

Shorts

Sangre de Cristo School BOE meeting Oct. 10

MOSCA — The Sangre de Cristo School District Board of Education regular monthly meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 10, in the school Library at 8751 Lane 7 North, Mosca. Copies of agendas are posted at school site, website, the Hooper and Mosca Post Offices, and the Mosca Pit Stop. Meetings are open to the public.

Sangre de Cristo School selling past yearbooks

MOSCA — The Sangre de Cristo School is cleaning out extra copies of past yearbooks. However, before they do, they would like to make these copies available to the public. There are copies for most years dating back to 1988. The price is \$10 per copy. Anyone interested should contact the yearbook staff via email at yearbook@sangreschools.com.

SLV Museum community conversation is Oct. 6

ALAMOSA — The San Luis Valley Museum will hold its last community conversation at 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 6, during First Friday in Alamosa. The discussion will be facilitated by Jeff Bullington of the Adams State University library and is about the change in rural society in time. It is the theme to the museum's upcoming Smithsonian exhibit called "Crossroads." This is a free event, and the public is welcome to share their input. Also, the Palmas band will be playing live in the museum's courtyard afterward.

VALLEY PUBLISHING SEEKS REPORTER IMMEDIATELY

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Center School District excited to have a Recruitment and Retention Team

BY MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — Center School District Superintendent Carrie Zimmerman was excited to talk about the district's new Recruitment and Retention Team.

Please see TEAM on Page 2A

The Center School District Recruitment and Retention Team includes, back from left to right, Teddy Garcia, Carrie Zimmerman (superintendent), Linda Donaldson, Nicole Neufeld, John Noriega, Agnes Salazar, front from left to right, Maria Villagomez, Christy Mikeljack, JoAnn Lopez, and Sharon Valadez.

Courtesy photo



Wind burst blows roof off St. Francis Catholic Church

Deacon LeBlanc said nobody was injured

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — A gust of wind blew the roof off St. Francis Jerome Catholic Church on Saturday, Sept. 30, night. Nobody was injured but the power line to the church was cut.

Earlier this week, Deacon Jerry LeBlanc said the wind "peeled back" both sides of the roof.

"I am not sure if it was a microburst or a strong gust of wind that hit," he said. "It hit the church and just peeled back both sides of the roof, into the northern end of the parking lot. In our parking lot, in a couple of places, we have a couple of piles of mangled metal."

LeBlanc said that although nobody was injured, there were people at the church just before the incident.

"We had people leaving the parish hall and we had cars moving in and out just 15 minutes before the gust of wind came," LeBlanc said. "If the people would have been there when the wind came, cars would have been damaged and people could



Courtesy photo

A gust of wind blew the roof off St. Francis Jerome Catholic Church in Center on Saturday, Sept. 30, night. Nobody was injured.

have been harmed but thank God nobody was hurt."

LeBlanc said the church had filed a claim.

"The power line was cut. We have no electricity. The fire department came and looked over the place. They checked out the integrity of the structure. They felt it was fine," he said. "There has been a claim that

was filed, so things will be taken care of that way. We currently have an electricity company out here working on the line. The Center utilities crew is working on that for us. We are grateful that it will be fixed."

LeBlanc said the community had begun reaching out to the church.

Please see ROOF on Page 6A

Invitation to participate in the future of tourism in Saguache County

BY SAGAUCHE COUNTY TOURISM

SAGAUCHE — The Saguache County Tourism Council (SCTC), in partnership with the Colorado Tourism Office, invites the community to a Tourism Open House. The event will take place from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 25, at Saguache Road & Bridge.

The open house will showcase SCTC's recent accomplishments and its ambitious future goals. The Colorado Tourism Office will also deliver a presentation highlighting tourism's pivotal role across the state and its contribution to the quality of life in Saguache County.

"We will be discussing how to offer enriched tourism experiences for our county. Your feedback will inform future decisions about the local tourism industry and help SCTC foster a more resilient and inclusive economy," officials stated.

Please see TOURISM on Page 2A

Missing woman's remains found near Moffat

Suzanne Morphey went missing May 10, 2020

STAFF REPORT

MOFFAT — Human remains found near here on Friday, Sept. 22, were positively identified as Suzanne Morphey, who has been missing for more than three years, according to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Morphey, 49, was reported missing

from her home near Salida in Chaffee County on May 10, 2020.

CBI located human remains while searching in the area of Moffat in Saguache County on an investigation not related to the Morphey disappearance on Sept. 22. Specific information about the location and the state of the remains are being withheld at this time and no arrests have been made since the discovery.

Identification of the remains

Please see REMAINS on Page 2A



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Building hope in the Valley

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Last weekend, Paul and Kim Lee, co-founders of Hope in the Valley, a proposed drug and alcohol addiction treatment facility, sponsored an event in Alamosa where, along with about a dozen staff and volunteers, they were available for conversations with community members.

It's been less than a year since the Lees bought a vacant facility owned by Alamosa County and announced their plans to build a residential treatment center to serve people dealing with addiction and substance abuse and support those in recovery.

Since then, the co-founders have stayed largely out of the public eye as they zeroed in on their vision for the facility and brought on those with experience in such ventures for consultation.

In the years preceding their decision to open a treatment center, the Lees started an organization called "Roofers in Recovery," devoted to those individuals in the construction industry who struggle with substance abuse. All funds donated to Roofers in Recovery have been spent in support of more than 60 individuals in various stages of treatment, from paying for 30 days in a rehabilitation center to funding help needed in their recovery efforts.

Hope in the Valley is their first endeavor renovating a brick-and-mortar facility to help a population they both have a significant, personal investment in supporting. That has been a real challenge as the Lees, who live in Colorado Springs, also manage five other businesses.

"It's been a real learning experience," says Kim Lee. "We've never done something like this before. We've put more than 25 people through rehab treatment but,

with this, we didn't know what we didn't know."

"We realized that we were trying to recreate the wheel," says Paul Lee. "Other people have done this. They know what to do. We're learning from them."

Kim Lee said they have partnered with Mike Bayer, an individual who owns a large rehab facility in California and has a successful approach in Intensive Outpatient Programs, which they are using as their model.

"We're getting it," says Kim Lee. "Every day, we're understanding more of what's involved — like applying for licenses — and how to do get this done."

The "this" was visible when the Lees took Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske and the Valley Courier for an inside tour of the facility and described what, once completed, the facility will look like.

Upon walking through the front door, there will be a reception area with several smaller offices for "intake." Through the main door and to the right is the detox area where those, in the throes of full substance use, will be admitted. A door from the back also allows for people, if necessary, to enter detox without having exposure or access to others in various stages of recovery. Rooms accommodating up to 10 people open up on a day room that can be observed by nurses and other staff in an adjacent office with windows.

A locked door then leads to the other part of the facility that will house a total of 17-20 people in "Intensive Outpatient" and a second area of the facility that will house people who will stay for longer periods of time.

"I want this door to be symbolic," Paul Lee says, walking through the doorway. "I might even paint it an entirely different color. I want this door to communicate to people



Photos by Priscilla Waggoner

An exterior photo of the future site of Hope in The Valley. Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske and Kim and Paul Lee speaking outside.

'you're entering a whole new stage of your life.'

While there are still questions to be answered — "I'm not sure this room is big enough for two people, are you?" Kim asks Paul — the Lees are more determined than ever to be open by January of 2024.

In recent months, the two have largely stayed under the radar as Kim Lee — "I handle construction" — worked with Alcon Construction Company in getting floors torn up, walls repaired, sinks and toilets installed, and other infrastructure work completed.

One "huge" project was completely reinstalling the fire suppression system, a significant factor in the building being readied for occupation.

"We're almost to the place where we can install flooring," she says, opening the top carton of a tall stack

of flooring to admire its appearance. "Then we'll paint. I've been learning that the color blue has a calming effect on people."

There's also the matter of buying furniture for the bedrooms, including "suicide proof," mattresses, furniture for the day rooms, office furniture and getting phones installed.

There is the other task of lining up the right people to do what they have planned. They have reached an agreement with Dr. Ely Walker, a physician known in the San Luis Valley for having the greatest expertise in substance use disorder, to work with the facility, a decision that Laske openly applauds.

They have also interviewed more than 10 professionals who, for one reason or another, have chosen to stop working with providers already in the region, but are interested in working for Hope in the Valley.

And, as perhaps the greatest indication of their commitment, they have hired someone to head up "community engagement" to establish networking in the community and a professional who is facilitating a sobriety support group that already has close to 20 people attending a meeting in Alamosa every Monday, Wednesday and Friday night.

"We're focused on being sustainable," says Paul, a native of the Valley who's committed to helping others here as he was helped in his recovery. "This isn't about us making money. We didn't get in it for that. And we don't want to come in here, open a great facility, raise everyone's hopes, and then not be here in a year. We're here to help people. That's why we're here. We want to build something that will last. We want this to be our legacy to helping others."

TEAM

Continued from Page 1A

Carrie Zimmerman and Center Elementary teacher Christine Mikeljack talked with this reporter about the Recruitment and Retention Team.

"We have a Recruitment and Retention Team," Zimmerman said. "Our school is committed to helping to create the brightest students. We are also committed to having the best and brightest teachers to teach our students. We want our teachers and students to both be successful. We get together about once a month and hold meetings. We want to make sure that our staff has support, our veteran staff, and our new staff."

Mikeljack added, "There are a lot of us involved in this. We do our best to support each other."

The team's goals include retaining

highly qualified staff and increasing applicants for open positions by utilizing effective advertising strategies. Steps that the team has taken to accomplish these things include attending recruiting events, promotion through district videos, social media and brochures and partnering with Adams State University teacher education programs. The team has also looked into advertising opportunities locally and throughout the state.

Retention work ensures that a support system is in place for all new and veteran staff. Support for staff includes mentoring programs, social networking, wellness events, staff appreciation opportunities and much more.

TOURISM

Continued from Page 1A

Everyone with an interest in tourism is welcome to help celebrate the community and discuss responsible options to promote Saguache County. Complimentary refreshments will be provided.

For inquiries and to RSVP, contact Mimi Mather at mimi.mather@colorado.com.

This community event is supported by the Colorado Tourism Office

through the Destination Blueprint Program. SCTC receives a destination assessment, a community event and workshop, and 100 hours of free consulting to advance priority tourism projects.

"We look forward to seeing you there as we pave the way for a vibrant and sustainable future for tourism in Saguache County," officials stated.

The SCTC is dedicated to promoting

and enhancing tourism experiences in Saguache County, creating a thriving, sustainable, and resilient local economy.

The Colorado Tourism Office is committed to advancing tourism initiatives across the state, enriching communities, and bolstering quality of life through vibrant tourism experiences.

REMAINS

Continued from Page 1A

was confirmed on Sept. 27 by the El Paso County Coroner. Updates will be provided as information becomes available during this ongoing investigation. Family notifications have been made following the formal identification of Suzanne Morphew.

"While this case has garnered attention from around the world, it has touched our community and the sheriff's office deeply," said Chaffee County Sheriff John Spezze in a news release from CBI. "We have never

stopped our investigation and will continue to follow all leads in pursuit of justice for Suzanne."

The remains were located in the 12th Judicial District, and District Attorney Anne Kelly has been notified.

Morphew's husband Barry Morphew was charged with murder about a year after her disappearance, but charges were later dropped with district attorneys admitting they did not have enough evidence without a

body. Dismissing the case "without prejudice" means the case can be reopened.

"Although locating Suzanne's remains is a critical component of this investigation, and for her family, we are left with many more questions than answers, and it would be a disservice to conduct a news conference at this time," said Sheriff Spezze.

The public is asked to continue to report any information about this case by calling 719-312-7530.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Busy is as busy does

It appears that another summer season has come to a close for Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie, and what a season it was indeed. It started out like a Kansas tornado and never stopped until just this last Saturday with the end of elk and bear season. No matter the long-winded promises by Miss Trixie all last winter about "taking time for ourselves" and "not overpromising to others," she hit the ground running and, even short of breath due to the altitude, we soon were immersed in everything Colorado and more.

She talked long and often about all the "fun" she had driving the vans for Mountain Man Rafting in South Fork. And just like Tom Sawyer told his friends how much fun it was to paint the fence and got them to do it for him, she soon had Ol' Dutch driving fun seekers every day of the week up and down the river.

Of course no summer is complete without the Elks Monday night bingo at Creede in the underground community center and we partook of that liberally and more. I think we are probably out about \$100,000 or so due to the added treats of hotdogs and popcorn along with the bingo. They got new cards this year and our normally good luck with our special cards soon disappeared into the mining shaft abyss like the Titanic after hitting the iceberg.

The Creede Ladies Aid Society held its annual garage sale extravaganza and we got some good buys on some real treasures. Miss Trixie got to fill some \$3 bags on the last day and now we are taking back to Texas a lot more than we brought out. Otherwise known as "winning" to Trixie.

I also noticed that the Jeep was sagging a bit the other day and was concerned that maybe the shocks had failed or some other problem. Checking closer I soon found out why it was sagging like a wanna-be gangster with low rider pants. Potatoes. Yes, you heard right Miss Trixie had gone out to the valley and had them auger in a load of delicious spuds to be distributed to friends and family all over Texas.

She is kinda like the Santa Claus of the Irish fruit.

Now I don't know how many potatoes she wanted but I know how many we got and it's a sizable quantity. I do believe if she had been around in 1845, she could have



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

single-handedly prevented the Irish Potato Famine. What a godsend that would have been.

Not to be outdone, Ol' Dutch did score mightily on an antique Indian lamp. I don't know why Miss Trixie rolled her eyes at that and the poor girl will have to have that checked out maybe when we go to Mexico. She says it's gaudy while I say it's tasteful. Regardless, I like it and am gonna keep it no matter public opinion. I got quite a lot of tools and man stuff, too, so I am going to need some sort of Lady of Fatima miracle to get it all back to the Texas farm.

You would think having had a busy summer we would take some time off but it looks like as soon as we hit Texas we will be babysitting the grands for a weekend. Then it's off to Kansas to see my dad who will be celebrating his 93rd birthday. Then as soon as we return to the ranch it's off to Mexico and some fishing in the Gulf waters.

I am not sure how I got back into this busy all the time mode after retiring from a hectic lifestyle, but I do recall it all began after I met Miss Trixie and started kissing her lips. So maybe it's like the flu and I caught the busy life from her. All I know is there is never a dull moment and how else would a person want it anyway. Here's to a safe winter for you all and Godspeed wherever He may take you.

Kevin Kirkpatrick and his Yorkie, Cooper, fish, hunt, ATV or hike daily. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at www.troutrepublic.com or on Twitter at TroutRepublic.



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October was first proclaimed as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 1989. Since then, October has been a time to acknowledge domestic violence survivors and those who have passed, and to be a voice for those who may be experiencing it. Domestic violence is prevalent in every community, and affects all people regardless of age, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality.

Every October, Tu Casa, Inc. joins with its partners, supporters, and allies across the country to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). During 2022, Tu Casa served 239 individuals and answered 414 crisis calls.

Tu Casa, Inc. encourages everyone to get involved and help raise awareness about domestic violence. We have seen the power each and every one of us have in making a difference by bringing awareness to domestic violence. The color purple has been nationally recognized as the symbolic color to show support for those who have experienced domestic violence and let them know that help is available for themselves and their families. Tu Casa, Inc. hopes to spread awareness this October by asking staff and the community to wear purple every Thursday in the month. We also

encourage you to ask co-workers, friends, and family members to join Tu Casa, Inc. in this month's activities in order to start conversations about domestic violence.

Tu Casa, Inc. invites everyone to join us at the following events:

The Purple Light Campaign: The Purple Light Campaign was created to promote domestic violence awareness and remind survivors there are supports all around them. Tu Casa will be tabling at Spare Keg on October 6th, from 5-6:30pm, where we will hand out purple lightbulbs to community members to light their porches for the month of October and help ensure survivors in our valley know they are not alone.

Lunch and Learn: On October 18th, from 12-1pm, in the San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group large conference room, Tu Casa will be presenting on the history of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and request attendees help us let survivors in our valley know that Tu Casa is here to help, by painting rocks with supportive phrases/words for survivors, designs, and Tu Casa's hotline number. These rocks will be placed throughout the valley for survivors to find and utilize if they need.

"Light up the Night": Our 3rd Annual "Light up the Night" event will be held on October 27th, 2023, at 6:30pm under the West pavilion in Cole Park, Alamosa, CO. This event is free to attendees and works to honor victims, survivors, those who have passed, and anyone who has been affected by domestic violence. Refreshments will be served while you are provided with an opportunity to mingle and learn about resources within our community and at Tu Casa, Inc. We will start the ceremony at 6:30pm with a warm

welcoming introduction and guest speakers from our community and partners. We will take time to drop flowers in the river with a moment of silence and a performance by the General Shumei International Institute in honor of the survivors in the San Luis Valley. The night's event will culminate with a candlelight vigil to light up the night and an opportunity for anyone who wants to share their stories or experience. Attendees are encouraged to take photos and participate in the activities.

Throughout October you can stay updated on events and activities by following our Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TuCasaInc> & Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/slvucasa/> pages. We also request that you share photos of how you are raising awareness about this topic and tag us!

Domestic Violence can no longer be ignored; we must work together to raise awareness and to end violence. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, call the Tu Casa, Inc. 24-hour hotline at (719) 589-2465. If you would like to make a donation in honor of those who have been impacted by abuse, visit our website at www.slvucasa.net, and click on the link to donate. If you are interested in volunteering with our agency or would like more information about events, contact us at (719) 589-2465.

Tu Casa, Inc., which houses the Tu Casa Program, The Tu Casa, Inc. SANE Program, and the Children's Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley Program (SLV CAC), is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency that works to empower children and adults to live healthy, violence-free lives throughout the San Luis Valley. All services are free, confidential, and available in English and Spanish.

LETTER

Thank you to South Fork neighbors

Editor,
The Major family would like to thank all the neighbors and residents of South Fork that came out on September 13th to

process Matthew's trees. There aren't enough thank yous in this world to express how appreciative his wife, Amy, is. The ability of neighbors and strangers within this

community to help one another is amazing, outstanding, and beyond heartwarming.

*Amy Major
South Fork*



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Now is the time for SLV fall color drives and hikes

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The fall colors high up along the San Juan Mountains are almost at peak for the 2023 season, making this the perfect time to get out and enjoy the changing of the seasons.

Snow recently fell along the higher elevations. Now, travelers can see the beautiful Aspen trees changing and can experience the first coating of snow in the mountains.

As always while venturing out into the Colorado back country it is always best to be prepared. Pack and dress for inclement weather and unpredictable situations. The following suggested drives and hikes are easy and along maintained road systems throughout the western end of the San Luis Valley.

People seeking a drive through beautiful and breath-taking fall foliage while taking a trip back in time can visit the Summitville Mining District located south of South Fork. Travelers can take Highway 160 west out of South Fork along the beginning of Wolf Creek Pass for seven miles before making a left-hand turn onto Park Creek Road 330.

The road heading to Summitville is a maintained dirt road that is easily accessible by most vehicles. There are some steep inclines and caution is

urged as logging and mining trucks can be met along the drive. Forests of pine and Aspen trees line the road with several areas to pull off and take photos. At the top of Summitville and the site of the old mining district, there are restrooms, interpretive locations and signs, and old mining buildings nestled against autumn backgrounds that can make for the perfect fall day to enjoy with the family.

For people wanting to stay on a more-traveled path, the Silver Thread Scenic Byway can be the way to go. This amazing road leads travelers through some of Colorado's oldest mining districts, including Creede, Slumgullion Pass, and Lake City. Travelers will need to turn right onto Highway 149 out of South Fork and follow the highway through each township. The road is well marked and has several opportunities to pull off and take in the scenery.

Once again traveling up Wolf Creek Pass outside of South Fork, adventurers looking to explore or perhaps wet their fishing line while out for a day of fall colors, can head to Big Meadows Reservoir. Travelers will go 12 miles up Highway 160 and turn right onto Forest Service Road 410. This short drive can bring some



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Silver Thread Scenic Byway includes bursts of fall colors for people to see at Slumgullion Pass.

of the best results as those headed to the area will follow along a creek to the reservoir and then hike along the many marked trails along the lake

shores to view fall foliage.

After leaving Big Meadows, people still seeking fall colors can continue on Highway 160 heading west up Wolf Creek Pass. This drive will bring adventurers to several places where they can pull off safely and enjoy some high-country scenery. At the bottom of the pass on the west side, travelers are urged to stop at Treasure Falls

which offers a short, intermediate hike up the base of the waterfall and to a beautiful place to take fall photos.

No matter where travelers head out this weekend, the fall colors will be in full swing and will offer plenty of opportunities to see the foliage. For more information or a list of suggested fall drives, visit www.southfork.org.



Now is the time to go outside and enjoy the fall colors in the San Luis Valley. There are many places to see the fall foliage as it peaks this weekend — Oct. 7-8. Big Meadows Reservoir is just one of the many place where people can visit in the Valley to view the changing seasons.

GFWC National Day of Service Sept. 30

CONTRIBUTED

NATIONWIDE — The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Woman's Citizenship Club is pleased to announce the inaugural National Day of Service (NDS) kickoff, spotlighting food insecurity and hunger in the United States. This year's NDS is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 30, nationwide.

GFWC clubs in 48 states are participating to help increase public awareness and to provide food resources to residents-families in their communities.

"The inaugural GFWC National Day of Service is an exciting opportunity for our clubwomen to demonstrate their volunteer know-how," said Debra Strahanoski, International President. "The GFWC tagline is 'Living the Volunteer Spirit!,' which is the essence of this national public awareness campaign about hunger and food insecurity. It takes a village of concerned community leaders, public servants, and compassionate

neighbors to solve hunger."

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 34 million people in

the U.S. are food insecure, 9 million children are hungry, 53 million people turned to food banks.

San Luis Valley Scoreboard 2022 -2023

Football

Sierra Grande 48	
..... Sangre de Cristo 13	
Mountain Valley 41	Miami-Yoder 39
Centauri 43	Center 6
La Junta 35	Alamosa 18
Monte Vista 62	Del Norte 18
Dove Creek 30	Sanford 28
Mancos 1	Sargent 0 (F)

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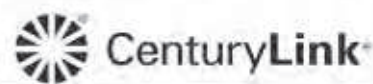
The Colorado Public Utilities Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$30.50 per month and business services are \$43.50 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in the Lifeline program, which makes residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers may qualify for Lifeline discounts of \$5.25/month for voice or bundled voice service or \$9.25/month for qualifying broadband or broadband bundles. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to qualify.

CenturyLink also participates in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides eligible households with a discount on broadband service. The ACP provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

For both programs, a household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Services are not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in these programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain these discounts can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from these programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit <https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html> for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.



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<https://www.facebook.com/ValleyPublishing>

Del Norte sets the stage for 2023 Scarecrow Bash

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Chamber of Commerce has started its annual Scarecrow Bash, and the town will soon turn into an autumn wonderland filled with fall-themed displays and spooky delights for people to view.

The annual event started several years ago and has brought a fun and interactive community event to the area. Local businesses and residents participate every year and the prize for the winners just gets better and better each year.

According to the Del Norte Chamber of Commerce, the annual event is looked forward to by several local businesses and travelers who come to the area to enjoy the event's fall flair.

"You help brighten up the streets and celebrate a beautiful time of year in Del Norte," chamber officials stated.

To participate, sign up at www.delnortechamber.org and then decorate. Pretty much anything goes as long as it is unique and fun for the community. After the decorating is complete, contestants enter a picture of their displays and send them in to be shared on social media.

Those wanting to vote for their favorite business or residential display can grab a map of the locations from the chamber and head out for a drive around town to see all the wonderful and creative



Courtesy photos

The annual Del Norte Scarecrow Bash is underway but there is still time for people to participate and possibly win prizes. Businesses and residents of Del Norte are invited to decorate for the fall and spooky season and enter the contest.

displays and then head on over to the website to vote.

There will be winners in both the residential and business categories, and they will be comprised of local donations from several businesses and

organizations, in addition to the bragging rights the winners get.

For more information, contact the Del Norte Chamber of Commerce at www.delnortechamber.org or call 719-657-9081



New members needed on the Greater Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Committee

CONTRIBUTED

LAKESWOOD — The USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region is seeking new members with diverse backgrounds and interests to serve on the Greater Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Committee. Committee members recommend special projects that should be implemented on Forest Service lands with Title II Secure Rural Schools funds. The committee functions under a formal charter in accordance with the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act and is subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The Greater Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Committee is the largest of its kind, representing the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison, Routt, Pike, Roosevelt, San Isabel, Rio Grande, San Juan, and White River National Forests in Colorado and the Medicine Bow, Bighorn, and Shoshone National Forests in Wyoming. The committee consists of 15 people who work in collaboration with natural resource managers and community members to help make project decisions that benefit federal lands and local communities. Serving on the committee provides a great opportunity for citizens to have a voice in future management actions across the region. Members volunteer to serve a 4-year term without pay but may be reimbursed for travel expenses.

Projects are funded primarily by Title 2, and must improve forest health, fish, wildlife, soils, watersheds, or other resources; maintain, de-commission or obliterate roads; improve trails and other infrastructure; or control noxious weeds. Previous projects have included meadow restoration in wetland areas, wildlife habitat improvements, and the installation of Aquatic Organism Passages to replace undersized culverts. The projects must be located on or provide a direct benefit to National Forest lands. The committee is also responsible for monitoring projects and making recommendations for improvements.

Those who are interested in serving on the committee are invited to submit nominations. Final selections will be vetted and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. Nominees must:

- Be a resident of Colorado or Wyoming; committee members will vote on projects in both states, regardless

of their state of residency;

- Provide a cover letter stating why they want to serve on the Greater Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Committee and what they can contribute;

- Provide a resume that shows experience working successfully in a collaborative setting and/or in work related to forest management activities;

- Complete Form AD-755, Advisory Committee or Research and Promotion Background Information. The AD-755 can be obtained at: www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd674657.pdf

- Identify the interest group they would like to represent and their qualifications to represent that group. Interest groups include:

- Category One: Five members who represent energy and mineral development; the commercial timber industry; organized labor or non-timber forest product harvester groups; developed outdoor recreation; off-highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation; or federal grazing or other land permits or represent nonindustrial private forest landowners.

- Category Two: Five members who represent nationally recognized environmental organizations; regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations; dispersed recreational activities; archaeological and historical interests; or nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups, wildlife or hunting organizations, or watershed associations.

- Category Three: Five members who are elected state officials; are county or local elected officials; represent Indian tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the Council is organized; are school officials or teachers with knowledge in natural resource management or the natural sciences; or represent the affected public-at-large and/or are employed by a state agency responsible for the management of natural resources, land or water.

Nominations must be received by Dec. 1, 2023. Please email nomination packages to Karley O'Connor at Karley.O'Connor@usda.gov; or mail them to Karley O'Connor at Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests, 2250 South Main Street, Delta, CO 81416.

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A new stage in Crestone has its debut

BY JOHN WATERS

CRESTONE — Last spring, Crestone resident Nick Nevares announced that he had raised the initial \$10,000 needed to begin construction of a new and permanent stage in the town park, which is located in the center of the small village.

In late June, the project began to take shape as the wooden logs and other pieces of the stage were delivered, and an eager team of workers began putting the stage together.

The stage hosted July 4th festivities and was a highlight venue for the Crestone Energy Fair on Sept. 16-17. “All the world is a stage, and we are getting a permanent one in Crestone! The \$10,000 needed to begin construction on the new Crestone Town Stage has been raised,” said Nevares, who expressed his gratitude to the donors and to the Town of Crestone for agreeing to the stage being constructed. The performance space is located where the temporary July 4 stage was last

year, on the east edge of Crestone Town Park. “The stage canopy is a parametric design based on sacred geometric Fibonacci triangles on both sides, providing extraordinary strength and stability. It was originally designed by resident artist Tom Lyle for a rooftop stage on a Denver skyscraper. It was created with high altitude mountains in mind,” according to Nevares.

The Crestone Energy Exchange will facilitate this project, which needs a few finishing touches.

This is not the end of the fundraising campaign, however. To completely build out the stage cover — a fully functional stage platform with drawers, drapes, and overhead truss — Nevares will continue raising funds until it is complete.

The stage project received a Saguache County Sales Tax Grant, a donation from Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa, and a number of community donations, has raised the first \$10,000 needed to purchase the wood from Mountain Valley Lumber



Photos by John Waters

In late June, the lumber for the Crestone Stage was delivered and workers began treating the wood.

in Saguache. The lumber has been curing for several months and has already been skinned and treated to ensure that the wood lasts for decades or longer. The structure has largely been built and additional donations are needed to finish the project.

The next funding benchmarks will facilitate the following:

- \$10,000 (This funding has been raised) Lodgepole stage cover erected, with waxed canvas cover
- \$25,000: Stage platform built with lockable drawers; curtains fabricated for the back perimeter of the stage; decorative wood diamond pieces for the front of the stage; a DJ booth built for occasional use; and overhead trussing for easier hanging of curtains.
- \$40,000: A permanent fabric cover similar to the one used at the Denver International Airport will be stretched over the top. This is an expensive endeavor; however, it will last for decades, similar to the wood.

The project is still in need of financing and checks can be made payable and mailed to: Crestone Energy Exchange at P.O. Box 83, Crestone, CO, 81131. Donors who give \$250, \$500, \$1,000, and \$2,500 will be honored on a plaque upon completion of the stage.



On July 4th the stage welcomed a variety of acts to the new and sturdy stage.



In this mid-September photo, the Crestone Stage is taking shape. The new performance venue was used on July 4th and as a centerpiece for the Crestone Energy Festival a few weeks ago.



Courtesy photo

St. Francis Jerome Catholic Church in Center is recovering after having its roof damaged by wind on Sept. 30.

ROOF Continued from Page 1A

“The community has responded marvelously. We have received offers of support from many members of the community. The faithful of St. Francis Jerome are gathering to help clean up all the dust and dirt that has entered the church. A window was broken and that is being repaired. The faithful will be gathering on Sunday for Holy Mass and to thank God for keeping everyone safe and well. People have been very helpful. That is the character of the town. That is the way the people of Center are, they are just helpful. When there is

a need in the community for help, the people always come together. In the town of Center people are very good at supporting one and other, in difficult times. We are blessed to have so many people care about the church in the community.”

Deacon LeBlanc said he thanks God that nobody was harmed and that everything will be remedied promptly.

Leblanc said that if people want to help, they should contact their sister parish hall at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Alamosa at 719-589-5829.

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Growing in Christ — Little by Little

I often teach on a variety of subjects, but I believe my primary calling is to help Christians grow up and mature in Christ and really begin to enjoy the great life He has in store for them.

As a young woman, I went to church for years, but I really didn't know much about spiritual maturity. I loved God with all of my heart, but I wasn't changing—I was still as critical, judgmental, and rebellious as ever. And even though I knew my life should be getting better, I was still miserable from dealing with all of the same problems.

I believe this is one of Satan's greatest strategies. If he can't keep people from hearing the Gospel and accepting Christ, he will do everything he can to make sure they never grow spiritually and experience the peace and joy that's promised to them in the Bible.

You see, when we're born again, the Holy Spirit comes to live in our heart—God plants a seed of *everything He is* in our spirit. He instantaneously deposits inside of us everything we need to live a great life.

For instance, Galatians 5:22-23 (AMPC) says, “The fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control...”

Did you know all of these things already exist on the inside of you? You may wonder, *Well, if that's the case, then why aren't I experiencing any of it in my life?*

Well, when it comes to the maturity process, we have a part to play. *Our part* is to cooperate with God to cultivate and develop His character in our lives so we can grow and become more like Him. How do we do that?

It all begins by spending regular time in God's Word. Hebrews 4:12 (AMPC) says, “The Word that God speaks is

alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]...”

When we spend time in God's Word, we are spending time *with God*. His Word changes us—it changes how we think and how we act. It changes how we see God, ourselves, and the world around us.

Romans 12:2 is a great scripture that shows us how we grow spiritually: “Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God...” (AMPC).

God has a “good and acceptable and perfect” plan for our lives, but we must renew our minds with His Word before we can experience it.

It's important to remember that growing spiritually is a process. When I first began to read and study God's Word, I immediately saw things I needed to change. For a while, I felt guilty and condemned that I wasn't “measuring up.” However, God helped me to understand that He never shows us these things to condemn us and make us feel guilty. He convicts us of our behavior in order to help us grow and come up higher in that area.

For example, I was extremely rebellious in the early years of my marriage. Because my father sexually abused me when I was growing up, I had developed a distrust of men. I vowed that no man would ever again push me around.

But as I learned God's Word, I saw that my behavior toward my husband, Dave, was wrong. The Lord was asking me to walk in love with Dave in my speech, attitudes, and actions. This was easier said than done! But God always gives us the grace to do what He is asking us to do. He doesn't expect us to do it all on

Moving Up Higher with Joyce Meyer

our own. So, little by little, by God's grace, I began to change. The Lord transformed me from being rude, critical, harsh, and rebellious into someone who has real peace, love, and joy. But it was a process—it didn't happen overnight.

Look at 2 Corinthians 3:18 (AMPC). It says we “are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another...”

The Lord changes us a little at a time. None of us will ever be perfect until we get to heaven, *and that's okay*. But as long as we're here on this earth, God desires for us to continually cooperate with Him to learn and grow.

As we do—as we continue to grow spiritually and change “from glory to glory”—we will experience the incredible peace, joy, and fulfillment that only God can give us. *And we will show the world around us what God is really like.*

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource **Developing the Character of God**. 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.

Outcalt funds second 4-H Agent

By LARRY BROWN

SLV Area CSU Extension Director

"I believe the children are our future, teach them well and let them lead the way." What better words to describe the core beliefs and core cause of the 4-H youth development program than these lyrics from the song 'The Greatest Love Of All,' written by Michael Masser and Linda Creed, and made famous by artists like Whitney Houston and George Benson.

And what a better time than National 4-H Week to announce the Ralph Outcalt Foundation, and trustees Karla Shriver and Carolyn Kawanabe, have gifted SLV youth and the SLV Area Extension program with a grant to hire a much needed, second 4-H Youth Development Specialist for the next three years.

The 4-H program is for youth ages 8 to 18 with an additional starter program called Clover Buds for ages 5 to 7. The symbol for 4-H is the four-leaf clover. The motto is "To make the best better." The slogan is "Learn by doing." The 4-H pledge is "I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living for my club, my community, my country, and my world".

Youth who join 4-H belong to a club where they make new friends, learn how to run meetings, elect officers, engage in community service projects together, and do fun activities. In addition, each member chooses one or more projects from a list of 200, which match their own interests and which they will work with an adult leader and their parents to complete through the year. These projects range from robotics to rockets, from cooking to cake decorating, from sewing to shooting sports, from wildlife

to welding, and from livestock to leathercraft to leadership.

The magic of the 4-H program is the volunteer leaders who dedicate their time and energy to help these youth learn important and useful life skills, self-confidence, self-love, community service and community pride. In short, they help develop our kids into competent, confident, caring adults who have strong work ethics and understand how to create great service and value for themselves, their family, and their community. The other magic to the 4-H program is the CSU Extension, youth development specialists who dedicate their lives to the youth in our community. Last year, in the six county, San Luis Valley Area, we had about 380 youth enrolled with 45 volunteer leaders, five part time county 4-H program coordinators, and one Extension 4-H agent.

Historically, the SLV Extension staff has had two 4-H agents, which is barely enough to cover all the youth and volunteer needs of the six counties. These agents are youth development specialists and are partly funded by your county dollars and partly funded by CSU dollars. But for the past 12 years, we have had only enough funding for one agent. There is no way this SLV Area 4-H program should have ever been led by a single agent, and I am committing that it will never again be left to a single agent. I heard of one other case in the state of Colorado in which the community had raised an endowment fund to hire their 4-H staff. And that is what we are going to do in the San Luis Valley. I believe the counties and CSU will continue funding the first 4-H specialist, and with an endowment in place, we will be able to securely fund our second specialist for decades on our own.

Our target is \$3 million for the endowment fund. Once in place,

the interest it will earn each year will fund the agent's salary and possibly part of the program operating cost for that agent. I have never raised this kind of money before, so I asked Karla Shriver and Kathy Woods for advice. Their proven success in helping the SLV community fund the new Ski Hi Outcalt Complex is testimony to their ability and tenacity. After several meetings, Karla advised me that foundations do not fund endowments like this, so we will need to do it like an old-fashioned barn raising. We will call on our community; our families, friends, neighbors, farmers, ranchers, and hometown businesses and banks to pitch in and help us raise this money; help us raise this barn; help us raise the next generation of competent adults.

Then the miracle happened. Karla told us to fill out an application and the Outcalt Foundation would give us a grant to get us started. She came back the next week and told us they would give us a grant each year for three years, to get us started. And I still did not understand the miracle. I thought Outcalt was giving us the seed money to start the endowment. "No Larry, you misunderstand me," explained Karla, "We are giving you this money so that you can hire the agent you so desperately need NOW. And we will fund this new agent for three years in case it takes that long to raise the endowment funds to make it a permanent position!"

Wow! Holy Cow!! Holy Smokes!!! Karla and Carolyn, and Ralph Outcalt Foundation, we are so very grateful for your generosity, your vision for SLV youth, and your trust in the CSU Extension staff and 4-H program.

So, what next? We will begin our hiring process for this second 4-H youth development specialist this

fall and hope to have this person onboard by the first of the year.

And as for the endowment? Ruthie and I are donating \$1,000 this week to help get it started, and \$100 per month until we hit our target.

If you believe in what we are doing and want to enroll your child in 4-H, please call the CSU Extension office. If you believe in what we are doing and want to volunteer to be a 4-H leader, please call the CSU Extension office. If you believe in what we are doing and are willing to pitch in and help us with this endowment fund, in the spirit of an old-fashioned community barn raising, please call or come into the

CSU Extension office and we will get you the information you need to help.

And please, when you see your County Commissioners, thank them for funding our Extension program. When you see a 4-H leader, thank them for their volunteer service. And when you see Karla and Carolyn, please thank them for the miracle they have created for the youth in our community.

Your SLV Area Extension staff and office can be reached in Monte Vista on the west side of the Monte Vista Co-op: Phone 719-852-7381. CSU Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

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Rio Grande County Emergency Manager Burrell working to get Hazard Mitigation Plan finalized

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — Rio Grande County Emergency Manager and Airport Director Brian Burrell updated commissioners on his progress toward getting the Hazard Mitigation Plan finalized during their meeting on Sept. 27.

Burrell stated he was focused on getting the municipalities within Rio Grande County to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan he has been working on for several months as the Rio Grande County Emergency Manager. Burrell stated that the Rio Grande County Commissioners had adopted the document and that he was working to get on the agendas of the other county governments to gain their approval.

This is the final step in a longer process that included all six counties throughout the San Luis Valley. The final document that is being presented to each municipality within Rio Grande County will be the basis for mitigation should a hazard occur. Based on the information provided in the document, the portion unique to each county will be a living document that can change as needs arise.

The purpose of this plan is to provide the counties of the San Luis valley Region, which include Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache

counties, and their associated jurisdictions, with a comprehensive hazard mitigation strategy for reducing long-term risks to people, property, and natural resources from the effects of hazard events. This plan demonstrates the region's commitment to reducing risks from hazards and serves as a tool to help decision makers direct mitigation activities and resources. This plan also maintains the planning area's eligibility for certain federal disaster assistance under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs.

This is an update to the plan that was adopted in 2017, beginning with independently formed documents by all six counties in 2017 and 2018 through work done by local emergency managers who reviewed the history of hazard events in the specific counties. Hazard events that were considered while creating these documents included avalanche, dam and drought events, earthquakes and flooding, hailstorms, severe weather and wildfire dangers, high wind, tornados and cyber-attacks as well as hazard material incidents and potential pandemic events.

Once the individual counties finalized their specific plans, those plans were used to create the regional document which will remain a living document, subject

to change as per guidelines set by FEMA.

"The plan's mitigation strategy includes goals for each county in the entire planning area. The plan also puts forth county-specific recommendations for mitigation, based on the risk assessment, that are designed to reduce future losses in each county and ultimately, in the region," Burrell said.

Through this document, participating counties throughout the San Luis Valley minimize the risks associated with hazard events in the area and by doing so, can potentially minimize the costs associated with such events.

"Disasters can weaken local economies and dramatically reduce local tax bases," Burrell said. "The rising cost of natural disasters has sharpened interest in identifying effective ways to reduce vulnerability to hazards. Many disasters are predictable, and much of the damage caused by these events can be alleviated or even eliminated by implementing cost-effective hazard mitigation plans."

According to Burrell, he has met with the City of Monte Vista and is working to meet with the Town of Del Norte and Town of South Fork to get final approval of the plan and hopes to have the document adopted before the end of the year.



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Crestone Artists invite public to their creative spaces Oct. 7-8

By TERESA DUNWELL and MAE GREEN

CRESTONE — Crestone Artists' 11th annual Open Studio Tour invites the public to share in a kaleidoscope of multimedia creations. Artists will exhibit their work and converse about their artistic process, their techniques, and imaginative insights. Some artists may present a demonstration of their work.

Artists' studios will be open and free to the public Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 7 and 8, from noon to 5 p.m. On Friday Oct. 6, from 5-8 p.m., Crestone tour artists will hold a preview reception at Art Gallery 222, located at 222 Birch Ave., (on the curve coming into Crestone). The preview art will be on display from Sept. 21 through

Oct. 13 at Art Gallery 222.

Full color catalogs with tour maps are available at businesses and other locations throughout the region or at www.CrestoneArtists.com

There are 17 artists at 13 locations to visit on the tour.

As numbered in the catalog they are:

1 — Joni Franks, award-winning author/illustrator of 12 published children's books, delighting readers with inspirational stories;

2 — Noemi Kosmowski, who meditatively paints spiritual subjects, portraits of inspiring people and nature;

3 — Kristof Kosmowski, a "pseudo-realist", using a palette knife to depict mountains and landscapes in vibrancy;



Mountains of Crestone captured by Tour artist Kristof Kosmowski.

4 — Blue Starseed, expressing and entertaining Truth and the Cosmic in visionary experiences in her figurative paintings;

5 — Karen Kenney, showing detailed fiber art and collages that share messages and tell stories. *Please see ARTISTS on Page 2*



Courtesy photos

On the Crestone Studio Tour Noemi Kosmowski will share paintings of what she loves.

It's leaf-peeping season: Find fall colors at Colorado state parks

By COLORADO PARKS and WILDLIFE

COLORADO — Colorado's vibrant "leaf-peeping" season has officially begun as patches of color pop among the trees. While the stunning fall foliage display is worthy of the annual crowds at Colorado state parks, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) encourages park visitors to protect natural resources while enjoying them.

"We ask that folks "rushing for gold" plan ahead and have location backup plans because parks get crowded and parking is limited at certain trailheads," said Todd Farrow, park manager at Golden Gate Canyon State Park. "Please only park in designated areas and remember that parking along roads is prohibited because it destroys vegetation, can ignite wildfires and blocks emergency vehicles."

All Coloradans and visitors can contribute positively to conserving our natural resources by respecting our outdoor shared spaces, as outlined below.

Know Before You Go

The fall season is busy at Colorado state parks and parking lots get full. If a parking area is full, move on to the next designated parking area and follow instructions given by park rangers. Park rangers can issue parking tickets to people who park illegally or block traffic. CPW also recommends having a backup plan if your desired trailhead, park or location is crowded or closed.

Use CPW's Park Finder Tool to see a Colorado state parks map. To learn more about outdoor activities at Colorado state parks, visit cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo.



Photo CPW/Bridget O'Rourke

When heading outdoors to find the perfect scenic view this fall, practicing the Care for Colorado — Leave No Trace principles is essential in keeping landscapes colorful and clean.

state.co.us/thingstodo.

Stick To Trails

Shortcuts and that perfect selfie can be tempting, but staying on the path will decrease your risk of injury and protect trailside plants and local wildlife.

Download the COTREX app to discover Colorado's extensive network of trails.

Leave It As You Find It

Parking in designated areas is critical — undesignated parking can *Please see colors on Page 2*



Photo by Marie Mccolm

People volunteered to put the new playground equipment at the Hooper Town Park.

Second annual Hooper Fest set for Oct. 7

Will include ribbon cutting ceremony for playground

By MARIE MCCOLM

HOOPER — The Town of Hooper will be hosting the second annual Hooper Fest at noon on Saturday, Oct. 7, in the Hooper Town Park. The festival will feature food, hayrides, games, and so much more.

Along with the festival, attendees can also attend a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new playground equipment. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be at Hooper Town Park at 1 p.m.

The festival and ribbon cutting ceremony are to celebrate fall and honor the community.

Mayor Tommy Denton recently spoke about the installation of the playground equipment and what it means to the town.

"This has been a long time coming. The playground will have about five

slides total. There are three different stages to putting this all together," Dentler said. "We have already put up a walking path on the outside area of the park. We have some lights that will be going up. Eventually there will be a basketball court as well. We are hoping that this will help the community. I have four boys and I'm hoping this helps get them out of the house more. This is all really good for the community, and we are excited about this."

Over the course of the past month, Denton along with other residents of Hooper and Hooper town board members have been back and forth to the park putting up all the equipment and the culmination and completion of the playground will be presented the day of the Hooper Festival.

Town Board Trustee Mimi Dolan also spoke a little about what led up to the playground equipment being installed.

"The way this all started is just *Please see fest on Page 2*

ARTISTS

Continued from Page 1

ries through color, patterns, and textures;

6 — Allison Wonderland, featuring sculptures, drawings and one-of-a-kind mementos that explore the blessings of being part of nature and human;

7 — Stephen Futral (Ish), bringing his timeless wealth of experiences to encaustics, prints, acrylics, and playful mixed media;

8 — Noah Baen, whose paintings dance with movement, color and shape as dreams and visions take form;

9 — Alan Sutherland, touching nature and flow through sculpture carved with love in pinon, cedar, aspen and other woods;

10 — Teresa Dunwell, painting a vision of the inner world as light, dark, luminous color, using a language of light in veiled oil and acrylic;

11 — Mae Green, creatively expressing flashes of insight and healing in pastel, collage, oils, and watercolor;

12 — Josefina Gordh, inspired by mythology and drawing from numerous cultures, silk designs, art to wear, home décor and wall hangings;

13 — Amy Jo Arndt, creates mixed media art to inspire the heart and soul, exploring grief and the freedom to be;

14 — Susan Reycroft, with joyful interpretations expressing her love for nature in acrylic, silk, and sculpture;

15 — Leigha Nicole, with over 30 years of experience in traditional Chinese painting and western watercolor delights with her flowing



A rose is a rose and more so when painted by Mae Green.



One of Alan Sutherland's detailed carvings in local woods.



Courtesy photos

Crestone Tour artist Rose Burek's wind art will ring for the Crestone tour.



Mae Green's paintings use Renaissance glaze technique.

brush paintings;

16 — Shirley Motz, showing meditatively inspired art expressions in color and texture in acrylics and collage;

17 — Rose Burek, showing soulful sound creations from repurposed metal objects transformed into musical "wind art."

An Open Studio tour has been a Crestone tradition since 2005.

See Blue Starseed's cosmic visions on the Crestone Open Studio Tour.



Courtesy photos

The second annual Hooper Fest will be at noon on Oct. 7 at the Hooper Town Park.

FEST

Continued from Page 1

amazing," Dolan. "I wrote a grant for COG which stands for council of governments. This is not an easy grant to obtain, but we got the grant, and luckily it was a matching grant. The playground will be done in three phases, like our mayor was talking about. We just decided what we really wanted to see first was the installation

of the playground equipment, since we already had the equipment donated to us, it just made sense. The Walking path is here. There will be a fire pit placed somewhere in the park. There will be some solar lights installed. This will all be completed by the end of September, in accordance with the rules of the grant that was applied for."

COLORS

Continued from Page 1

destroy vegetation, ignite wildfires in dry grass and block first-responder vehicles in case of an emergency. Show you care about our state parks by not driving over plants, flowers, rocks or through water streams.

Colorado's trees provide beautiful leaf-peeping photos, shade and oxygen. Help keep them thriving by not carving into them or pulling down branches that may kill or disfigure them.

Keep Wildlife Wild

Many species call Colorado home, making it the perfect destination for wildlife watching on state park trails. Protect yourself and your loved ones from potential wildlife conflicts by watching wild animals from a safe distance to avoid startling or forcing them to flee.

Keep dogs leashed when enjoying dog-friendly trails and put waste bags in a trash can. Do not hang waste on trees or put waste bags in toilets.

Do not feed or approach young

wildlife and be bear aware on trails. If you see wildlife that appears sick or injured, leave it alone. Call a Colorado Parks and Wildlife office and consult a trained wildlife officer for guidance.

Share our Trails and Parks

Being kind and considerate to others outdoors helps build more inclusive spaces and allows everyone a personal connection to nature.

"We want everyone to have a great time experiencing the vibrant colors and the natural wonders our beautiful state has to offer," said Farrow. "No matter where you plan to explore this fall, please respect our natural resources, park staff, volunteers and fellow recreationists out searching for Colorado gold."

Join us in keeping Colorado, Colorado. Read about the Keep Colorado Wild Pass and how it benefits Colorado's wildlife and state parks at cpw.info/keepcoloradowild and cpw.info/keepcoloradowildpassspanish.

Business Showcase

New order of pottery arriving!

Check it out!

The Holy Moses
Mon.-Sat.
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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This Week's Feature



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Walking to Fix Our Democracy stops in Blanca, Fort Garland

By DIANE DREKMANN
BLANCA-FORT GARLAND — Many people today are unhappy with the government and the current situation in this country. One 81-year-old man, Rick Hubbard decided to try and make a difference by walking across the United States, "Walking to Fix Our Democracy."

Last week, he walked and talked to people in Blanca and Fort Garland.

Wherever he goes he tries to find out what people feel about the government officials they elected at the state or federal level and how satisfied they were with the job they were elected to do.

"Everyone is not satisfied," Hubbard said. "They don't think our representatives are representing us."

Hubbard became concerned about where the country was heading when he was in his 30s studying law.

The reason Hubbard was motivated to start Walking to Fix Our Democracy and started walking because he "feels things are getting worse and are hurting our nation. If we don't fix (it) it will continue to get worse. We're now in economic servitude. (You) can't help because you're trying to survive yourself. The group that is in a position to help, sit and don't get involved. (It) works against the system."

Hubbard has a website www.fixourdemocracy.us. He has a series of podcasts outlining the specific issues he would like to see addressed, like health care and the economy.

Hubbard does not promote one side or the other. He just "wants what works for all of us. The citizens want government people who work for the people."

Hubbard would like to see Congress make effective, efficient decisions for the benefit of everyone.

"We need to examine the issues... how we vote...and we need a system that is fair, inclusive, and competitive. Don't get elected just to get re-elected," he said.



Photo by Diane Drekman

Rick Hubbard stopped and talked to people in Blanca and Fort Garland on Sept. 21 and 22 during his Walking to Fix Our Democracy project.

Hubbard decides where to walk by "where activists are trying to fix things, which states have the most upside potential." He attends events and legislative sessions.

Hubbard began walking from Pasadena, Calif., on Oct. 1, 2022. He went through California, Nevada, and Arizona. His beloved life partner Sally had a resurgence of cancer in December 2022. He cared for her until her passing in April 2023.

Hubbard resumed his mission and began walking again in August 2023 from Santa Fe, N.M. He passed through Blanca and Fort Garland on Sept. 21 and 22. He hopes to reach Fort Collins in November, return to his home in Vermont for the winter and resume walking in April.

Hubbard plans to go through politically active states like Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania and ultimately Washington D.C.

Hubbard hopes "to get to the early primaries in 2024." He travels in an RV he bought in Illinois.

He walks 10 miles a day 5 days a week and relies on volunteers for logistics. Visit his website to

see his schedule and find out how a person can become involved to help fix our nation.

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

HEY, HUNTERS!!!

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WHAT: 21-FT LANCE CAMPER TRAILER, MODEL 1575; LIGHT ENOUGH AND STOUT ENOUGH TO BE TOWED AND SET UP JUST ABOUT ANYWHERE IN THE MOUNTAINS WHERE THERE'S A DECENT FOREST ROAD, OR EVEN A GOOD TWO-RUT TRACK

FEATURES: FULLY SELF-CONTAINED; NOTHING TO HOOK UP. ELECTRIC TONGUE JACK AND FOUR EASY-OPERATING CORNER JACKS. CUSTOM SKIRTS TO KEEP COLD WINDS FROM UNDER THE TRAILER. SOLAR-CHARGED, BATTERY-POWERED ELECTRICAL SYSTEM. PLUMBING SYSTEM TO PROVIDE HOT & COLD WATER FOR KITCHEN SINK AND SHOWER. GRAY- & BLACK- WATER STORAGE TANKS. SLEEPS TWO ADULTS & TWO CHILDREN, OR THREE HUNTERS. PUSH-BUTTON CONTROLLED DINETTE SLIDE-OUT AND AWNING OVER DOOR. PROPANE HEATING SYSTEM FOR COOKING, THERMOSTATICALLY-CONTROLLED SPACE HEATING, & HOT WATER. PROPANE REFRIGERATOR

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VIEWING: MONTE VISTA, CO. CALL 719-580-1418 FOR APPOINTMENT TO INSPECT, OR TO OBTAIN A VIRTUAL WALK-THROUGH.

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Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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

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



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05 Notices

Invitation To Bid: Baseball Field Spectator Fencing Upper Rio Grande School District. Bids are being sought for a fencing project at the Baseball Field located on the Upper Rio Grande School District property in Del Norte, Colorado. The fence will be 261 linear feet, 8 ft. tall with black vinyl slats, schedule 40 piping, 9 gage wire, with two six foot gates. Please contact Adelmo Trujillo at (719) 657 - 4040 for more information and specifications of the project. Bids will be accepted through October 12, 2023. (10/25)

WE BUY ANTLER: Use code "ELK18" and you will get \$18/lb for Elk Grade A and \$13/lb for Deer Grade A. 5 miles west of Del Norte on Hwy 160. 719-657-0942 (TFN)

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

07 Help Wanted

Interventionist needed at Del Norte Elementary School. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team. Applicants must have a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Amy at 719-657-4050. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (10/25)

Instructional Coach needed at Del Norte Jr./Sr High School. Candidate should be proficient in all areas of teaching and learning with an emphasis on professional practice and the teaching and learning cycle. The coach will be responsible for consulting with and supporting the instructional teaching staff in using resources that impact student learning. The coach will provide support and professional learning to instructional staff as needed. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to Annie Hardy, Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co. (10/25)

The Upper Rio Grande School District has received a grant for a full time Jr./Sr. High School Counselor - for the next 3 years, starting in the 2023-2024 school year. Applicants must have a Master's Degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain an appropriate Colorado school counselor license. Please submit your application, resume,

PART-TIME SALES

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

VALLEY PUBLISHING SEEKS REPORTER IMMEDIATELY

For Center and Saguache areas. Writing and photography experience necessary. Send resume, writing and photography samples to Valley Publishing Inc., P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or email bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com

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Valley Wide

Classifieds

and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, Del Norte Jr./Sr. High Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at 719-657-4020. Applications for certified staff positions can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co. (10/25)

Substitutes Teachers needed at the Upper Rio Grande School District in Del Norte! Call or email: Sophia at 719-657-4040, x4000 (scruz@urtigers.co) for more information, go on-line: urtigers.co, or stop by the district office at: 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO to pick up an application. You do not have to hold a college degree or be a certified teacher to substitute; however, you must be a high school graduate and have a substitute license from CDE (Colorado Department of Education).

Colorado State University is hiring an Extension Area Specialist, 4-H Youth Development, for the SLV Area. This position will foster strong, healthy, youth by providing leadership, guidance, direction, and assistance in the implementation of the overall 4-H Youth Development program. This is a full-time, twelve (12) month, non-tenure track Extension faculty position. For the job announcement, required qualifications, salary range, and application instructions, go to <https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/133117> Application deadline is October 8, 2023. We are committed to increasing the diversity of our staff and providing culturally responsive programs and services.

Therefore, we encourage responses from people of all backgrounds and abilities. We invite you to review Colorado State University's Principles of Community that guide our mission and vision of access, teaching, service, and engagement. CSU is an EO/EA/AA employer and conducts background checks on all final candidates. For more information, call Larry Brown at 719-852-7381. (10-4)

Del Norte Bank is seeking to fill a full-time position for Teller in the Del Norte Branch. Duties will be to accept deposits, loan payments and process withdrawals while maintaining a balanced cash drawer.

Must be personable and pleasant answering the phone and greeting customers. Many other duties will be assigned as needed. The position is permanent, full-time, M – F, 8am – 5pm with a robust benefits package. Application available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or inquire at 705 Grand Ave, Del Norte or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE. (10-11)

10 Apartments

Apt. for Lease in Del Norte. Lg. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Adults only, Non-smoker, No pets. All utilities incl. \$900. mo., \$900. deposit. 1 year Lease. Available Oct. 1st. 719-850-2738

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Crestone Artists Open Studio Tour

October 7th and 8th
12 PM - 5 PM

Preview Reception
Friday, October 6th, 5-8pm
"Art Gallery 222" ~ 222 Birch Ave
(on the curve coming into Crestone)
Art from tour artists on exhibit
September 21 thru October 15



Amy Jo Arndt



Teresa Dunwell



Karen Kenney



Kristof Kosmowski

Scan this QR code for an online map to the 17 participating Artists at 14 Studios!



CrestoneArtists.com

Valley Wide Classifieds

14 Business Properties For Rent
 Freshly painted professional office or residential space located in a quiet four-plex in Del Norte. Approximately 700 sq ft with a spacious living room, separate office or bedroom, kitchen area with newer appliances, and 3/4 bath. \$800/month, inclusive of water and sewer, and a small storage shed. No pets. Please call 719-850-0750.

17 Real Estate For Sale
FARM FOR SALE in Waverly Area Sub-district #6, 1 1/2 center pivots

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

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

35-80+ acre parcels on San Francisco Creek south of Del Norte. Very private, views, 3 miles from town, electric and phone. Call

Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc. 719-580-0770. (TFN)

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SOLD

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

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
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Darling authentic 1,232 Sq. Ft. 2-Bedroom 2 bath log cabin with upgrades galore! Located in Log Haven. Tucked along the mountain side backing up to national forest with beautiful views of the surrounding cliffs. Open living room, dining, kitchen area with new propane Vermont Casting stove to keep you cozy and warm all winter long. Kitchen is quaint and bright with custom granite countertops. This cabin has a covered front porch and wonderful back deck. The perfect place to enjoy the wildlife, peace and quiet and that first hot cup of morning coffee. Nice fence back yard with gate opening to the national forest. Hike for miles out your own back door. Downstairs has a master bedroom and a full bath. Upstairs additional bedroom, bathroom and nice size sitting nook, great space to enjoy that best-selling book or use for your office den. This cabin comes complete with one car garage, storage shed, central well and town sewer. Cabin can be used as a full-time residence, or home-away-from-home winter or summer get-a-way! Rentals are not allowed in this subdivision. Don't wait! Start your adventure today! Only a short 17-mile drive from Wolf Creek Ski area. The mighty South Fork and Rio Grande River, Beaver Mountain reservoir & Million reservoir are just moments away. Bring your fishing pole and enjoy hours of world class fishing. Ski Wolf Creek, go 4 wheeling, hike, camp, hunt, Enjoying everything outdoors! Let's get started call /text and schedule your showing today! **\$325,000** MLS #800364
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Check out this small diverse farm. The home is a 2bed/2bath, 1703.2 sq foot, historic adobe that has been fully and beautifully restored. Enjoy Colorado from the large (768 sq ft) open porch. This home sits on 126.06 deeded acres of land situated in the bottoms of the old Culebra River Drainage. The soil is sandy and loamy and has been used for vegetable crop production in the past w/o the use of pesticides or herbicides. It is watered by the San Acacia acequia with an early decree for 1.62 CFS. There is a domestic house well permit number 284703. The property also has a holding pond for irrigation water. The owner is installing a new side roll sprinkler, which will irrigate up to 80+ acres M/L. The new side roll irrigation system will be installed before closing and will increase production. There are several outbuildings useful for storage and/or animals. The farm is located in Costilla County, Colorado just north of the New Mexico state line. It is about one hour to Taos. The Rio Grande River is about 12 miles away. Red River Ski area and Rio Grande del Norte National Monument are near Questa, New Mexico about 40 minutes away. The Sand Dunes National Park is about 45 minutes north. **\$550,000** MLS #797313
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 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
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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
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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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



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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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340 Lake Drive - ON THE CREEK in Willow Park Ranch - this four-bedroom, three-bath home borders the National Forest and has incredible views of the San Juan mountains. Newly renovated, this home is a must-see for those looking for privacy, a live, year-round creek with trout, and hike-out access to public lands from a secure, gated community. MLS #807635. \$968,500




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682 Bear Creek Circle South Fork
This luxurious mountain home has 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms and sits on 15.6 acres in the gated community of Bear Creek in South Fork. Perfect for horses!
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SLV Generation Wild, City of Alamosa get a \$350K boost from GOCO

By GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO

DENVER — The Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) board on Friday, Sept. 22, awarded \$350,000 to the City of Alamosa and San Luis Valley Generation Wild (SLVGW) for the group's work to get kids and families outside. The community's mission is for the San Luis Valley to have a vibrant, healthy, and active outdoor community cared for by all.

The funding is part of GOCO's Generation Wild program, which launched in 2015 to help urban, suburban, and rural communities across Colorado introduce kids and families to new outdoor experiences and inspire them to get outside more often for their health and happiness.

SLVGW partners work together to create outdoor opportunities and connections for all people in the San Luis Valley. With this funding, partners will deepen their relationships with families and parents, increase visibility and reach for partners, and develop an outdoor workforce pipeline for youth.

The local school district is moving into a four-day school week, and SLVGW partners will use this funding to offer new Friday programming and support staff capacity for new and existing work. The community also plans to expand marketing efforts, ensuring communities across the San Luis Valley know about the available programs. Partners will continue providing high-quality outdoor educational programs for youth in the SLV, and ensure skill-building and professional advancement opportunities for youth to explore outdoor career paths. In addition, the community will welcome two new partners: the Alamosa Bicycle Coalition and Southwest Conservation Corps Los Valles.

"ABC's bike programming for kids has really taken off this year. More kids than ever are participating in our bike rides, rodeos, and lessons. It is so fun to see kids having a blast while

unknowingly gaining important skills and safety knowledge," said Alamosa Bicycle Coalition Executive Director Grantley Showalter. "The amount of joy a bike can bring to a kid always blows me away. Alamosa Bicycle Coalition is looking forward to getting more kids outside next year and joining the SLV GenWild Coalition!"

Since 2016, SLVGW partners, led by the City of Alamosa, have worked to connect Valley youth to the outdoors. The community, which was formerly two coalitions, merged in 2020 to form partnerships with community organizations and streamline program opportunities to offer a range of outdoor initiatives to meet the needs of youth from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Partners also created new pathways to employment opportunities for young adults through internships, scholarships, and youth counselor positions, encouraging the next generation to consider careers in the outdoors and environmental education.

The community serves residents of the San Luis Valley including the six counties of Alamosa, Mineral, Conejos, Rio Grande, Saguache, and Creede. This new funding brings the total GOCO investment in SLVGW since 2015 to more than \$4.25 million. Signature projects include the Rio Grande Farm Park's education center, Boys and Girls Club Outdoor Adventure program, the Alamosa Rio Trio adventure race, Inspire trail, and the Adams State Adventure Program's trip program.

This brings the GOCO board's investment in the Generation Wild program to date to \$51.8 million, making Colorado a national leader in equitable outdoor access and the youth-and-outdoors movement. Collectively, more than 470 organizations, including local governments, schools, health-based organizations, and youth-serving nonprofits have reached 270,068 participants; run



Courtesy photo

Great Outdoors Colorado awarded \$350K to San Luis Valley Generation Wild and the City of Alamosa to support outdoor programs, such as the Alamosa Rio Trio adventure race.

7,649 programs; and created 3,313 pathways to outdoor careers, including jobs, internships, and leadership development opportunities.

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers, and open spaces. GOCO's independent board awards competitive grants to local governments and land trusts and makes investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Created when voters approved a constitutional amendment in 1992, GOCO has since funded more than 5,600 projects in all 64 counties of Colorado without any tax dollar support. Visit GOCO.org for more information.

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

Visit Our Facebook Page

We have about 21 puppies who will be ready for meet and greets after the 10th of October. Their photos are up on our website, please take a look and see if there's a little one that steals your heart! If so give us a call and we'll put a meet hold on them for you!



Bear is a sweet Retriever mix, who we are estimating at about 7 years old, possibly a bit older. He gets along with other dogs, and has a tendency to wander if left unsupervised for too long. Bear loves to play and really loves attention! Stop in and meet him today!



Justice is currently our longest resident at over 500 days here. She's a Chocolate Lab/Pit mix with a heart of gold. She's about 3 years old and does best with male dogs because she tends to get a little rough during doggy playtime. Justice is great with kids, plays fetch, and loves chasing water. Come by and see if she's the fur family member you've been missing!



Spot is one heck of a guy who's ready for his new forever home! He's a Lab/Pit mix who is turning 6 this month, and just wants a loving home with time to play with him. Spot was a little sad and withdrawn when first arriving here due to the passing of his owner, but now is happy as can be and ready for a new family! Won't you stop in and see if he's the guy for you?

With so many puppies we're flying through puppy food and treats! We would really appreciate any donations! Thank you all!

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Kids Crane Fest Quest celebrates Sandhill Cranes at Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge

By AMY ENGLE

MONTE VISTA — The Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges is excited to announce the Kids Crane Fest Quest, taking place from Oct. 8-14, during National Wildlife Refuge Week. This event is a substitute for the usual Kid's Crane Fest at the Monte Vista Refuge which could not be planned this year due to scheduling conflicts.

Activity sheets can be downloaded from the "Events" section of the Friends of the SLV Wildlife Refuges website at www.slvrefuges.org or from their official Facebook page. The event offers a unique opportunity for children and adults alike to witness the majestic Sandhill Cranes in their natural habitat during their fall migration.

Participants are invited to explore the Monte Vista Refuge Tour Loop, located 6.5 miles south of Monte Vista on Highway 15. To complete the quest, attendees are encouraged to stop at the numbered signs, observe the wildlife, and fill out the activity sheet for each station. The adventure begins at the yellow gate entrance to the Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge tour loop.

Formed in 1999, the Friends of the SLV Wildlife Refuges is an independent nonprofit organization that has been instrumental in numerous initiatives to support and enhance the refuges. In collaboration with the Refuge staff, the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce, Rio Grande County, and the City of Monte Vista, the Friends have played a pivotal role in planning and operating the annual Monte Vista Crane Festival. This event attracts thousands of visitors from around the globe.

The Friends' contributions include the establishment of the Meadow Lark Trail on the Monte Vista NWR, the Discovery Room at the Alamosa NWR, and many years of Kid's Crane Festivals. Although the Fishing days have been halted due to fish disease and drought, the Friends continue to support the refuge with the annual Friends and Neighbors Picnic, updating the community on refuge happenings.

Notably, Friends members were key advocates for the establishment of the Baca NWR in 2005. In 2021, the Friends were awarded a \$15,000 grant, which was utilized to enhance a critical parking area on the Monte Vista Refuge, install wildlife cameras, and set up an educational kiosk.

The fall migration serves as a preview of the spring migration, which can be witnessed during the Monte Vista Crane Festival. The upcoming festival is scheduled for March 8-10, 2024.

For more information about the Kids Crane Fest Quest or the Monte Vista Crane Festival, visit www.slvrefuges.org or follow the Friends of the SLV Wildlife Refuges on Facebook.

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Courtesy photo

The Center Police Department organized a suicide prevention 5K walk on Sept. 22. About 40 people participated.

Town of Center holds a Suicide Prevention Walk

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — On Friday, Sept. 22, the Center Police Department held a suicide prevention 5K walk at 6:30 p.m. in honor of fallen police officers, including K-9s, and everyone that have lost their lives to suicide.

The walk began at Center Community Park and traveled around the town of Center, through the back roads and ended back at Center Community Park. There were about 40 people along with officers and the EMS helicopter at the park, all for the walk.

Center Police Department Cpl. Adam Fresquez talked about the event.

“This event is called the Fallen. September is Suicide Prevention month,” he said. “We want to make this an annual event, too. We want to help people with suicide awareness. We want people to know that law enforcement officers deal with this, and we are definitely here to help. We want to encourage people to talk to us, we want them to know we are here. We know how stressful life can be. We deal with a lot, too. Our jobs are stressful, but we do them. We love what we do.”

Fresquez said that there had been a lot of items donated for the event. Adams State University donated a helmet signed by their head coach. They were also given a Colorado Rockies baseball signed by Charlie Blackmon, the four-time MLB All-Star for the Rockies. Aaron Gordon of the

NBA Champion Denver Nuggets also donated an autographed picture. The proceeds from the items will go to an officer’s family that had committed suicide.

Fresquez also mentioned that Safeway in Monte Vista donated the water for the walk.

Center Police Department Chief Aaron Fresquez said, “We really want the public to know that we deal with these kinds of things, too. We put on our badges and our guns, and we serve the community, but it’s not without stress. People think we are heroes, and I consider us heroes we try to be. We also deal with these kinds of things in our heads. We want people to know this. This is our first suicide prevention walk. We have behavioral health here on site. We would really like to do another walk next year too and make this an annual thing. Center school is going to be holding another walk like this one as well, in a couple of weeks.”

Raymond David’s father, a Del Norte resident who recently committed suicide, was at the walk.

“I am here for him, he worked for Idaho Pacific for 5 years before he went to that other job,” he said. “My walk was long. I walked in honor of my son and for all these other victims here that get picked on. My hip is hurting like you wouldn’t believe. My son is more important. I would walk until I die for my son and for what he went through.”

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Ribbon cut on Adams State Health and Wellness Resource Center



Photo courtesy of Adams State University

Adams State University students now have help navigating healthcare. The Adams State University grand opening of the Student Health and Wellness Resource Center was Sept. 6. The project is a collaborative effort between Adams State, Valley Wide Health Systems, Inc., and San Luis Valley Health (SLVH). SLVH Care Coordinator Supervisor Lacrechia Smith; SLVH Director of Communications Donna Wehe; and Health Care Coordinator Stephanie Atkins hold the ribbon while Russet officially opens the Adams State Student Health and Wellness Resource Center, on Sept. 6.

Crestone Poetry Contest seeks student submissions

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The Crestone Poetry Festival has announced a student poetry contest for students enrolled in the Mofat School District, the Crestone Charter School, or those home-

schooled within the district. The deadline for submissions is Oct. 5. Students may submit 1-3 poems that are no more than 100 lines per poem. The winning students will read their poems at the festival

on the Colorado College Crestone Baca Campus on Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. Submissions can be entered at: poets@poemfest.com. For more information on the Oct. 12-15 festival, visit poemfest.com.

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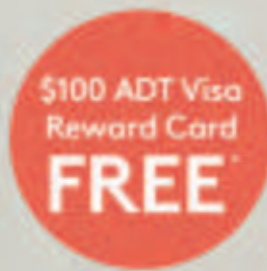


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Staying in Tune with ALMA

By ANGELA MYERS

ALMA Board Member

ALAMOSA — As summer gives way to fall, it is a perfect time to reflect on the action-packed Sundays at Six season the Alamosa Live Music Association (ALMA) hosted over the summer, as well as to look forward toward an exciting musical event we have planned to complete this season's offerings.

ALMA enjoyed a wonderfully diverse line-up at Sundays at Six this year, including indie rock, reggae, Spanish rock, americana, bluegrass, funk/soul, and big band jazz! We were so excited to see community members outside enjoying live music in the beautiful weather we had this year (mostly!).

Nothing is better than seeing our mission in action of enriching communities by providing opportunities for cultural expression through live music. We were also able to continue live streaming all our shows on Facebook and YouTube so that even community members who happened to be out of town could still enjoy free music performances from great local acts.

ALMA wishes to extend our gratitude to members, sponsors, and the greater community for another successful Sundays at Six season, we could not have done it without your support and encouragement.

And the year is not over yet.

ALMA is happy to announce a one-of-a-kind musical event this fall! On Tuesday, Oct. 10, the World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra will be performing at Richardson Hall on the Adams State University campus. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the show will kick off at 6:30 p.m. starting with a set from



Courtesy photo

Alysia Kraft performs at Sundays at Six on July 9 in Cole Park.

the SLV Big Band.

Tickets can be purchased by going to ALMA's website at www.almaonline.org. They are \$25 for the general public, and \$15 for members and ASU faculty, students, and staff.

Glenn Miller attended high school in Fort Morgan, where he developed his musical passion and talents. After creating the Glenn Miller orchestra in 1938, his widely popular compositions became known as the "Glenn Miller sound." In 1942, he joined the US Air Force to entertain troops, where he added strings to his big band sound. Miller disappeared in 1944 in a flight over the English Channel, and his family has since authorized a legacy band to continue the legendary sound. We are excited for you to join us in welcoming the World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra to Alamosa.

ALMA is excited to continue providing quality live music events to the community and we thank you for supporting our mission and spreading the word about all the great things we have in the works.

For more information about upcoming events, or how to become a member of ALMA or our board of directors, visit our website at www.almaonline.org, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

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