grande National Forest are now available to purchase in person or online and will remain on sale through the coming holiday season.

How to obtain Christmas tree permits:

- Permits can be purchased at www.recreation.gov by searching "Rio Grande Christmas Tree."

- Rio Grande National Forest district offices in Saguache, Del Norte and La Jara have the permits for sale from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Visit one of our valuable Christmas tree permit vendors. Navigate to our Rio Grande National Forest Christmas Tree page or interactive map, to get the most up to date vendor locations.

Below are current vendors that have permits:

- Kristi Mountain Sports – 3223 Main St., Alamosa
- Green Spot Garden Center – 711 State Ave., Alamosa
- South Fork Visitor Center – 28 Silver Thread Ln., South Fork
- Monte Vista COOP – 1901 US Highway 160, Monte Vista
- San Juan Sports – 102 S. Main St., Creede
- Creede/Mineral County Chamber of Commerce – 904 S. Main St., Creede

Costs and rules associated with the permits:

Permits cost \$8 per tree. If bought online, there will be a processing fee added. Users must have a permit with them to harvest a Christmas tree. Several rules apply to this activity and can be found at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/Rio_Grande_Christmas_Tree.

For information on the Rio Grande National Forest, call 719-850-2374.

Santa is coming to Crestone

By LORI NAGEL

CRESTONE — Santa's visiting Crestone once again this year, this time at the "And so this is Christmas..." Holiday Bazaar, which is being held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 25, at the T Road Brewing Company, 120 W. Silver Ave., upholding the tradition of a holiday fair being held in Crestone the weekend after Thanksgiving.

There will be vendors and carolers, and T Road will have refreshments available. Kick off the season right, support your local artisans, and get a big dose of the holiday spirit. There will be many handmade and one-of-a-kind gifts you can purchase early and get shipped off to non-local friends and

family to beat the holiday rush.

For the kids, the bazaar will offer unique holiday arts and crafts to keep them safely entertained, including ornament-making. If all goes as planned, they may even get to make ornaments with their own pictures in there, taken and printed by Lori Nagel (Sunflower).

Nagel will have her holiday photo booth set up all day, offering on-site

Please see SANTA on Page 2A

Santa will again be visiting Crestone during the Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 25, at T Road Brewing Company. Santa will be there from 1 to 3 p.m.

Photo by Lori Nagel



T-Road Brewing Company and Nick Nevares host Community Thanksgiving Dinner



Courtesy photo

Nick Nevares collaborated with T-Road Brewing Company in Crestone for a community Thanksgiving potluck meal on Nov. 19.

By MARIE MCCOLM

CRESTONE — On Sunday, Nov. 19, the T-Road Brewing Company along with Crestone's Nick Nevares, hosted a community Thanksgiving potluck meal, from 12 to 5 p.m. According to Nevares, the event was a success with approximately 500 people showing up for Thanksgiving dinner.

"I coordinated around 30 turkeys to be cooked," Nevares said. "My local MLS donated money, and a variety of other people donated money to the Crestone Mercantile, and then they gave us the turkeys for wholesale. The remainder of the food was all potluck, so people just brought in the rest of the spread. It was all lovely."

T-Road Brewing Company was decked out with festive lights outside of the establishment. Just inside the door, the smell of freshly cooked turkey wafted through the air. A large table was set up in front of some bar stools, that held trays full of turkey. Two tables were set up next to the turkey table that had rolls and sweet potatoes. On

Please see DINNER on Page 5A

NSCLD Director Frey will be leaving the library

Open houses to say goodbye are scheduled

By MARIE MCCOLM

SAGUACHE — After almost 13 years of service to the Northern Saguache County Library District, Director Sarah Koehn Frey will be leaving the library district on Dec. 22.

There will be two open houses to celebrate her time in service to the libraries, one at the Baca Grande Library on Thursday, Dec. 21, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and one at the Saguache Public Library on Friday, Dec. 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The library district was established in 2011. At that time, the district had about 1,200 visits per month. Over almost 13 years, the library now has 3,200 visits per month. The district attributes this to Frey.

In 2011, the libraries did not look like they do now. Frey, her husband Eric, along with many other volunteers worked hard to renovate

Please see LIBRARY on Page 2A

ASU Theatre holiday production opens Dec. 1



Photo courtesy of Adams State University
The Adams State Theatre Annual Holiday Performance opens December 1, on the SLV Federal Bank Main Stage, located in the Theatre Building.

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — Laughter is the perfect gift this holiday season as Adams State University Theatre presents "The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong." Tickets go on sale online Monday, Nov. 13, at theatre.adams.edu.

"The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong," directed by John H. Taylor, Ph.D., is the 20th holiday season production the theatre department has produced since 2004. This family-friendly farce follows the antics of

an amateur theatre company on the opening night of their winter play. Dr. Taylor notes: "From their pre-show activities to the final moments of their ill-fated performance, everything possible goes wrong. While giving their best effort, these actors are still perfectly awful, but wonderfully funny."

In this 80-minute comedy written by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields, it is opening night of the Cornley University Drama Society's newest production, "The Murder at Haversham Manor,"

where things are quickly going from bad to utterly disastrous. This 1920s whodunit has everything you never wanted in a show — an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can't play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines). Nevertheless, the accident-prone thespians battle against all odds to make it through to their final curtain call. Part Monty Python, part Sherlock Holmes, this award-winning comedy is full of laughs and comic surprises.

"I chose to direct this play because,"
Please see PLAY on Page 2A

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Museum reports Smithsonian 'Crossroads' exhibition resounding success

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The San Luis Valley Museum in cooperation with Colorado Humanities, continues its exploration of the evolving landscape of rural America as it hosts the local showing of "Crossroads: Change in Rural America," a Smithsonian traveling exhibition. "Crossroads" will be on view through Nov. 25.

San Luis Valley Museum and the surrounding community was expressly chosen by the Colorado Humanities to host "Crossroads" as part of the Museum on Main Street project — a

national/state/local partnership to bring exhibitions and programs to rural cultural organizations. After it leaves Alamosa in November, the exhibition will travel to eight more communities in Colorado before it returns to the Smithsonian; an itinerary is available at <https://coloradohumanities.org/programs/museum-on-main-street/>.

"Crossroads" takes a broad look at the characteristics of rural America. It explores how an attraction to and interaction with the land formed the basis of our rural culture, and how rural communities and small towns evolve

and change. It also highlights how change transformed rural America, especially during the 1900s, and how rural Americans are evolving for the future.

"We are very pleased with the community's reaction thus far to 'Crossroads,'" said Jeff Myers, San Luis Valley Museum director. "Over 40 people attended our opening event and our visitor count so far has been wonderful. People are coming from

as far away as New Mexico to see the exhibition and visit our community. It's great exposure for the museum and the town. And our public programs have been fascinating and well-received."

Upcoming program events include guest author Pete Anderson at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 17, at the museum. For a complete listing of related programs, call 719-587-0667.

"Crossroads" is part of Museum on Main Street, a unique collaboration

between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation, and local host institutions. To learn more visit www.museumonmainstreet.org, www.sites.si.edu, or <https://coloradohumanities.org>.

Support for MoMS has been provided by the U.S. Congress, Colorado Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

LIBRARY

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and redesign the libraries to make them both look amazing. There were many upgrades made to the libraries including furniture, shelving units, new flooring, the lighting was also upgraded, and new office equipment was added. The improvements really made a difference and helped Frey form important relationships with the library staff and patrons who use the library.

Another accomplishment of Frey was her ability to build network relationships with not only library staff, but also other statewide agencies, for an expansion of library resources. As an example, the stand-alone collection of information at the library was about 15,000 in 2011, since then the district has been able to collaborate with libraries across Colorado to share regular and audio books and bring in DVDs. The new

collection is now in the thousands for patrons to enjoy.

Frey has given many unique and wonderful benefits to her community. The district has stated that she has served the community with passion, joy, and genuine love for the libraries, staff, and her community. The district has also stated that she has provided exceptional work, with the finances for the district always being secure and carefully managed by her.

Frey has also worked hard to obtain grants and has done so much more than just provide a light and an open door to her community for these exceptional library resources.

The district wishes to extend their thanks to Frey for such exceptional work and dedication. The district has stated that she has made the libraries joyful work environments, where staff

can follow their passions. She has also helped the district offer increased pay, healthcare benefits, and caring time off for staff members.

Frey's job will be taken over by Matt Pettigrew, who will become the Operational Co-Director, and Amy Garoutte, who will be the Administrative Co-Director of the library district.

The public as well as the community are invited to attend the open houses to wish Sarah well and thank her for all her service to the library districts.

Included in the open houses will also be a book that everyone is welcome to sign and share memories of Sarah with. The book will be passed between both libraries during the open houses. For more information on the events, you may contact the Baca Grande Library or the Saguache Public Library.

OBITUARY

William (Bill) Alan Pearsall

The family of William (Bill) Alan Pearsall of Monte Vista, Colo., is saddened to announce his passing on Oct. 3, 2023, at the age of 64. Bill was born Dec. 1, 1958, in Monte Vista, Colo., and baptized in Rock Creek.

Bill graduated from Monte Vista High School and went on to study psychology at Adams State College. He was phenomenally well read, fond of the classics and had an encyclopedic knowledge of many topics and would argue with the best.

Bill was a trained machinist and worked in construction.

Music was a big part of his life. He grew up listening to his mother play piano and organ. He picked up keyboards and then later guitar and liked playing his stereo for friends, usually loud. He liked the Beatles and Star Trek. He was an avid fan of any Colorado sports team and a tried-and-true Bronco's maniac. Bill and his mother often said, "If God isn't a Bronco fan, then why are sunrises and sunsets orange and blue?"

His best friend was his mother. One might say he spent years taking care of her, her house and yard; the reality is that they took care of each other until her passing in June of 2019. Bill was never the same and missed his mother deeply. That is likely why his battle with cancer was short. He was ready to be with his mother again. I can only imagine the conversations they are catching up on.

Bill was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Alvah (Al) Leroy Pearsall and Cecilia Sophia



Humpert; maternal grandparents, John Corydon Streeter and Blanche Evalyn Wartman; parents, William (Bill) Eugene Pearsall and Dorothy Lee Streeter; brothers-in-law, Kerry Lee Gilmore and Rick Batista; nephew, Brian Lee Hartzell and three grandnephews, Kathan Tyler Bridge, Jordan Shon Conrad Pearsall and Mason James Madone. Bill will be lovingly remembered by his brother James (Sharon) Pearsall, Geneseo, Kan.; sisters, Fawn Batista, Florissant, Colo., Sandra (Jack) Maertens, Monte Vista, Colo.; nieces, Marci Heath, Geneseo, KS, Jodi Madone and Jamie Pearsall, Canon City, CO; nephews Kevin and Jared (De Anna) Hartzell, Florissant, Colo.; our matriarch and his aunt Marjie Taylor and her family, Monte Vista, Colo., and several grand and great-grandnieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at the Monte Vista Community Methodist Church on Wednesday, Nov. 29, at 1 p.m. At a later time, Bill will join his father's ashes at Bishop Rock up Rock Creek, Monte Vista, Colo.

PLAY

Continued from Page 1A

in these trying times, we need a little levity. It feels like we all could use some laughter to escape the realities of our world today. And during the holiday season, as we gather as family and friends, what better way to spend time together than laughing and enjoying the silly, over-the-top silly antics in this slapstick comedy," said Taylor.

Public performances of "The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong" run at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 1, 8, and 9; and 2 p.m., Dec. 3, on the San Luis Valley Federal Bank Main Stage, located in the Theatre Building. The Share the Magic benefit

performance for La Puente Home is Dec. 2 and the Adams State alumni performance is 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 10. The production is sponsored in part through the generosity of Billings Electric and Valley Lock and Security.

Tickets are \$13 for the general public and free to Associated Students and Faculty (AS&F) with current Adams State I.D. Starting November 13, tickets may be purchased online at theatre.adams.edu. For telephone or in-person ticket orders, the box office number is 719-587-8499. The box office will open from 3 until 5

SANTA

Continued from Page 1A

prints of your pictures. Santa will be visiting from 1-3 p.m., and the kids will receive some stellar gift bags, once again being coordinated by Cathy Goevert. If you'd like to donate toys or treats for the children, either text Goevert at 720-402-6430 or message her on Facebook, or contact Lori Booth at troadbrewingco@gmail.com. They would like to receive all donations by Nov. 23 to give them enough time to assemble and organize the gifts.

To be affordable and profitable for vendors, booths will cost just \$15 for an outdoor booth and \$25 for an indoor one, on a first-come, first-served basis. Vendor applications are available at

www.crestonmeansbusiness.com/holidaybazaar along with the most updated information about this event.

Patrons can make a whole day of it at T-Road with live music from the band, CresTown, starting at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 25, also happens to be Small Business Saturday — a day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for their communities.

Thanks to all the volunteers who are making this possible: Lori and Mike Booth and T Road Brewing Company, Arielle Blackwell, Christina Lakish, Cathy Goevert, Eden Elderberry, Lori Nagel, and Shirley Motz; all of whom are dedicated to making this an event to remember.

OBITUARY POLICY

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

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

additional fee.

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

p.m. Monday through Friday the week before Thanksgiving and again starting on Nov. 27. AS&F tickets for faculty, staff, and students must be ordered through the box office.



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

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Riding the magic carpet

Just this past weekend Ol' Dutch decided to make the long journey up to Kansas and some of my past digs to see family.

Fast Freddy, my father these past 67 years, needed a visit and so Miss Trixie and I pointed the Jeep north and soon were basking in the flat lands of my youth.

It was good to get together and the trip had a two-fold purpose as my nephew had recently married and was having a reception and so we took my dad and mom up to that event.

Mom wanted to make a day of it so since five members of the family had recently purchased new homes, we visited all of them so Mom could see all the decorating they had done. At each house, she and Trixie would take the grand tour while the men of the house, Dad and I would sit in the living room waiting because men generally don't care what bedspreads are on the beds or pictures are on the walls.

I think the most interesting thing about the trip was getting to drive my Dad's new Nissan Rogue car to the reception and around the house tour. I had not been in a newer car for some time and boy was I in for a treat.

No sooner had I hit the onramp for the interstate, but the darned thing started to talk to me. Now I am used to the phone bossing me around, but this thing dinged and beeped and whizzed constantly.

If a car came up beside us it dinged and beeped and a light came on over by the side mirror to warn you about the danger in the blind spot. The navigation screen was unbelievable, giving me all sorts of information most of which I did not need but found entertaining.

I was just getting comfortable driving and had found the cruise control and had settled back for a nice long drive up the interstate when something very disturbing happened. Suddenly I found myself fighting some invisible force that was trying to take over the steering.

This wasn't like Miss Trixie and her back seat driving instructions, but it felt like actual hands were turning the wheel as we sped along at 75 mph. I about halfway panicked until Fast Freddy explained that it is the self-driving mode.

For it seems it has this function much like a Swami riding a magic carpet that looks out ahead and follows the lines on the pavement. It was difficult to get used to I have to admit but the farther I went the better it seemed and soon I dreamed



Trout Republic by Kevin Kirkpatrick

of just taking my hands off the wheel and browsing the Internet for house materials.

But that idea was squashed as Dad said it would slow down and stop if you took your hands off the wheel so there goes that idea.

So, we sped along out of my control and soon entered some traffic. Now the car began to slow and match the speed of the traffic ahead. And Ol' Dutch, even the big thinker began to realize that a person can probably get a pretty good nap with this car as it will pretty much take care of you no matter where you go.

And since I cannot hear, the dings and beeps would not keep me awake either. It took me some time but soon I came up with the idea of getting some of those Halloween hands to put on the steering wheel and then Ol' Dutch could put the old chair back and catch some serious ZZZ's.

Miss Trixie, upon hearing this idea let out a sigh and I could tell that at least with her along I would never get to experience the jet-set age of new-fangled inventions we are living with. Obviously, she has more to live for than Ol' Dutch as she always makes me pay attention when driving anywhere.

We had a great time coming and going and if the darned thing would just see the deer and elk and avoid them it would be about as good as we can get. It may not be the Jetsons future that we were promised folks, but it's getting there anyway.

Wherever you are on this Thanksgiving weekend, I pray you have plenty of food and lots of love.

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.



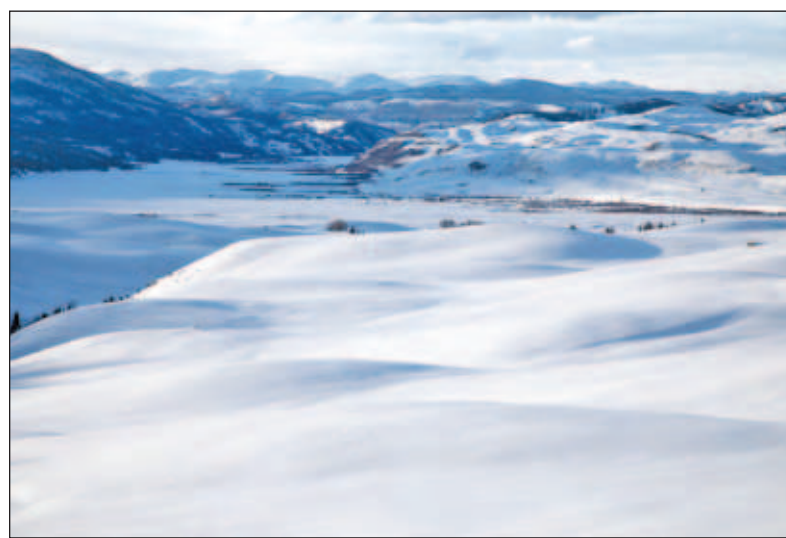
Winter in the Mountains

To set the scene, I've been working at the Ranger Station for about 6 to 8 months. I've been through spring's mud season, summer's recreation season, and am now experiencing the hunting and woodcutting season. I play a game when someone pulls up to the office, trying to guess why they've stopped by. Sometimes they make it easy when they stop by early in the day with an empty trailer or stake truck bed and a chainsaw.

The phone calls are usually more varied, although many times the underlying question is "How long until I can't get into the forest?" On this particular day, the first phone call was a little more unusual. "We're going to be visiting the Rio Grande National Forest in late December, what can we do?" I'll admit, the question stumped me for a moment. What could they do? Keep in mind, I've spent my summer telling people about hiking and OHV trails, all of which will be covered in snow by late December. And apparently, I spend most of my time in the forest doing

summer things, because winter recreation ideas weren't occurring to me. "Ummm, I guess you could snowshoe or cross-country ski..." and then the ideas started flowing; there's a pretty good ski area in the forest, ice-fishing, sledding, maybe you could find someone who rents out snowmobiles or does tours. And an old mountain man taught me how to build snow caves when I was kid that I've heard make comfortable camping shelters, although I've never slept in one.

If that old timer were around today, he'd probably tell me that just because there's snow on the ground doesn't mean you can't get out and enjoy the outdoors. Like hiking? Throw on some snowshoes. OHV riding? Snowmobiles are a great option. Camping? There are some cold-weather options. Fishing? All



you've got to do is cut a hole in the ice.

Of course, that same old timer had a lot of experience with high mountain winters. He'd be the first to warn you of how dangerous winter in the mountains can be, and he had some harrowing stories to illustrate his point. Take all the hazards of mountains in

the summertime — like altitude sickness, abrupt weather changes, exhaustion, and disorientation, and add in winter specialties like hypothermia, tree wells, and avalanche danger, and the mountains in the winter can be treacherous.

So, if we're going to enjoy the mountains in the winter, we're going to need to prepare ourselves. In addition to the necessary gear to be safe in the mountains in the summer, be sure to have warm layers, proper foot gear including snowshoes and crampons, and emergency equipment such as a shovel and avalanche gear, plus any specialized equipment you'll need for your particular activity. It's important to prepare in other ways too. Know where you're going and tell someone else. Have a map and

compass and know how to use them; sometimes our beloved technology fails. Check the weather and the avalanche conditions before you go, and be aware that conditions can change quickly, so don't hesitate to turn around if the weather changes, or you come across some dangerous-looking snow conditions. Know what dangerous snow conditions look like. And know what to do when things go wrong. That old mountain man wasn't teaching me how to build a snow cave just because it was fun, he was teaching me survival skills that may have saved his life at some point in the past and may save mine sometime in the future.

My old friend loved the mountains, and because he was careful and used his knowledge and experience, he enjoyed being out in the mountains all his considerably long lifetime. I hope we all take a page from his lengthy book and enjoy the beautiful Rio Grande National Forest all year round.

Kelly Defaye is the San Juan Mountains Association's Visitor Information Coordinator for the Rio Grande National Forest. Having grown up in the San Luis Valley, she has always considered the surrounding mountains her happy place.

Land Water and People By KELLY DEFAYE

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Kit Carson Mountain may get a new name

Saguache County Commissioners support a name change

By JOHN WATERS
SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAINS — Kit Carson Mountain in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains is under consideration for a name change in a proposal before the Colorado Geographical Naming Advisory Board. The proposition references Carson's violence against Navajo and Apache tribes in the 1800s. Carson was a frontier legend, fur trapper, wilderness guide, Indian agent, and U.S. Army officer. In 1865, Carson became the commander of Fort Garland.

The board was created by Governor Jared Polis in 2020 to evaluate proposals concerning name changes, new names, and name controversies of geographic features and certain public places in the State of Colorado and then make official recommendations to the governor.

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

On Nov. 7, Saguache County

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

In a statement to the Valley Courier, Commissioner Liza Marron wrote, "Kit Carson was noted for his bravery in settling the West, however, he was involved in the massacres of indigenous peoples and suppression of the Apache and Dine among others. This genocide should not be celebrated.

"It turns out two lower peaks of Kit Carson Mountain have already been renamed; Challenger and Columbia. I would be in favor of a rename of the highest peak, while consulting the community of Crestone and the Ute and Dine people."

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

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



Photo by John Waters

Kit Carson Mountain is nestled near these peaks in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Currently, the Colorado Geographical Naming Advisory Board is considering a name change. Recently, the Saguache County Board of Commissioners voted in favor of changing the name to a yet-to-be-determined name.

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

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

According to the federal geographic naming board, in 2008, a proposal was submitted to the BGN to change the name of Kit Carson Mountain to

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

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

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

Requests for comment from Crestone Mayor Karina Danforth were not received by press time.

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SLV Great Outdoors receives \$10K grant from Outdoor Recreation Roundtable

STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) announced on Thursday, Nov. 16, that San Luis Valley Great Outdoors will receive a \$10,000 award to build increased community resilience through outdoor recreation.

SLV Great Outdoors will use the award to further access the outdoors for all members of the community. "Recreation Economy for Rural Communities allows our community to come together around common goals. This grant comes at a serendipitous time and gives us the ability and opportunity to hear from the community about what they would like to see for their community," said Mick Daniel, Executive Director of San Luis Valley Great Outdoors. "We can talk about tourism, we can talk about outdoor recreation, but in the end, it's going to be the community that is going to be using this resource. What do they want? What are they going to do? How are they going to treat it? Now we've got a story, we have momentum, the passion behind this project is astounding, and we are ready."

This will include the building

of a bilingual marketing toolkit, reviving their website and creating a social media timeline to share work and upcoming events, and developing an environmental education program for students to integrate into existing outdoor programs in Monte Vista.

"Having grown up in the San Luis Valley, I know the potential for Monte Vista to grow its outdoor recreation economy in a manner that is true to the community's history, values, and priorities while providing numerous health and economic benefits," said Conor Hall, Director of Colorado's Outdoor Recreation Industry Office, "This grant aligns nicely with investment our office has made in the region for trail planning and increased access to the outdoors. We are grateful to have close partners like ORR and The VF Foundation in these efforts."

Through this grant, ORR continues its charge to provide support, information, and resources to rural communities seeking to create economic opportunities through outdoor recreation.

"ORR is thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with a community like Monte Vista to

support their vision for a strong, local outdoor recreation economy," said Chris Perkins, Vice President of Outdoor Recreation Roundtable. "We look forward to seeing Monte Vista's project take shape over the next year and know that it will help even more Coloradans and visitors alike experience the benefits of time spent outside in the spectacular places surrounding Monte Vista."

This grant is made possible by The VF Foundation, which seized on the opportunity to support another community that applied for ORR's 2023 rural economy grant program and is furthering its mission of "Outside Matters."

"The VF Foundation believes in the power of the outdoors to transform lives and communities," said Gloria Schoch, Executive Director of The VF Foundation. "Thanks to this innovative partnership and locally-driven approach to economic development, more people than ever in the San Luis Valley will have the opportunity to experience the benefits of time outside."

The foundation is funded by the Denver-based VF Corporation which includes outdoor brands, The North Face, JanSport, Smartwool, and others.



File photo

San Luis Valley Great Outdoors receives a \$10,000 grant from the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable to build increased community resilience through outdoor recreation.



Courtesy photos

Approximately 500 people attended the community Thanksgiving potluck on Nov. 19 at T-Road Brewing Company in Crestone.

DINNER

Continued from Page 1A

the counter directly across from the turkey, were cups, plates, forks and spoons along with trays of mashed potatoes, stuffing, pumpkin and pecan pies, whip cream, and other desserts.

There were numerous tables for dining inside the establishment, with centerpieces made of fall leaves and pinecones, and some were adorned with a pear in the middle. On the corner of the tables, there was a large lit Christmas tree, with multicolored lights. There were also tables outside with large white tablecloths and chairs. A person played the piano that was inside the brewery.

People were lined up smiling and laughing, as they entered T-Road to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner. Children played outside.

Crestone resident Lori Sunflower said it was a great time.

"Everyone has been happy that has come in. The people here are just talking and enjoying the food," she said.

Many people also gave thanks to Nevares for collaborating with the T-Road Brewing Company on the wonderful event. Last year, fed more than 600 people at the Thanksgiving potluck.

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Rep. Martinez brings Latino Caucus, Speaker of the House to Valley

First time many remember seeing such a delegation in SLV

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — In two separate events, first-term Rep. Matt Martinez (D-D62) brought seven members of Colorado state legislature's Latino Caucus and Colorado's Speaker of the House Rep. Julie McCluskie to Alamosa last week where substantive conversations were held with community members about issues facing residents of the San Luis Valley. It was the first time many residents who attended the events could remember a delegation of legislators from the state making the four-hour trek from Denver, solely to learn more about the area. Martinez told the Valley Courier he arranged the tour to familiarize fellow lawmakers with relevant rural, local issues to consider when voting on future legislation.

Following Friday morning meetings with Adams State University's Vice President of Academic Affairs, Margaret Doell and the university's executive team plus a sit-down with ASU's LatinX Caucus, the legislators headed to The Barn in Alamosa where they had a two-hour roundtable discussion with local Latino elected officials and prominent community members.

The conversation began with general comments about the importance of equitable Latino representation in state government and to recognize that districts allow for less representation from rural communities. With potential opportunities for new policies, the caucus was asking what the community needs.

Erin Minks, community outreach for U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, discussed the need for transmission lines, including redundant transmission lines.

Arnold Salazar, who prefaced his comments by saying he has 40 years of experience in community mental health, feels the current mental health and behavioral health system is in disarray and proposed legislation involving implementation of the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) will create deficiencies in services. He urged legislators to back off on the implementation of the BHA.

Senate Majority Leader Robert Rodriguez agreed that communities need more support for behavior health access and the quality of those services needs to be better.

Victoria Romero (CEO of SLV Behavioral Health Group) weighed in, stating behavioral health workers are sparse in rural areas due to salaries and workforce challenges. Not everything can be done through telehealth, she says, and they are seeing more need for in-person services.

Azarel Madrigal, outreach for U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper, emphasized the need to "have a balance of housing," citing Chaffee County where businesses can't hire a workforce because there is no housing

available.

As a Veteran, Alamosa City Councilor Griego discussed the challenges when the federal and state governments have different definitions of a disability.

Proposition HH was discussed with Rep. Martinez stating his reasons for opposing the bill and Sen. Rodriguez acknowledging it's a different conversation in cities versus rural areas. He also highlighted that, with budget stabilization, more money for public education translates into less money for higher education.

Sen. Julie Gonzales added, "We'll know if this will pass in four days, but this won't solve everything either way. We welcome more conversation on this."

After the roundtable discussion, members of the caucus went to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) where Amber Pacheco, Deputy Manager of the district, gave an overview of the complex topic of water.

Comments and questions from caucus members made it clear that significant education in water issues is needed in the state legislature. Minks interjected two comments — one, reminding legislators that water does impact their constituents as Front Range communities, like Greeley, draw their water from the Western Slope.

She also advised them to familiarize themselves with potential legislation being proposed by proponents of RWR, who have not abandoned their intention to export water.

Late Sunday morning, Rep. Martinez and Speaker of the House McCluskie held a town hall at Shooting Stars

Cultural and Leadership Center that opened with McCluskie stating that, between her district and Martinez's, they represent all the mountain counties from New Mexico to Wyoming.

McCluskie had high praise for Martinez, highlighting his passage of 10 bills — which she described as "almost unheard of" — and her choice to appoint him to the commission looking into the high cost of utilities. She chose him over much more tenured members, she said, due to his thoughtful approach to legislation and his ability to quickly grasp complex subjects.

Martinez brought up an area he's addressing this session related to simplifying recidivism data in prison systems so that it is more easily read and interpreted than the current system.

He also spoke about the outcome of the utility commission, stating that the goal was to address rising utility rates, how to fix rate hikes and hold utility companies more accountable.

"We added a lot of teeth in regulating the utility companies," he said, "and stopped the practice of utility companies recouping lobbying expenses by passing on that cost to customers."

He also discussed the \$25 million he got allocated for scholarships to graduating high school students to help students overcome financial barriers to higher education.

Martinez and McCluskie then engaged in a discussion on a number of topics, including public education in rural areas. McCluskie spoke of her belief that rural school districts, with limited resources and wealth



Photos by Priscilla Waggoner

Members of the Colorado Democratic Latino Caucus in a roundtable discussion at The Barn in Alamosa. Pictured left to right Rep. Elizabeth Velasco, Rep. Mandy Lindsay, Rep. Javier Mabry, Rep. Tim Hernandez, Sen. Julie Gonzales (Majority Whip), Sen. Robert Rodriguez (Senate Majority Leader) and Rep. David Ortiz. Rep. Matt Martinez, who organized the tour, not pictured.

available in the community, should receive state funding at a greater level than districts in, for example, Summit County, which she represents.

Water was also raised as an issue with McCluskie saying, "Water is our lifeblood." She added that there are some discussions in the legislature around the use of graywater. Salazar spoke of the frustration in depleting water in the Valley and then seeing

"truckloads of alfalfa leaving the Valley for New Mexico", a point John Kretsinger expanded upon by advocating for state help in building and strengthening value added in agriculture.

Both opportunities for conversations with state legislators were well attended, with Martinez viewing the experience as a success for all involved.

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.

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DISTRICT COURT, COUNTY OF SAGUACHE
 STATE OF COLORADO
 501 4th Street Saguache, CO 81149
 719-655-2522

SHANE THOMAS ANDIS

Plaintiff

v.

BETTY L. BONNIFIELD; CHARLES M. BONNIFIELD (deceased); Saguache County Treasurer and Public Trustee, REGINA SWARTZ; Saguache County Board of Commissioners LIZA MARRON, TOM MCCRACKEN, and LYNNE THOMPSON;

and all other persons who claim as heirs, devisees, creditors or otherwise under said defendants, and all unknown persons who claim any interest in the subject matter of this action,

Defendants

LAW OFFICE OF ANGELA LEE
 Angela Lee, #53495
 620 Grand Ave, Del Norte, CO 81132
 mailing: PO Box 69, Del Norte, CO 81132
 719-589-3688
 angela@angelalee.law
 Attorney for Plaintiffs

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO. TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS

You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Complaint filed with the Court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this Court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within thirty-five (35) days after service of this Summons upon you. Service of this Summons will be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the Court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within thirty-five (35) days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint, without any further notice.

This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiffs in and to the real property situated in Rio Grande County, Colorado, more particularly described as LOT 1214, THE BACA GRANDE, CHALET UNIT ONE, County of Saguache, State of Colorado
 Dated November 1, 2023
 /s/ Angela Lee, Attorney for Plaintiff
 #53495 Law Office of Angela Lee
 PO Box 69, Del Norte, CO 81132
 719-657-1919

No. 1688 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, November 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2023.

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Waverly Road gives free post-Thanksgiving performance at Society Hall

Concert is free but donations always welcomed

STAFF REPORTS

ALAMOSA — In a “show of gratitude” from Society Hall to the community, the band Waverly Road is performing a concert on Saturday, Nov. 25, for those interested in launching the holiday season with some fine music performed by locally well-known artists.

“We have so much to be thankful for,” reads a collective statement from the Society Hall folks, “and that’s why we’re recreating this special event that we hosted in the past. This is a free event. No tickets, no door charge.”

Unique and community minded as always, the statement goes on to read, “We do encourage folks to bring a crockpot of soup to share for supper and/or a dessert for intermission. The sharing of the soups will be at 5:30 p.m. with the music beginning at 6:30. Intermission and desserts will be

shared at 7:30 p.m. and music to top off the evening — ending about 8 p.m. Donations will be accepted and are always appreciated.”

Waverly Road — known for their tight harmony, “inventive instrumental interplay” and a playlist of Americana, Rock and Roll, Blues, and Folks — has a long history in the San Luis Valley, but Saturday night is guaranteed to be special.

A note from band member Scoot — also known as Scotter or Scott Russell — gives a glimpse of what’s awaiting those music lovers who come to the show.

“Waverly Road is so excited to be playing Society Hall on Saturday, Nov. 25,” Russell writes. “We’ll be performing an entire show of our very own originals. This will be a ‘first’ for me in my 55-plus years of playing on stage. Reckon it’s time to take off the training wheels! Please come join Dale, Eli, Peter, Dean, and myself for a special evening of fellowship and music.”

In homage to an extraordinary music venue supported by a steadfast community of fine, music-loving people, the staff at Society Hall extends



Photo courtesy of Society Hall.

Waverly Road to perform Saturday, Nov. 25, at Society Hall. Pictured left to right: Peter Taylor (guitar, harmonica, vocals), Eli Dokson (guitar, vocals), Dean Lloyd (bass), Dale Smith (cajon, percussion, vocals), and Scott Russell (guitar, mandolin, vocals).

a warm invitation to all.

“This should be a beautiful community gathering — bring the family and come join us!”

Saturday, Nov. 25, doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with music beginning at 6:30 p.m. Society Hall is located at 400 Ross in Alamosa. No tickets needed,

but donations for the musicians will be gratefully accepted. Questions about what to give? Call Ruthie Brown at 719-580-7838.

MySLVConnect.com relaunches to advance health equity in the region

STAFF REPORT

COSTILLA COUNTY — Costilla County Public Health and the San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership recently announced the update and relaunch of MySLVConnect.com. MySLVConnect.com is an online resource guide dedicated to improving health equity in the San Luis Valley region of Colorado.

The website provides fast and accurate information on health and human services.

By providing wider access to healthcare and community resource information, people are empowered to manage their own health and well-being, fostering a healthier and more equitable community.

The site has a user-friendly interface which is searchable by

topic, county, or multiple counties. It is easy to use and understand. Many resources are listed in Spanish. The website was created to be easy to read and easy to use, even for those with limited internet skills. Information can be printed out or emailed to a friend at any convenient time.

The website is also a hub for a comprehensive list of resources as information has been updated

and 128 services are listed with more community services and non-profits added every week. Resources listed include contacts, service locations and hours, helpful links, referral requirements and eligibility information.

Paul Wertz, Costilla County Public Health Director, expressed enthusiasm for the relaunch.

“Our mission is to ensure that everyone in our region has equal

access to quality healthcare and community services,” Wertz said. “We invite the community to help us promote MySLVConnect.com as a regional resource and join us in advancing health equity in the San Luis Valley.”

For assistance with navigating MySLVConnect.com, contact Beverly Rodriguez, Costilla County Community Health Worker, at 719-672-3332.

Gift of Giving annual toy drive is underway

By HANNAH SHELTON

CONEJOS COUNTY — It is that time of year again. This special organization called “Gifts of Giving” is ready to serve Conejos County.

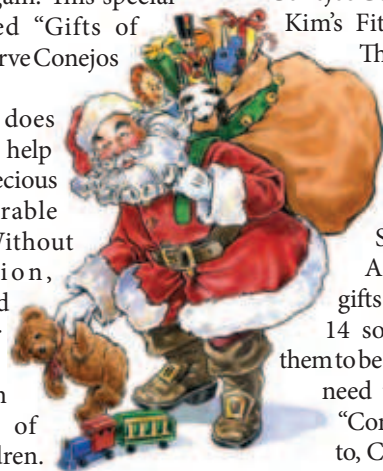
Gifts of Giving does its absolute best to help families give their precious children a memorable Christmas gift. Without this organization, Christmas would not be possible for these families. Last year the organization touched the lives of more than 800 children.

Gifts of Giving is now accepting both toys and monetary donations to help fund its 6th annual toy drive. Toy drop-off sites are located

at the Antonito Schools and Catholic Church, Capulin Catholic Church, Conejos County Court House, Kim’s Fitness, Baros Auto, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (La Jara and Manassa), Standard Service, and Sanford Schools.

All donations and gifts must be in by Dec. 14 so there is time for them to be wrapped. All checks need to be made out to “Concepts,” and mailed to, Conejos County Gift of Giving c/o Suzan Robins, P.O. Box 401 La Jara, CO 81140.

For more information, contact Suzan Robins at 719-588-1791.



Tree lighting, parade set for Dec. 2 in MV

MONTE VISTA — The annual Christmas tree lighting and parade are set for Dec. 2 in Monte Vista.

The theme for this year is “So Much Christmas.”

Tree lighting and caroling will be at

5:15 p.m. in Fullenwider Park, where Santa and the Grinch are expected to make appearances.

The Parade of Lights will be on Adams Street at 6 p.m.

Activities and North Pole will be at

Scrumpy Moo’s restaurant downtown.

Forms to enter the parade and for the business window decorating contest are available by contacting Jennifer Becker at 719-850-2709 or mvcoevents@gmail.com.

The Heart Conditions That Will Set You Free

I have a heart condition—and so do you. I’m not talking about my physical heart. I’m talking about my soul, which is my mind, will, and emotions. This is the heart of our inner life.

Our inner life is more important than anything else because it is based on our thoughts and attitudes, which determine how we live. Real life is the life that’s in you, and not your circumstances—like where you live, what job you have, or who you’re in relationship with.

Real peace and joy come from God’s Spirit in us, not things or people around us. And when your heart is right with God, it’s amazing how peaceful, content, and even happy you can be in the midst of difficult situations and turmoil.

Matthew 5:8 says the pure in heart will see God. And Proverbs 4:23 instructs us to “keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life” (AMPC).

The scripture in Proverbs makes it clear that it’s our responsibility to guard our heart. And we need to do it often, because each day there are countless opportunities for something to creep into our heart that is not pure or pleasing to God.

Checking your motives is a good way to determine what condition your heart is in. Motives reveal why we do what we do, which is actually more important to God than what we’re doing. If we’re

really honest with ourselves, most of us will admit that we want to impress people, and this is what’s causing us to do what we do.

But I’ve learned a powerful secret: When we no longer have to impress people and are instead living to please God, we will have real freedom to enjoy life and be who God created us to be.

Think about it. If your schedule is hectic, is it because God is overloading you with responsibility or because you’re striving to do what you feel other people want you to do? Have you ever said, “Well, so-and-so expects me to do this, so that’s why I’m doing it.” Or maybe you were afraid someone would be mad or disappointed with you if you didn’t do what they asked. I’ve done it. And it just made me miserable and even resentful at times.

I also used to do things because I was nosy and just wanted to know what was going on—even at church! I wanted to be involved in some groups because of it. And at one time I even pushed my husband, Dave, to be an elder in the church so he could go to meetings and then tell me what was going on.

As I grew in my relationship with God, He showed me what it means to have a heart like Him. He is a God of grace, mercy, truth, compassion, and generosity. Whatever He tells us to do, it’s because it’s for our good, not His benefit. He gave His best for us when He gave Jesus, His only Son,



to die on our behalf so we could be forgiven of our sins through His shed blood.

No matter what condition your heart is in, if you’ll trust God, He can heal you and make your heart like His.

If you aren’t in the habit of checking your heart and really guarding it, I want to encourage you to spend a few hours alone one day and think about what you do and why. If you’ll be honest with yourself, God can help you see the truth about your condition. And the truth will always make you free!

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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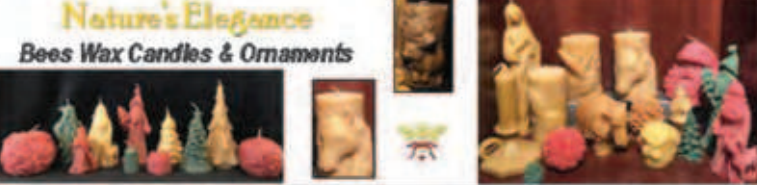
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By DONNA WEHE

Director of Marketing SLV Health
ALAMOSA — San Luis Valley Health team members accepted the generous contribution from the Colorado Potato Administrative Council of \$5,600. Of this amount, \$850 was raised from the annual Tator Trot during the September Potato Festival. The other \$4,750 was generously donated by CPAC. In addition to this, Farm Fresh Direct of America donated another \$2,000 toward this cause.

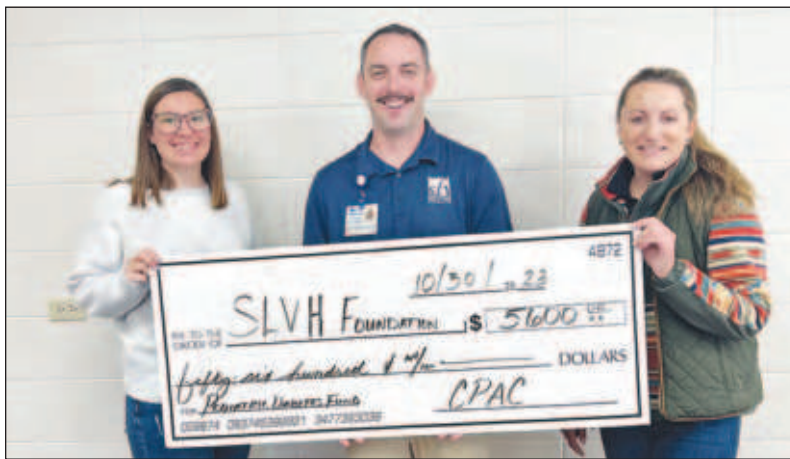
The money raised assists pediatric patients in the San Luis Valley with resources to manage their diabetes diagnosis. Many of the resources such as the Barbara Davis Center or the American Diabetes Association camp, require traveling outside of the Valley. San Luis Valley Health **Please see DONATE on Page 8**

Left to right: Kim Crowther, Farm Fresh Direct of America, Sr. Organic Sales, Operations, Procurement Manager, hands off the check to Chris Padilla, San Luis Valley Health Clinic Manager, with the help of Helen Smith, CPAC Admin Assistant.



Photos courtesy of SLV Health

Left to right: Alyssa Kunugi, San Luis Valley Health Clinic Director of Primary Care, accepts the Farm Fresh donation from Mayra McKibbon, Farm Fresh Direct of America, Director of Workforce and Community Programs.



Tiny As Is Donkey Experience moves to South Fork



By LYNDISIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — When Shoshana Olivier came to South Fork in 2020 for work, she was struck by the beauty and openness of the area and immediately fell in love. It would be a few years before Olivier and her husband returned to the area. Her journey here required her to pick up some friends along the way.

“If you told me I would own land in South Fork and five donkeys back then, I would have laughed, but here we are and I am grateful to be here,” said Olivier. After being a single parent for 16 years it was after her children headed out on their own that Olivier found herself working for a veterinarian and that is where she met her first of many fuzzy best friends.

Please see TINY on Page 2

Sir Nibbles Clyde Mc Buckles is trying on his reindeer antlers for an event this winter. Mc-Buckles is one of five donkeys at the new Tiny As Is Donkey Experiences that recently moved to the South Fork area. Owner Shoshana Olivier and her husband hope to help educate and share the love these amazing animals have to give.

Courtesy photo



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.

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 "Fronk-en-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 monstrosity 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 **Please see CRT on Page 8**

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

Saguache Holiday Bazaar Silent Auction is Dec. 2

CONTRIBUTED

SAGUACHE — A great opportunity is in store for your shopping pleasure from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 2 at the Saguache Holiday Bazaar, 403 Pitkin Ave., inside the Mountain Valley School gymnasium.

If you have not participated in a Silent Auction before it is quite simple. Register your name and provide a

phone number. Pickup a bidding number — the number is a match to the number next to your name on the registry.

Bid two ways:

- You can choose to "PAY THE NOW" price on the item's tag and take the item right away
- Or you can keep placing bids in whole dollar amounts till 2 p.m.

Highest bidding price gets the item.

This holiday activity is a fundraising event to benefit Saguache Sagebrush Quilters in restocking Comfort and Nap quilt community projects.

The Saguache Holiday Bazaar is cash and carry. Silent Auction items need to be picked up by 2:45 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Saguache Holiday Bazaar

CONTRIBUTED

SAGUACHE — Decades ago there was no holiday activity around the first weekend of December and so the idea of the Saguache Holiday Bazaar was born. Join in the fun of vendors, food, music, and neighbors from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1, inside the Mountain Valley School gymnasium, 403 Pitkin Ave., Saguache. Follow the quilt barn designs and street banners.

Schedule includes:

- 10 a.m. — Bazaar and Silent Auction open — vendors, music, food fundraiser by Mountain Val-

ley Adventure Awaits club, Sharing Christmas — Neighbor to Neighbor means bring three non-perishable items to share and enter to win one of two ALTA gas cards.

- 1 p.m. — Santa arrives — the North Pole has confirmed. He will be available for conversation and photos on the gym stage.
- 2 p.m. — Silent Auction ends.
- 2:45 p.m. — drawing for Sharing Christmas Gas cards, drawing for WIN NOW Quilt, pickup of Silent Auction items
- 3 p.m. — Bazaar closes.

TINY

Continued from Page 1

"It was a mobile vet, and we did mostly large animals. We went all over the place near Granby, Colo., including a ranch that had miniature donkeys. It was there that I met Sister Nibbs who was a Mediterranean donkey who had a distinct cross on her back. We were told she may be pregnant and that she was for sale, so I called my husband, and we took her home," she said.

A few weeks later, Sister Nibbs gave birth to Sir Nibbles Clyde McBuckles and the start of a new journey for the couple — Tiny As Is Donkey Experience.

"I learned so much. Sister Nibbs was a phenomenal mother and Sir Nibbles ended up being one of the best donkeys to own. The experience taught me so much and I knew we were in trouble," laughed Olivier.

"We wanted to figure out a way to share our experiences with mini donkeys with other people and so we bought a property in South Fork. We are only now getting started and have more work to do on the property, but we have had such a great time learning about the donkey community that was already here. We can't say enough about Linda and Lynn Childs who own Burro Buddies and the help they have provided when we moved here," she said.

Like Burro Buddies, Olivier plans to focus on education about mini donkeys and to dispel false information that is out there about the stoic creatures.

"We want to share how to be a good steward for the animals and let people bond with them not only through events, but therapeutic programs as well," Olivier said.

Olivier is still figuring out how the program will work here in South Fork but has already made significant headway with other events throughout Colorado.

"Donkeys can make a wonderful addition to any event whether it is weddings or educational workshops, it just takes time to train them and prepare them for the specific event so there are no surprises," she said.

Olivier said that though the animals are gentle, they are unique with their own personalities and quirks.

"Donkeys are a huge commitment," she said. "They can live up to 33 years and require proper diets and attention. They do not do well in inclement weather, their coats are not water resistant and because they are stoic animals, it can be hard to tell if a donkey is uncomfortable or in pain. They need attention and love."

One of the donkeys for instance, Soda Pop, sits down the minute he



Courtesy photo

feels uncomfortable in any situation, Olivier said.

"They are such amazing creatures, and we want to share that experience with the public. We want to help educate people so they can also be good stewards to these amazing animals," she said.

Now that Olivier and her five donkeys are in South Fork, she plans to begin allowing site visits in the near future and will finish some events up near Granby before doing events in the Valley.

For more information or to contact Olivier, visit www.tinyasis.com or by following them on Facebook under Tiny As Is Donkey Experiences.

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Consider these 13 gratifying Thanksgiving facts

Thanksgiving is a time to gather with family and friends and reflect on one's blessings. In 2022, Canadian Thanksgiving takes place on October 10, while Americans celebrate on November 24. In anticipation of these holidays, here are some interesting facts about the Thanksgiving celebration.

1. American Thanksgiving is largely modeled on a 17th century harvest feast shared by the English settlers and the Wampanoag tribe.

2. Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving on the second Monday of October. It is based on European harvest festivals.

3. The National Turkey Federation says around 45 million turkeys will be eaten on Thanksgiving, which equates to about 720 million pounds of turkey being consumed (with the average turkey size being 16 pounds).

4. The Butterball hotline answers roughly 100,000 calls every year on its turkey question hotline.

5. In 1953, the Swanson company overestimated the number of frozen turkeys it would sell for the holiday season by 26 tons. Rather than waste the meat, Swanson sliced it up, repackaged it and created the first frozen TV dinners.

6. Thanksgiving in America may be older than many recognize. While Thanksgiving is largely tied to the 17th century settlers, the National Parks Service says in 1565 Spanish settlers in St. Augustine (now Florida) celebrated by having a meal to which they invited the native Seloy tribe. The Spanish served pork stew, sea biscuits, red wine, and garbanzo beans. Some say the Seloy contributed turkey, venison

and maize.

7. Thanksgiving didn't become a civic holiday until Abraham Lincoln made it one after the Civil War tragedy. Thanksgiving was declared a national holiday on October 20, 1864.

8. The Pilgrims did not refer to themselves as "pilgrims." They used the word "separatists" as they were separating themselves from a larger belief system.

9. In addition to Canada and the United States, Grenada, Liberia, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, and the Netherlands celebrate their own versions of Thanksgiving.

10. Each year, the American president "pardons" a turkey from slaughter on Thanksgiving. This tradition dates back to when Abraham Lincoln's son was upset that his family's turkey that was going to be killed for Thanksgiving dinner.

11. According to the U.S. Calorie Control Council (CCC), an average American may consume 4,500 calories and 229 grams of fat on Thanksgiving Day.

12. The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is an annual tradition. People line the parade route in New York City or tune in to watch the parade on television. It originated in 1924 and the famed balloons were added in 1927.

13. Apple pie is the pie of choice for Thanksgiving, even though pumpkin pie is prevalent this time of year.

Thanksgiving is a popular holiday in Canada and the U.S. Many traditions have been borne of the holiday, and it is a favorite time of year for many people.

'Puerto Rican egnog' could be a hit for the holidays

Tradition reigns supreme during the holiday season. Putting up Christmas trees, stringing lights, singing carols, and filling stockings with trinkets are just a few of the season's many cherished traditions. However, amid the typical holiday hustle and bustle, there also are traditions that are unique to various cultures and ethnicities — particularly those pertaining to foods and beverages. From minced pies in England to kutia in Ukraine to spiced hot chocolate in Peru, many



different foods and beverages are savored this time of year around the world.

Individuals of Puerto Rican descent might enjoy whipping up batches of coquito around the holidays. Coquito, which means "small coconut," is made in batches with recipes passed down through families. It is similar to traditional eggnog, but Puerto Ricans will tell you it's even better. The beverage is served throughout Navidad, or starting after Thanksgiving and ending in mid-January with the celebration of Fiestas de la Calle San Sebastián.

Those interested in making homemade coquito can follow this "Traditional Coquito" recipe, courtesy of Discover Puerto Rico.

Traditional Coquito

- 1 can of condensed milk
- 1 can of evaporated milk
- 1 can of cream of coconut (most Puerto Ricans prefer Coco López)
- 1/2 cup white rum (preferably Don Q or Bacardí)
- 1/2 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon of ground cinnamon (add more to taste)

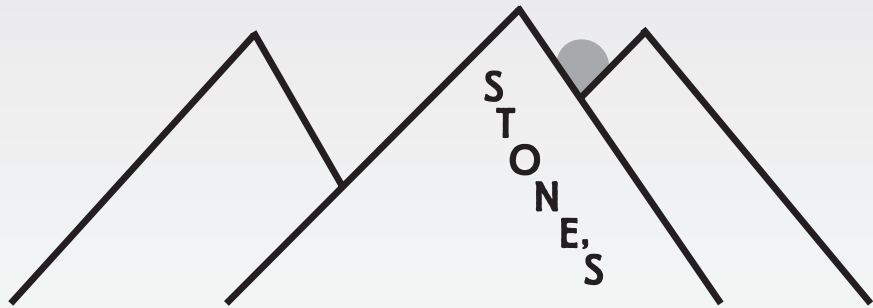
In a blender, add evaporated milk, cream of coconut, sweetened condensed milk, rum, vanilla extract, and cinnamon. Blend on high until mixture is well combined, 1 to 2 minutes. Transfer mixture into glass bottles and chill in the refrigerator until cold. To serve, pour coquito into small serving glasses and garnish with ground cinnamon or a cinnamon stick.

Note: This is traditional Coquito. Individuals can experiment with different flavors, like chocolate, guava or even mango coquito if they desire.

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05 Notices

Invitation to bid: Outcalt Event & Conference Center at Ski Hi Complex for the SRM Agricultural Conference and Trade Fair, 2335 Sherman Avenue, Monte Vista, CO 81144, DATES: February 6, 7, 8 of 2024, PASTRIES - 350 per day for 3 Days, COFFEE - 1000-plus per day for 3 Days, 100 for Set-up Day (Feb 5)100; The Chamber reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities and/or informalities in any bid, and make an award in any manner, consistent with law, deemed in the best interest of the chamber. Evaluation of the bids include compliance with bid specifications and price. Price alone may not be the sole consideration in awarding this bid. (12-06)

The Saguache County Landfill is looking to partner with local farmers and/or businesses currently using Waste Oil Furnaces to warm up your indoor spaces. With a surplus of waste oil on hand, the Saguache County Landfill is reaching out to see how we can transform waste oil into an asset,

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For information on meetings for ALANON NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS AND ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Please visit slvaa.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. (12-06)

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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

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

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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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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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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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

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

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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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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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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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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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2017 travel trailer, \$16,000. Clean, lightly used, everything works. Bunkhouse and Murphy Bed. Call for details, 719-661-8390. (11-29)

63 Trucks
2002 Ford Super Duty diesel pickup 4X4 with 6 speed manual trans, 7.3 motor, after market exhaust brake, trailer brake, new batteries, extra fuel tank, load lifter ait lift, 115,000 miles, tires are very good and included are 2 spares. Clean inside and out, has always been garaged and maintained regularly. There is a dent in the front bumper and an small dent in the tailgate.

There is an extra homemade tailgate included if wanted. \$25,000 OBO. Sorry, can not take payments. 719-852-2285 or email grettjoyce6@gmail.com

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)

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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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IMPROVED PRICE

Look Reduced Price!! \$875,000 Owner Willing to Owner Finance for Qualified Buyer! Must See Custom-Built 5,350 sq. ft. Commercial Property in Fabulous South Fork, CO. Great Highway 160 exposure!! This building is extremely well built. The building was built for retail with many amenities. The environment is warm and welcoming. The 3,000 sq. ft. main floor consist of large receiving office, full kitchen and bath and several large open spaces and two additional design show rooms and large 1,000 sq. ft. heated warehouse with plenty of shelves for storage and 12-foot overhead door. Lovely concrete outdoor patio with new vinyl fencing wired for low voltage lights this property sits on two lots with wiring running outside for lighting off outside signage. 1,350 sq. ft. Spacious upstairs with large open space, several large storage closets two additional offices, New ¾ custom tile bathroom and large storage over warehouse. This well-built property has radiant floor heating downstairs and upstairs baseboard hot water heat. Property is wired for Cat 5 telephone jack in all offices, design rooms, kitchen bar, receiving office – etc. Cable tv jack, upstairs big room. There are 3 gas fireplaces, 2 wall thermostats with remote control. Wired for speakers though out the building for music. Swamp cooler and wired for electric dryer, set up for washer and has a Propane fired boiler and propane hot water heater. This property is a blank canvas with so much POTENTIAL for the right builder or person. Because there is no existing business at the present time, this makes this building available for a variety of Business opportunities: Professional Work Environment for Professionals, Restaurant, Brew Pub, Events Center, Lodge or Cottage hotel, Retail etc. Come Paint your Canvas and start Your Business Adventure, Call and schedule your personal showing today!
MLS#802191 Improved Price \$925,000! **\$875,000** MLS #802191
173 W Frontage • South Fork
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UNDER CONTRACT
Darling authentic 1,232 Sq. Ft. 2-bedroom 2 bath 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 compete 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-away! Rentals are not allowed in this subdivision. Don't wait! Start your adventure today! Only a short 17-mile drive from Wolf Creek Ski area. The mighty South Fork and Rio Grande River, Beaver Mountain reservoir & Million reservoir are just moments away. Bring your fishing pole and enjoy hours of world class fishing. Ski Wolf Creek, go 4 wheeling, hike, camp, hunt, Enjoying everything outdoors! Let's get started call /text and schedule your showing today! **\$325,000** MLS #800364
31517 Us Highway 160 • South Fork
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SOLD
You Found It! Home Sweet Home, Finely Crafted, Ranch Style 2,109 square foot 3 bed 2 bath split floor plan home with detached 4 car garage for all your outdoor tools and toys! Large master bedroom bath with jacuzzi tub. Beautiful open kitchen, dining area with eat in counter, living area with cathedral wood beam ceiling, custom cabinets and wood burning stove. This home has large windows that brings in lots of natural light. Patio doors leading out to your back and front deck with 360 views of the beautiful Colorado mountains. Perfect place to enjoy your morning hot cup of coffee. You have year-round access in Highland Meadows, South Fork, CO, with paved roads, your own well and South Fork water and sanitation. This home is situated on a beautiful 1.1-acre lot with room for your RV, gardens and so much more. Additional heating sources on demand water heater and radiant floor heat to keep you nice and warm all winter long and indoor laundry area. This could be your permanent residence, your home away from home or your perfect vacation home. Moments from skiing at Wolf Creek, A stone throw away from public access to gold medal fishing on the Mighty Rio Grande River. Enjoy nearby hiking, golfing, hunting and 4 -wheeling. Start Your Adventure - Won't last long. Call and Schedule your personal showing today!
\$489,900 MLS #801796
74 Highland Court • South Fork
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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
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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
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 a wooded area including office space and additional large size bedroom with rain sensors that will close automatically with additional sleeping areas including office space and additional large size bedroom with barn door and bath. Enjoy your 3-car garage with large workshop and more than enough room for all your mountain toys. Your family and friends will love the upstairs bungalow above the garage with kitchenette, living area, built-in beds additional bedroom and bath. Bring your family and friends to gather to enjoy the great outdoors! Boarders National Forest, with streams, creeks, lakes rolling topography, open fields, pine, fir, aspen trees, mountain views and abundant wildlife! Beautifully designed home tucked peacefully into the woods and easily accessible to town, Wolf Creek Ski Area and the Rio Grande Golf Course Resort. Once in a lifetime Opportunity! This property perfectly captures the best of both worlds between outdoor recreation and exceptional entertainment. Start your dream and Call/Text me to schedule your personal showing today! **\$1,395,000** MLS #796960
37 Millon Court • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
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CRT Continued from Page 1

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.

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



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 songs and performers throughout July and August.

Creede Rep will also continue its dynamic education programs; Boomtown! Improv comedy, now in

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.

DONATE Continued from Page 1

holds the funds and distributes them to any family who may be able to use these funds. To request funds, family providers or family members simply need to reach

out to SLVH Clinic manager, Anna Walker, at her email, anna.walker@slvrmc.org. The recipient only needs to state their request, it is not financially needs-based.

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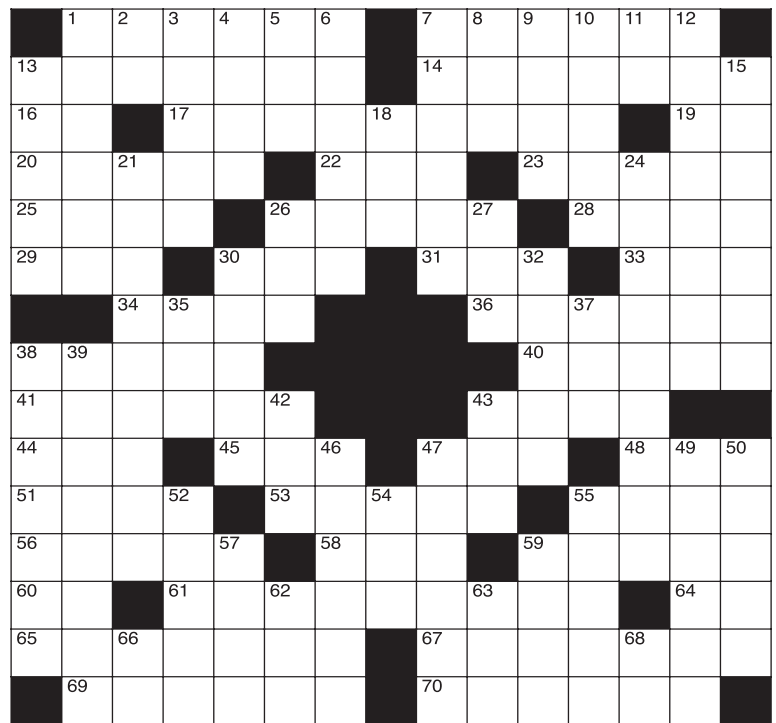
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Eurasian shrubs
7. Strikes and rebounds
13. Group of advisers
14. Modern necessity
16. Top lawyer in the land
17. Philadelphia university
19. Of I
20. Functions as a laser
22. Basketball phenomenon Jeremy
23. Famed island
25. Parent-teacher groups
26. Distributes
28. Self-immolation by fire ritual
29. Ad __
30. Circulation problem (abbr.)
31. Brother or sister
33. A famous "Squad"
34. Stage actor Anthony
36. Violent seizure of property
38. Saclike cavities
40. Sound units
41. Counts on
43. Dad
44. Woman (French)
45. A digital tape recording of sound
47. Polish Baltic peninsula
48. Recipe measurement
51. Requests out of dire need
53. Precious stone weight unit
55. The immaterial part of a person
56. Anoint
58. Golf score
59. Supernatural

Solution to last week's puzzle

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



60. Northwest Territories
61. Can be made suitable
64. A professor's helper
65. Having a toothlike edge
67. Got atop a horse
69. Judged
70. Static balance between opposing forces

CLUES DOWN

1. Flowing
2. Computer department
3. Lasts
4. DiFranco and Samsonyan are two
5. __ de sac
6. Merchant
7. Hosts film festival
8. State of agitation of fuss
9. A way to praise
10. Opaque gems
11. McKinley is one
12. Smallest interval in classical Western music
13. Famed designer Lauren
15. Occupies
18. Small island (British)

21. Misuse of the sacred
24. Covers with a thin sheet
26. Most valuable player
27. Title of respect
30. Investigated discreetly
32. Belonging to the bottom layer
35. Black tropical American cuckoo
37. Music genre
38. Indicates one is in mourning
39. Secured forever
42. Bodily cavity
43. A dog is one
46. Chose to do something
47. Annoy persistently
49. Large hotel rooms
50. Beg
52. Docket
54. Subway dwelling rodent
55. Sources
57. Mild Dutch cheese
59. Spanish city
62. Consumed
63. Ballplayer's tool
66. Midway between north and east
68. Atomic #3

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San Juan Nordic Club gears up for winter fun and film festival

By SAN JUAN NORDIC CLUB

MONTE VISTA — The San Juan Nordic Club (SJNC) will host the Annual Social from 4 to 7 p.m. on Nov. 5 at the Pivot Public House in Monte Vista.

The SJNC will provide the appetizers, and a cash bar will be available. Come out and meet new and old friends at our kickoff party to a fabulous winter. Support Monte Vista's newest business at 201 Jefferson St.

The SJNC is hosting the Backcountry Film Festival from 6 to 10 p.m. on Nov. 15, at the Vali 3 Theater in Monte Vista. Tickets are \$15 for San Juan Nordic Club Members and \$20 for non-members.

You'll have the option to go to our membership page and purchase-renew your membership when you purchase your film festival tickets. Doors open at 6 p.m. The show

starts at 6:30 p.m.

According to the Winter Wildlands Alliance, "We believe in the power of humans and their spirit. Our mission is to manifest that power in communities and to inspire and activate through stories of activists, adventurers, and the outdoors.

"The Backcountry Film Festival is a year-round, community program presented by the alliance that celebrates human-powered, backcountry-inspired stories rooted in wild snowscapes,

stewardship, and stoke."

The film festival will be screening a collage of short documentaries and ski movies about the pursuit of objectives and ideals in the mountains, artistic vision, friendship, and how the snow sports community is adapting to a changing environment. The total runtime for our 2023-24 season is 120 minutes.

SJNC Annual Ski and Outdoor Gear Swap is on Dec. 2 — Stay tuned for details. Or bring that gear you'd like to donate to the Social.



As part of the Backcountry Film Festival, 'Bloom,' a short film by Kyle Hilken will be shown. In the film, Sierra Schlag navigates the world after losing her father on 9/11, exploring her grief and identity as a Japanese-American while also finding herself under the cloak of depression. While she navigates these complexities, Sierra finds a way to connect with her dad and heal through skiing.

Courtesy photo



Photo by John Waters

The Rio Grande National Forest will hold public meetings as part of the planning process for over-snow travel. In this recent photo taken from Forest Service Road 946 near Crestone, snow was covering many parts of local trails above 9,000-feet.

Over-snow travel management plan

By RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST

DEL NORTE — The Rio Grande National Forest will conduct public meetings in the San Luis Valley in advance of launching its forest-wide Over-snow Travel Management Planning Project.

Forest staff will present the first draft of the winter Recreation Opportunity Spectrum maps for the public to review. The maps depict both the current and suitable over-snow motorized travel uses on the land.

The public is invited to provide their thoughts and recommendations on winter travel opportunities shown on the draft Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Maps, which will serve to establish a baseline for the upcoming planning process. Meeting dates, times, and locations in the Valley are:

- Saguache on Thursday, Nov. 9, 5:30-7 p.m., Saguache County Road & Bridge Building, 305 3rd St.

- Del Norte on Monday, Nov. 13, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (open house style), Rio Grande National Forest Headquarters, 1055 9th St.

- Antonito on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 5:30-7 p.m., Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall, 6633 CO Rd. 113.

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Courtesy photos

Hot Creek Trucking is owned by Zeke and Victoria Gallegos. They haul year-round.

Gallegos family talks about growing and hauling hay, alfalfa

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Zeke and Victoria Gallegos have been enjoying the weather in the San Luis Valley. They have been farming for a few years now. Their business, Hot Creek Trucking, and their farm has been growing steadily and is doing well.

The couple is no stranger to the changing weather in the San Luis Valley. They grow alfalfa and grass hay. They also sharecrop with other farmers. They drive an 18-wheeler and sell both hay and alfalfa her the San Luis Valley and south into New Mexico.

The couple said they have been busy growing and hauling this year.

“Overall, it was a good season for hay. We put out around 15,000 small bales of alfalfa grass at one farm and another 10,000 of grass hay at another place. They all came up in pretty good shape. I would say it was a successful season, but it’s not completely over,” Zeke said.

Zeke said that they haul year-round. “We will definitely sell and haul into the colder months. We also have grass contracted up north to fulfill to customers for the winter clear into the spring. The two places we haul to are Albuquerque and Santa Fe,” he said.

Victoria said the good snowpack contributed to their and others success this year.

“The snowpack earlier in the year really helped the moisture levels for the farm,” Victoria said. “The moisture really helps a lot, for irrigating and just everything on the farm. Water was plentiful this year. Overall seems like the Valley put up a lot of good hay this year everywhere, too.”

The Gallegos family works hard every year growing, bailing, and selling the Alfalfa and grass hays. Their son Ezekiel Jr. helps on the farm as well.

“He has helped a lot more this season too,” said Zeke. “He likes the tractor; he enjoys driving and baling the hay.”

Zeke said a usual season consists of three alfalfa cuts with the first coming



Ezekiel Gallegos Jr., helps on the family farm.

in June.

“We usually start cutting the alfalfa the first of June, the second cut usually happens the first of July, this is when we always get rained on too, we call it the ‘monsoon season.’ The last cut we do on the alfalfa is usually the last of August, so about three cuts total. There’s a lot of hard work involved in the farming process. Many people aren’t aware of how much work, but it is a lot. We flood irrigate around 100 acres. Flood irrigating is an all-night job too. We take the siphons out to the field. When the water is there, you irrigate all night. You must constantly change the siphons, even if it’s 3 in the morning, you are out there. Farming is fun, but it’s a lot of work,” Zeke said.

Victoria said that everyone gets their hands dirty on the farm.

“I do the harrowing; I drag the ditch; he usually does all the irrigating,” Victoria said. “Our kids have enjoyed growing up on a farm. We enjoy it too. If we could send out a message to anyone younger thinking of farming, we would say do it. It’s a lot of hard work but I think that everyone should experience being a farmer once in their lifetime. People don’t realize it, but without farmers, well it’s a cycle, chickens, eggs, crops, if you think about it without farmers, there’s no food.”



The Gallegos family grows, bails and sells alfalfa and grass hays in the San Luis Valley and New Mexico. They flood irrigate about 100 acres.



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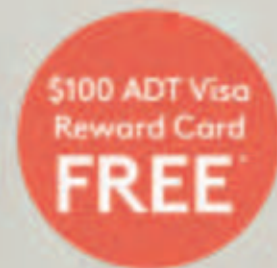
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DF-CD-NP-G421

Sargent FFA Advisor, local FFA member awarded National American FFA Degree

CONTRIBUTED
INDIANAPOLIS — Each year, the National FFA Organization honors FFA members who show the utmost dedication to the organization through their desire to develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

Ashlyn Rockey, a member of the Sargent FFA chapter, was awarded the American FFA Degree at the 96th National FFA Convention and Expo on Nov. 4. She is the second recipient from Sargent FFA to ever receive this prestigious degree.

Rockey has served as a chapter, District 4, and Colorado FFA officer. She is now attending Texas Tech and is continuing her education while majoring in Agricultural Economics.

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Courtesy photo
 Ashlyn Rockey, a member of the Sargent FFA chapter, was awarded the American FFA Degree at the 96th National FFA Convention and Expo on Nov. 4.

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.

Elanco Animal Health, and Syngenta, the award recognizes demonstrated ability and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing, or service programs.

To be eligible, FFA members must have earned at least \$10,000 or earned at least \$2,000 and worked at least 2,250 hours outside of

class time through a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program in which they own their own business, hold a professional position as an employee, or conduct research.

Recipients must also complete 50 hours of community service and demonstrate outstanding leadership

abilities and civic involvement through completion of a long list of FFA and community activities. Less than one percent of FFA members achieve the American FFA Degree.

Each recipient of the American FFA Degree receives a gold American FFA Degree key and certificate after being recognized at the national

convention. The National FFA Organization is a school-based national youth leadership development organization of more than 945,000 student members as part of 9,163 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

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Saguache Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary hosts 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. 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.

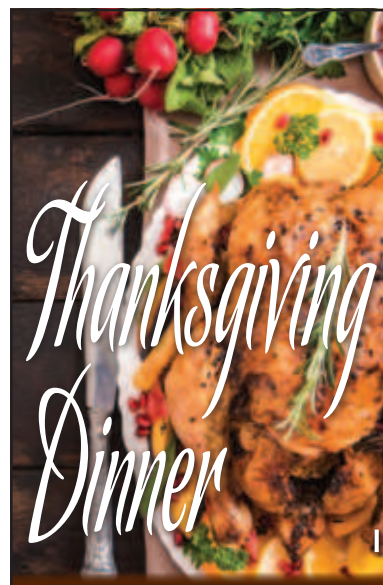
The Saguache Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1902. The Chief is Kendal Adolph.

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



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.



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