



Inside this week's issue of the **Center Post Dispatch!**

Shorts

New stop signs being installed in Center

CENTER — Town of Center Public Works will be installing several new stop signs at several intersections around and within city limits. This new traffic pattern intends to improve traffic safety, according to town officials.

- Fullenwider intersection with 4th Street and 3rd Street (north and south bounds).

- 5th Street intersection with Hurt Street, 5th/Warden, 5th/Wills Street, 5th/Miles Street, 5th/Sisneros Street (All north and south bounds).

“Please exercise caution when driving along these intersections/streets and give your fellow drivers time to acustom to the new traffic pattern. The Town of Center appreciates your patience and cooperation as we work to improve the safety of all our residents,” town officials stated.

DN Food Bank distribution Sept. 23

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Food Bank will be open for its monthly food distribution from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23.

The Del Norte food bank serves Del Norte and South Fork and is situated in the alley behind the Pioneer United Church at 630 Spruce St., Del Norte. Anyone in need of food assistance is welcome.

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

SLVREC, Cielo board of directors meeting

MONTE VISTA — San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative and Cielo will have the regular meeting of the board of directors at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 26, at 3625 US Highway 160 W, Monte Vista.

Advance notice is required to attend the meeting — call Michelle Trujillo at 719-852-3538.

34th annual Crestone Energy Fair surges through town

By MARIE MCCOLM

CRESTONE — The 34th annual Crestone Energy Fair was on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 15 and 16, and had approximately 2,000 people in attendance, according to organizers. The producer of the Energy Fair, Nicholas Nevares said that although they were hoping for more people this year, he was delighted with the crowd.

Cars were parked all over town and near the main parts of the Energy Fair. Nearly a quarter of a mile away from town, people walked to the fair.

There were vendors all over the fair selling handmade artwork, painted

Please see ENERGY on Page 2A



Cynthia Elizabeth Garner performed at the Crestone Energy Fair on Sept. 15 and 16.

Courtesy photos



Volunteers take a break from building a stage at the Crestone Energy Fair.

Future Town Event in Center draws over 200 people

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — The Town of Center was part of a Future Town Tour event that was held by Warm Cookies of the Revolution on Friday, Sept. 15, prior to Center High School's football game that same night.

The free event was a pre-game party under the pavilion at the Center Town Park that featured live music and food. There were tacos, chili, buttered corn,

The Marimba band plays at the Future Town Tour event on Friday, Sept. 15, at the Center Town Park.

Photo by Marie Mccolm

tacosalads, burritos, and tortillas served. All the food was free and the first 100 people that showed up also received a T-shirt and free entrance to the football game that night.

People ate food and mingled. There was a drizzle of rain, but it did not stop anyone from having fun. People laughed and danced to the live music. The football field behind the park was lit up and people sat in the bleachers ahead of the game.

Evan Weissman of the Warm Cookies of the Revolution spoke about the event and their involvement.

Please see FUTURE on Page 7A



Saguache Fall Festival and Quilt Show is a success

By MARIE MCCOLM

SAGUACHE — With the leaves changing colors and a slight chill in the air, the annual Saguache Fall Festival and Quilt Show was held on Saturday, Sept. 16, at Otto Mears Park.

Happy vendors were spread out all over the park, with people visiting each booth. People started the day wearing sweaters and coats in the morning air but removed them

Please see FESTIVAL on Page 4A

The Saguache Sagebrush Quilters had quilts on display inside the community building near Otto Mears Park in Saguache during the annual Saguache Fall Festival and Quilt Show on Saturday, Sept. 16.

Photo by Marie Mccolm



Hooper Junction shines with Ruby Rose

By JOHN WATERS

HOOPER — The banner outside the Hooper Junction — Ruby Rose reads, “Cheapest Gas in Hooper.” True. It is, of course, the only gas in Hooper. The wit is the brainchild of new owner Anjelica Quintana.

Over a cup of fine coffee that Quintana procures from Fort Collins-based Mi Cultura Coffee, the La Jara native spoke to this reporter about her love of food, coffee, and the business she opened about three weeks ago.

The roadhouse is on Highway 17 in Hooper, features fresh baked goods and will serve breakfast and lunch dishes next month.

Quintana has meals to go that her catering company Prep Fuel makes, “From as much local as we can, we use Blue Range Ranch for our beef, San Luis Farms for our pork, and we work with the Rio Grande Farm Park, and Valley Roots Food Hub.”

Please see RUBY on Page 2A



Courier photo by John Waters

Anjelica Quintana is the owner of the Hooper Junction — Ruby Rose in Hooper on Highway 14. Fresh baked goods and coffee are available with breakfast and lunch to be available in October.

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Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area unveils new logo

Contest winner's design becomes the new symbol of local non-profit

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA) is rolling out its new logo designed by artist and contest winner Raju Chatterjee.

The local non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, preserving, and protecting the history, heritage, and culture of Alamosa, Conejos, and Costilla counties, held a logo design contest from June 1 through Aug. 1, in which members of the community and beyond could submit logo designs

for consideration to the Heritage Area. Entries numbered over one dozen designs, with many featuring different symbols and characteristics of the three counties the organization serves. The winner was voted on by the SdCNHA Board of Directors at their annual board retreat on Friday, Aug. 4.

The logo features many symbols of Southern Colorado and northern New Mexico, including a piñon tree, adobe architecture, a farmer with a shovel, and a mountain scape symbolic of the mountain range the National Heritage Area is named for.

SdCNHA will be marketing its new logo on new promotional items like stickers, pens, and patches, and will be using this logo to promote their social media pages in celebration of its new 15-year reauthorization.



Winning logo design by Raju Chatterjee.

To learn more about the work SdCNHA does, follow them on social media or visit their website at sangreheritage.org.

ENERGY

Continued from Page 1A

artwork, handmade crafts and gifts, jewelry, soaps and lotions, cups, tumblers, blankets, baked items and much more. There were food trucks on site and people laughed, ate food, and danced to the music. There were many speakers and musicians that performed. The fair was also livestreamed.

This year's fair was themed Reimagine Self, Village, and Nature. Nevares said to imagine a world where you are living off the land and living more communally. Nevares explained that the Energy Fair shows how people can come and build what they want in Saguache County, live off the land and be sustainable.

During the fair, there were building demonstrations to show people the different types of dwellings and homes that could be built in Crestone. There was a wellness village set up at the fair. The wellness village featured a place to meditate, do yoga, tai chi, and flow dance. The village also had massage therapists and reflexology therapists, and health-oriented vendors. There was also a reimagined sustainable living room.

There were three money makers that helped the fair this year. On Friday night, T Road Brewing donated a dollar of every draft beer that was sold to the Energy Fair. There was an afterparty at Mountain Laurel Apothecary with two bands performing that helped raise money for the fair. The home tours were also an additional money maker for the fair. People could pay to



Courtesy photo

People could take tours of home during the Crestone Energy Fair on Sept. 15. This photo is of Oppenheimer Ranch.

tour different homes that were built of straw bale, earth ship material, train cars, and grain silos. Registration was required ahead of time for the tours. The fair also relies heavily on sponsorship to help with costs.

Nevares was pleased with the turnout of this year's fair.

"Between the two days, we had about 2,000 people out there," Nevares said. "Our food vendors were all sold out. Every year, we try to make it better and better. I own a Real Estate brokerage and I invited everyone out. I think this is a unique chance for realtors to see how these homes and buildings can be built in ways that are not doable in most other places. I feel like the fair was

a real success. We make this information free and available to the public for everyone and we are always looking for monetary donations that may be available, too. My favorite part of the event is the closing ceremony. Overall, we had this amazing crew of people and dynamic trust in all the volunteers we worked with. My favorite part is when we get to the closing ceremony, and we are all able to thank each other for the monumental task that we have achieved and thank the community for showing up and appreciating them for showing up for everything."

For more information on the Crestone Energy Fair, visit their website at crestoneenergyfair.org.

RUBY

Continued from Page 1A

Currently, "Fresh cinnamon rolls, fresh scones with seasonal ingredients including organic peaches are available," said Quintana. "We try to use organic as much as possible."

In the works is a small convenience store that will be adjacent to the cafe and will feature locally produced foods.

"This is a food desert, we are going to include eggs, bread, and meat so people can save a trip to Alamosa," she said.

Slated for next month will be breakfast and lunch prepared under the auspices of Chef Jennifer Riddle, "She is a very well-known chef in the area — she is amazing and is well loved. We will serve down-home food

with a twist on the healthy."

The exterior of the building sports new signage (including a rose) painted by Alamosa artist Cari Conari.

"Cari totally nailed it, she did exactly what we wanted," said Quintana

The Hooper Junction — Ruby Rose is open daily from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and closed on Sundays.

OBITUARIES

Neva Kathleen Ross

Neva Kathleen Ross, born May 5, 1926, passed away Sept. 7, 2023, at the age of 97.

She is survived by her son-in-law Doug Davie, three grandchildren, Tandy (Nicole) McDaniel, Lucas (Kat) Millhouse, and Meara (Terry) McDaniel, and five great-grandchildren (Aiden, Quinlann, Mackenzie, Aubrianna, and Kathryn).

Neva was preceded in death by Joe Ross, and her two daughters, Dallarie Millhouse and Darneil Mackey.

Neva enjoyed all things art and craft and passed her time painting, sewing, and crocheting. She was an active member of the Monte Vista Methodist Church. Services for Neva will be held at the Community Methodist Church in Monte Vista, Colo., Monday, Oct. 2, 2023, at



11 a.m.

Donations in her memory may be made to Rogers Family Mortuary, 404 Morris St., Monte Vista, CO 81144.

To leave online condolences, tributes, and words of comfort for Neva's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

Everett Santistevan

Everett Santistevan, 62, died recently in Del Norte. Everett was born Feb. 17, 1961.

A constant presence on the streets of Del Norte, Everett was beloved by the entire community.

He was easily recognized by his tall stature, but it was the glittery nails, expressive makeup, handmade jewelry, and purple bicycle that made him who he was.

Everett served as a window washer, groundskeeper, landscaper, and much more to many main street businesses. He had a great work ethic and always did such a wonderful job keeping our town clean.

Hardly a day passed without seeing him working somewhere, for someone. He was a staple

of our town. Some towns have statues or landmarks, we had Everett.

He stood watch over our town and always kept our sidewalks and gutters clear of trash. He loved helping his community and the streets of this town will forever miss him.

Everett was a gentle, humble, kind, loving, creative, and generous man. If you got to know him as a person, you also knew that he had a great sense of humor.

A celebration of his life will be held at the Riverwalk down on the Rio Grande River in Del Norte on Oct. 1 at 1 p.m. Please come and help us remember our friend Everett. All are welcome.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Whatcha thinking?

I think most of you can relate to the use — and probably overuse — of Facebook by most people. As soon as you log in, Facebook asks “What’s on your mind” as a daily reminder to post any and everything that crosses the old noggin. And the main problem is people will tell you.

Of late Ol’ Dutch has had some excess time away from the rat race as I have been sitting up in the aspen trees in my elk blind. A lot. So, I do have to tell you that I get to thinking quite a bit more than normal — always dangerous according to Miss Trixie, even in small amounts.

Today the chipmunks came around as usual for a snack and managed to get my cookies out of my pack and eat them all. One little fat fellow I am really concerned about as he went mostly for the frosting, and I fear he may get diabetes. A tiny shrew also visits me daily and gets his helping of nuts and raisins that he scurries into his three hiding spots under logs close by. I can only imagine how he must store these up in stacks underground in preparation for the winter. And just like the shrew, I know a thing or two about storing things for the lean days ahead.

Mainly this idea came from the last ten years of cohabitation with Miss Trixie and her penchant for collecting plates, cups, plastic storage containers and the like. I have heard she came by it honestly as her mother Miss Billie bought all the Tupperware at any garage sale she could find. Little did we know that Billie had a great strategic use for all that Tupperware. One day she had Miss Trixie help her gather up three huge boxes of old rubbery storage things and send them all back in for a replacement. Yes, you heard that right. Replacements. Billie knew that her Tupperware had a lifetime warranty and even those missing lids were honored under the company policy. Soon she was awash with brand new Tupperware containers enough to stock a small Army base and all the church socials.

So Miss Trixie has inherited some of those same storage container shortage worries and so we have a lot of stuff.

I guess I do not mind but it’s gotten to the point that when I open the cupboard a cascading rain of plastic will suddenly break loose and fall on the floor. This elicits some harshly spoken words on the part of Ol’ Dutch which usually launches Miss Trixie into action to pick it all up.



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

Why just the other day I opened the refrigerator and a nice big bowl of leftover peas crashed out onto the floor. But I have to agree with Trixie that it was my fault as she said I was the one that wanted to eat them later so they were balanced carefully on top of the jelly jar.

Another newer collectible thing she has gotten into is rockhounding. And boy has she found some real treasures. And since Ol’ Dutch comes from a long line of rockhounds and rock-hard-headed folks, I do enjoy the hobby with her, somewhat. But let me tell you, stepping on an errant stone in the middle of the night while barefoot does challenge all the reasons I love that woman so.

I got to thinking — again — and have decided that with the recent war in Ukraine maybe, just maybe Miss Trixie can go over there and teach them a thing or two about minefields herself. A few carefully planted cupboards or small rocks left in just the right places and discovered by your enemy will get a loud response from them and then you know where they are.

Yes, I have had too much time of late to really think and today I even got to wondering what the little shrew thinks about all winter snuggled under the deepening snow. And I finally came to the conclusion that he probably thinks about nothing and therein is the secret to his happiness.

And if you ask most men what they are thinking about they will say “nothing” so Ol’ Dutch is going to try that on for size himself. To which a lot of you may say, “Amen.”

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.



Report from Burning Man 2023

By DENNIS HINKAMP

After a quiet year of preparation and premature eulogies, Burning Man roared into the news this August. There were unplanned fires, protesters and three hurricane-fueled rainstorms that turned the Nevada desert into a sea of mud.



Before it even got going, the event known for its whimsical art, leave-no-trace ethos and sharing economy began with a brief disruption by climate activists blocking its entrance. The 10 protesters from the “Seven Circles Alliance” chained themselves to a trailer in the middle of Highway 447 and put up handmade signs proclaiming “Abolish Capitalism,” “Burners Unite” and “Ban Private Jets.”

In other pre-event excitement, I saw an SUV and attached trailer burst into flames due to some bad choices in gasoline storage. Then a campmate of mine fell off one of those electric, one-wheel skateboards, breaking several ribs and other bones.

Within minutes, Josh, who had come from Mexico, was picked up by a playa ambulance. Within hours he was flown to Reno for a better diagnosis and surgery, and within days, repaired Josh was back with one steel plate and six screws. Mere seconds after returning, he was back at work with his one good arm.

This was his first time at Burning Man, but like me, he was there to help get its basic structures ready to welcome this year’s 73,000 people, all coming to the middle of nowhere in Nevada.

In my 26 years of helping out and writing about Burning Man, I’ve talked about its art that you’d see nowhere else, a clown committing a felony, clothing-optional celebrators, flaming objects



and soul-crushing dust storms. It still is all that times 10, but this year it added several days of mud to the mythology.

You may think you know mud, but there is no mud like the playa mud of the Black Rock Desert, some 100 miles northeast of Reno. Once it was part of Lake Lahontan, which was more than 500 feet deep about 14,000 years ago. After its water evaporated, a deep layer of silt got left behind, and now even a small amount of rain can turn that silt into a mud bog.

Around midnight on Aug. 20, Hurricane Hilary sent a lot of rain our way, and by morning the water was ankle-deep outside my trailer. The sun did not shine for 36 hours, roads were closed and nobody could get in or out.

As people finally emerged from their shelters, looking relieved, the sound of squelching filled the air. Playa mud is mean. It aspires to be quicksand, but it is not quite as cinematic or deep enough. It can only eat shoes and tires. The best way to get around on foot seemed to be bare feet protected by plastic bags.

What is the opposite of sticky? Slippery. The mud, angered by not being able to eat shoes, turned slick and big splashes could be heard. A flop in warm mud might sound like a pleasant spa experience until you realize there is not enough water in Nevada to get it off. And a flop can leave bruises.

Playa mud also does not want you

to drive. Either your wheel wells fill up with a chocolate donut of collected mud or you will spin holes axle deep. In either case you will be laughed at first and rescued much later.

This happens even in the summer when wet mud lurks under a dry, cracked surface, daring you to cross it. I took the dare one July and sat there for a long day until someone more experienced pulled me to solid land. Lesson learned, mud respected.

Astute Burning Man historians will also remember the great rainstorm of 2014, though this year was different. This downpour lasted much longer and put a stop to everyone’s setup schedule as hundreds of postholes sat waiting for their posts.

Finally, the sun did shine, and people rejoiced on their islands. They shared food and drink. Animals crawled up on shore, traded their fins for legs, stood upright and continued their journeys. The playa mud had exacted its price and let humans roam free to return to their off-playa lives.

Weeks after the great splashing, it had all become an embellished myth with wild exaggeration and heroic stories to be shared. Some will claim it was epic.

Dennis Hinkamp is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He lives and writes in Utah.

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Creede steps back in time with Cruisin the Canyon Car Show

By LYNSIE FERRELL

CREEDE — Main Street in Creede transported visitors back in time with this year's annual Cruisin the Canyon Car Show. Vehicles of all makes, models and years graced the small mountain town, shining brightly in the late summer sun as people wandered along the street enjoying old school music and fun for the entire family.

For the past 15 years the car show has brought fun to Creede at the start of fall and has grown exponentially from the few entireties when it started, to cars coming from all over the western US. Main Street was packed top to bottom with everything from vintage Belairs, 1969 Cameros, Dodge Power Wagons and much more. Each participant had a chance to win Best of Show and other trophies for different categories, all selected by attendees.

During the show in the afternoon, the Creede Arts Council hosted its annual steamroller art event at the north end of Main Street. The event is one of the main fundraisers for the organization to continue to offer programs and artistic events throughout the year. Artists from around the area are chosen to participate by creating one-of-a-kind prints that are then run over by a steamroller. Prints are sold and all proceeds go to the organization

and future programs and events.

The car show also corresponded with the Creede Repertory Theatre's end of season for 2023. People were invited to bid farewell to producing artistic director John DiAntonio. The 13-year veteran of Creede Rep is leaving to take over as artistic director of the Utah Shakespeare Festival in November. In his decade-plus tenure with the company, DiAntonio has solidified Creede Repertory Theatre as a regional powerhouse with his visionary leadership and passion for the craft.

An actor, director, and playwright, DiAntonio began as a member of Creede Rep's acting company in 2011. He was integral in the creation of the Headwaters New Play Festival in 2012 and became the associate artistic director in 2015. Creede Rep workshopped and produced his plays "Harry the Great" and "Kind of Red" for the Mainstage Theatre as well as numerous plays for The KID Show program and Young Audience Outreach Tours including "Reading and Other Superpowers," "Math-stronaut," and "Viva Agua." DiAntonio moved into the position of executive director in 2017, and in 2019, was named producing artistic director.

This year, Best of Show went to Lonna Gray of Castle Rock and her 1955 white Chevrolet 210 Post.



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Creede Arts Council hosted its steamroller printmaking event on Saturday afternoon and attracted a large crowd of spectators who came to watch the one-of-a-kind pieces of art come fresh off the steamroller in Creede. All artwork was by local artists who created intricate prints to be sold with all proceeds going toward future projects selected by the CAC.



The 15th annual Cruisin the Canyon Car Show was a rocking success this past weekend in Creede. Vintage cars, trucks and motorcycles graced Main Street and took people back in time. The event was well attended both by car show participants and enthusiasts.

FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1A

As the weather warmed later in the afternoon.

Along with the vendors, there was live music, food trucks, and inside the community building near the park a quilt show and silent auction was taking place.

The popular festival has been held every year to celebrate fall and beautiful homemade crafts that many vendors bring to the festival each year.

The Saguache Chamber of

Commerce hosted the event.

"This is our 30th festival so we are celebrating a lot more this year," said Carla Quintana of the chamber. "There is live music. Every year, we have this to celebrate the fall. There are people here selling. We have vendors. In the community building, we have quilts. There is so much for everyone here to see. We are happy to host this. There has been a good amount of people here today, too."



The Saguache Fall Festival and Quilt show featured live music throughout the day, Sept. 16.

The Saguache Sagebrush Quilters were inside the community building with their beautiful quilts on display.

There was also a silent auction. This silent auction is held by the chamber to help fund future projects. Local businesses donate items for the silent auction.

The Sagebrush Quilters also showed off gifts that will be sent to various places by special request. One of the Sagebrush Quilters Pat Tullos spoke about the event.

"We have had a good turnout," Tullos said. "I know there's been some other events going on but there was still a good number of people that came in. It has been steady. We love doing this every year. It's been going pretty good today. Happy to be here."

Local author Joni Franks was also

at the event with her set of children's books and said that she was enjoying everything.

"The people that are here look happy," Franks said. "It's joyful, it's fall. This is a grand celebration; a lot of people look forward to it."

Connie Swazo, who was a vendor at the event, said it was going well.

"We have enjoyed the music and looking at the trees," Swazo said. "The leaves are changing colors as they are starting to fall. I have lived here for about 13 years, and I just love the fall season. It's not too cold you don't want to be out, but not warm enough to just be in. The music today, all day has been great, and I think the vendors are selling a lot. It's a nice place to be on a fall day. A fall celebration."



Photos by Marie Mccolm

The annual Saguache Fall Festival and Quilt Show was held on Saturday, Sept. 16, at Otto Mears Park.

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5th in Family	\$375/\$467

SUPERSAVER FAMILY PASSES

	Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate
1st in Family	\$780/\$974
2nd in Family	\$602/\$751
3rd in Family	\$343/\$427
4th in Family	\$282/\$351
5th in Family	\$282/\$351

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Photo by John Waters

The Mosca Gardens crematory will offer the first open-air cremation in Alamosa County when completed.

Development moratorium and a crematorium discussed by county commissioners

By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA COUNTY — At the Sept. 13 meeting of the Alamosa County Board of County Commissioners, it was decided to continue the current moratorium on the development of major subdivisions, RV parks, and campgrounds.

Alamosa County Administrator Roni Wisdom said this of the freeze, “The moratorium for major subdivisions and rv/campgrounds has been extended until they have been addressed in the comprehensive land use plan which we are working on now. Richard Hubler [County Land Use Director] has requested that the consultants research and make recommendations addressing any existing moratoriums at the beginning of the comp plan process so we can release them early, if possible. He is estimating the planning process will take 12 to 18 months.”

At the meeting, Phil Busby with the Mosca Gardens crematory, who plans on opening the first open-air funeral facility in Alamosa County said, “Everybody has their own style of doing things, we have a very unique service that we want to offer to the people of the San Luis Valley. It is a pretty intense ceremony; it is the ceremony that matters. I think I have it right, I have a design that is gonna work the first time. I am so certain of it I’m betting the ranch.” Busby said the site is “in a location

perfect for this kind of service, right in the middle of the Valley everybody can find it easily. I’m ready to roll on this.” The location is a few hundred feet to the east of Highway 17 about 1.7 miles south of Mosca.

Alamosa County Land Use Director Richard Hubler defined the proposed site as an “outdoor ceremonial crematory,” that could be fired by wood or other fuels.

In Saguache County, a non-profit organization that offers open-air cremations describes itself as, “The Crestone End of Life Project operates one of the only legal, open-air cremation sites in the state of Colorado. This ancient and inspirational end-of-life choice returns the body to its original fire and air elements. The process involves a pyre, a half-cord of wood, a wooden stretcher, and a shroud.”

Those services are available to residents of Saguache County only. That location is in a remote area about a third of a mile off of the T Road between Moffat and Crestone.

“The moratorium on funeral pyres has not been extended but because the county does not have any land use codes or regulations for funeral pyres, we cannot grant a special use permit at this time. However, the commissioners gave direction to Richard Hubler to be sure that regulations are incorporated in the comp plan to address funeral pyres,” said Wisdom.

Colcha embroidery of the SLV on display in Arvada

STAFF REPORT

ARVADA—Colcha embroidery from the San Luis Valley is now on display at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities through Nov. 12.

The exhibition will be on view in conjunction with Emilio Lobato: A Mi Manera and Latitude 37°: Art of Southern Colorado. The show will bring together a large selection of artworks on loan from artists, families, and museums across Colorado.

The exhibition is curated by Adrienne Garbini of The Range in Saguache. Colcha embroidery traveled to Colorado from New Mexico, where the women of the San Luis Valley transformed the traditional stitch into a wholly new art form, depicting intricate landscapes and stories important in their lives.

Colcha embroidery is practiced in the Valley as an art informed by 19th century Spanish Colonial culture and shaped by Indigenous and Anglo-American influences, creating a textile unique to Southern Colorado.

This exhibition is in collaboration with The Range, and features works from generations of colcha embroidery artists, contemporary colcha embroidery from the region, and pieces on loan from History Colorado and the Sangre de Cristo Heritage Center.

The colcha embroidery technique employs a single needle and thread, laying long stitches secured to cloth with tacking stitches. The term colcha refers to



Image courtesy of The Range

La Sierra, 1999, by Josephine Lobato.

the Spanish word for bed covering. It is common in the historical and the modern San Luis Valley style to fill the entire surface of the fabric with embroidery. The exhibit will include works by living and deceased artists, celebrating the vibrant history of this art practice in communities across the region.

Artists include Mary Baker, Maria Eufemia Barela, Sandy Dolak, Adrienne Garbini, Patsy Garcia, Peggy Garcia Williams, Margie Gurule, Josephine Lobato,

Rita Lobato Crespín, Virginia Bena Lovato, Brenda Lovato, Loretta Rose Lujan, Donna Madrid Hernandez, Connie Mamich Morrell, Aurora Martinez, Junita Martinez, Lydia Martinez, Irene Medina, Julia Mondragon, Mary Olivas, Daisy Ortega, Evanea Rae Pacheco, Marcella Pacheco, Marcella Quintana, Nettie Quintana, Virginia Rodriguez, Sostena Sandoval Cleven, Trent Segura, Mary Taylor, Tiva Trujillo, Tina Valdez, Judy Vigil, Mary Vigil de Rodriguez, and Delores Worley.

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File photo by John Waters

A Denver Air Connection Embraer 175 on the tarmac at the San Luis Valley Regional Airport. A news segment on KRDO in Denver regarding safety issues pertaining to the airline was discussed at the airport advisory board meeting on Sept. 14.

Denver Air Connection safety allegations topic of discussion at airport board meeting

By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA — At the Sept. 14 meeting of the San Luis Valley Regional Airport Advisory Board, a recent news report by KRDO in Denver, alleging safety issues by former pilots with Key Lime Air dba Denver Air Connection was discussed. The airline serves the airport with flights to Denver. Board member Donna Wehe asked Denver Air spokesperson Jon Coleman about the piece.

Coleman said, “We have a training contract. As you know, it is very expensive to train a pilot, a simulator, and all of those things and get them online, so we have a [employment contract] of varying lengths of time. In the current environment, pilots can jump and get another job, this group [five pilots featured in the news segment] is trying to not have to pay back the training contract.”

The pilots no longer work for the airline, and cite safety concerns as their reason for leaving.

“There is a misleading aspect to the story regarding pressurization. The group is made up of passenger pilots and cargo pilots, our cargo Metroliners are capable of pressurization, but it is not a required thing — I’m specifically

talking about cargo here. As a matter of fact, the Cessna Caravan, the most widely used cargo airplane in the U.S., doesn’t pressurize at all as far as I know...the main point is what we are talking about is cargo here, and not passenger in any case at all...I just want to sort of set that straight. When they are discussing pressurization, it sort of makes it seem like they are talking about passenger operations which they are not,” said Coleman.

“We have been in operation for 27 years as a cargo operator. There have been some incidents over the years, which is not unusual; tragic to be sure, but it is not unusual in a cargo operator/ single pilot environment. On the passenger side, it is flawless,” said Coleman.

Coleman concluded, [the news story], “is sort of salacious, like I say, as the story winded down it was pretty clear that our record is good, I did want to clarify, there is two sides to our house, there is cargo, and passenger.”

Key Lime/Denver Air is suing the pilots for not fulfilling their contracts and several have countersued the airline. In one of those cases filed by a former pilot this allegation is made regarding the type of passenger aircraft

the airline uses to serve Alamosa, “Key Lime Air [Denver Air] dispatched an Embraer 145 jet aircraft with known autopilot and auto-trim failures despite the failures.”

The Valley Courier has reached out to Coleman at Key Lime/ Denver Air who said he would be available on Friday.

The news article on KRDO included this near the end of the newscast, “Since 2015, the airline has had no enforcement actions [from the Federal Aviation Administration].”

The meeting also discussed other business including the recent airport Fly-In that was described by airport manager Will Hickman as a success.

Tara Maugham with Centric Aviation reported the number of aircraft they serviced was up, with 280 serviced in July, and 264 in August. Their car rental fleet has increased from seven in May, to the current 15.

The board also discussed the logistics and public outreach that will be needed as the airport eliminates the current free parking policy for passengers who leave their cars in the parking lot to a daily fee. The cost is estimated to be in the \$6-\$7 per day range.

Man arrested for allegedly poaching two deer in town

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — A local man is in custody on suspicion of poaching two deer within the Alamosa city limits the nights of Sept. 15 and 16.

John Livingston, Southwest Region Public Information Officer for Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), said the suspect was arrested by Alamosa Police Department officers around 1 a.m. Sunday and booked into the Alamosa County jail. He is facing felony and misdemeanor charges to be filed by the district attorney’s office.

CPW received reports of the two deer being illegally killed in the city, Livingston said. Through the investigation, officers obtained security camera footage of the suspect and the vehicle involved.

“We have a suspect in custody in this case thanks to the outstanding teamwork between our wildlife officers and the Alamosa Police Department,” Livingston said in an email. “The partnering assistance of APD is greatly appreciated by CPW.”

Livingston said more information will be released once formal charges are filed.

One of Alamosa’s resident mule deer bucks in full velvet is shown dining on an apple in an Alamosa neighborhood.



File photo by Keith R. Cerny

National Farm Safety & Health Week and National 4-H Week

October 1-7, 2023



Valley Publishing is proud to partner with these local agriculture businesses to remind readers of the importance of valuing safety for everyone involved during the harvest season and to recognize the up and coming farmers who will shape our world’s future for National 4-H Week.

Top 10 Farm Safety Tips

1. Stay alert, and be aware of your surroundings.
2. Account for the mental and physical differences associated with age.
3. Be sure to include hazard and safety lessons when training workers.
4. No seat, no rider, no exceptions. Extra riders can cause distractions and block access to controls.
5. Use hydraulic equipment cautiously, and control operations from the tractor seat only.
6. Never attempt to unplug equipment while power is engaged.
7. Use safety identification markers, turn signals, flashing lights, and/or escort vehicles when driving farm equipment on public roads.
8. Carry a fire extinguisher on every piece of powered equipment.
9. Prepare a safe play area for children away from machinery.
10. Enforce basic safety rules for others, and follow them yourself.

Source: www.agriculture.state.pa.us/agriculture



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Juvenile to be charged as adult in shooting

Allegedly shot an APD officer and second person on Oct. 27, 2022

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
ALAMOSA — In a 26-page document issued last Friday afternoon, District Judge Crista Newmyer-Olsen has ordered that Daniel Brandt Jr., the juvenile charged in alleged connection with the Oct. 27, 2022, shooting of Alamos Police Department Officer Mollee Heeney and Alamos resident Ricardo Rangel, will be prosecuted as an adult.

The order followed an emotionally charged five-day transfer hearing in late August where Newmyer-Olsen heard extensive testimony presented to the court by 12th Judicial District Attorney Anne Kelly and opposing testimony presented by Cobe Becker and Maralina

Schoenfelder, who were representing Brandt.
 As Newmyer-Olsen chronicled in the order, on Aug. 22, the court found probable cause to proceed in the prosecution of Brandt Jr. for two separate counts of attempt to commit first-degree murder and three counts of first-degree assault. If those crimes were committed by an adult, they would be class 2 and class 3 felonies, respectively.
 State statutes list 14 factors to consider in trying a juvenile as an adult, but which factors are weighed more heavily is at the discretion of the judge.
 Over half of Newmyer-Olsen's 26-page order was devoted to a meticulous recap of the evidence presented where the prosecution centered on the events of the incident, Brandt's behavior before and after the shooting, and the impact of the event on the victims, officers with the Alamosa Police Department and the community, at large.

Kelly also presented evidence from the 16-year-old's past that indicated he was reluctant to engage in treatment and resistant to attempts to help him.
 Attorneys for Brandt Jr. brought experts to the stand who testified his "adverse" past marked with domestic violence, incarceration of parents, a school system that failed him, and substance abuse from a young age were significant contributors to his behavior. Experts were unanimous in their recommendations that Brandt remain in the juvenile justice system where supportive relationships, therapy and services could help lead to rehabilitation.
 But the judge also noted one expert who conceded that due to "the personality traits Daniel has... sustaining a working therapeutic relationship could be difficult because of intense ambivalence and resentment."
 In her order, the judge addresses all 14 of the factors to be considered but several

stand out in terms of her emphasis.
 She discusses the seriousness and violence of the event, the impact on the community, about which Newmyer-Olsen wrote, "...this offense was... beyond the limits of violent crime to which the community is accustomed. The silence from the community in support of Daniel speaks volumes. The Court did not hear testimony from a single friend, family member, or community member in support of Daniel at the hearing."
 As to likelihood of his rehabilitation, the judge wrote, "Any human wants to believe that any young person with Daniel's history can be rehabilitated if only they are offered the right services and opportunities... Based upon the evidence presented, the Court can and does find that there is a possibility that Daniel could be rehabilitated and his life altered by the use of facilities available to the juvenile court, but the Court cannot find that this is likely or probable."
 Newmyer-Olsen goes on to write, "The community's interest in the imposition of a punishment commensurate with the gravity of this offense is high. Again, this offense was committed in a residential neighborhood, in the middle of the street, and in the middle of the afternoon."
 She further stated, "The court

considers the potential risk to the public if the case remains in (juvenile) court, the juvenile is (found guilty) of committing a delinquent act and rehabilitation fails. In those circumstances, the public would most certainly be subjected to further, very serious, criminal acts."
 In her concluding statements, she writes, "This determination is not an easy one and the Court does not make it lightly. Balancing all 14 factors, and keeping paramount public safety, the Court finds that would be contrary to the interests of the public for the juvenile court to retain jurisdiction."
 At the time of the alleged shooting, Brandt was "just a few days shy of being 15-and-a-half." Barring any action by a district attorney, the case would have been prosecuted in juvenile court where, if convicted, sentencing would range from a maximum of three to five years with access to therapy, education, and rehabilitative services in the hope of Brandt becoming a "productive member of society."
 DA Kelly filing the motion that has resulted in Brandt Jr. being tried as an adult means — if convicted — the 16-year-old is looking at spending 32 to 96 years in the Department of Corrections (DOC), depending upon how the judge orders the sentences be served.

FUTURE Continued from Page 1A

"We are doing this thing called Future Town," Weissman said. "We are trying to center rural Colorado into smaller towns in the future rather than the past. If you think about it, in the past rural areas were not really thought of. We are working with local organizations in different towns. We started this in Leadville last fall and the plan is to keep visiting different communities. We will be in Alamosa next weekend. The plan is to work with more communities and just exchange rural suburban and urban and just make things better in rural communities. We have had an incredible time here. We are excited about the tours."
 Adrian Molina, who lives in Denver but works closely with Katrina Ruggles in Center, spoke at the event.
 "This event tonight is wonderful. I curated this event and planned it out with Katrina Ruggles of the Center school," Molina said. "There have been about 200

people come out and it's just gone great. This is an experiment to bring together different elements and culture. We have the Marimba band and the Salida Circus that has been providing some circus performances. We wanted to support the home football team, too. This was Katrina's vision and the school's vision. Katrina also wanted to support the young people here and the football team."
 Katrina Ruggles also spoke at the event.
 "Despite the weather I think everything went well tonight," Ruggles said. "We have had a lot of people and everyone's happy. We have had free food and live music and brought a lot of people together to enjoy the game and the community time here. We gave away 100 free T-shirts, too. I feel this was a great success. We will also be bringing more events too."
 Briseda Hernandez said she enjoyed

the event.
 "It's nice that Mrs. Ruggles put this on for all of us," Hernandez said. "The free food is great. This is such a nice thing to do for all the kids. I hope there are more events like this. As a parent this really makes us feel welcome."

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PUBLIC NOTICE
2023 COORDINATED ELECTION LAT
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OCTOBER 10, 2023

Notice is hereby given that a public Logic and Accuracy Test of Saguache County's voting equipment will take place on October 10, 2023, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Saguache County Courthouse, 501 4th St., Saguache. Information about the test may be obtained by calling County Clerk, Trish Gilbert at (719) 655-2512.

AVISO PÚBLICO
PRUEBA DE LÓGICA Y EXACTITUD (LAT) PARA LAS ELECCIONES COORDINADAS
10 DE OCTUBRE DE 2023

Por medio del presente se informa que el 10 de octubre de 2023, a partir de las 9:00 a.m., se realizará la prueba pública de lógica y exactitud de los equipos de votación del condado de Saguache en el Tribunal (501 4th St., Saguache). Puede obtener información sobre la prueba llamando a la secretaria del condado, Trish Gilbert, al teléfono (719) 655-2512.

No. 1675 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, September 21, 2023.

NOTICE OF 2023 COORDINATED ELECTION

Per Colorado Revised Statute 1-5-205, Saguache County Clerk & Recorder, Trish Gilbert, announces that the 2023 Coordinated Election will be held on Tuesday, NOVEMBER 7, 2023. Ballots will be mailed to all active, registered voters beginning on OCTOBER 16, 2023. The ballot packet will include: 1 Ballot, 1 Secrecy Sleeve/Instructions, and 1 Return Envelope. Voters will mark their ballot, insert it into the Secrecy Sleeve/Instructions, insert this into the Return Envelope, SIGN the envelope where indicated and mail or return the voted ballot to the Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) at the Clerk's office in the Saguache County Courthouse, 501 4th St., Saguache. The VSPC will be open from Monday, OCTOBER 23rd through Tuesday, NOVEMBER 7th, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.; on Saturday, NOVEMBER 4th, from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.; and on Election Day NOVEMBER 7th, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Voted ballots may also be deposited into the Ballot Drop Boxes at the following locations: the south parking lot of the Courthouse, 501 4th St., Saguache; Mercantile addition located at 182 E Galena Ave., Crestone; Center Town Hall, 294 Worth St., Center. Beginning OCTOBER 20th, the drop boxes will be available 24 hours each day until 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. Ballots must be received by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. Ballots received after 7:00 p.m. on Election Day will not be counted. Postmarks do not count.
 Trish Gilbert, Clerk & Recorder

AVISO DE ELECCIONES COORDINADAS DE 2023

De conformidad con el estatuto modificado de Colorado 1-5-205, la Secretaria y Oficial de Registro del Condado de Saguache, Trish Gilbert, anuncia que las elecciones coordinadas de 2023 se llevarán a cabo el martes 7 de NOVIEMBRE de 2023. Las boletas electorales se enviarán por correo a todos los votantes registrados activos a partir del 16 de OCTUBRE de 2023. El paquete de votación incluirá: 1 boleta electoral, 1 manga de votación secreta con instrucciones y 1 sobre de respuesta. Los votantes marcarán su boleta, la insertarán en la manga de votación secreta, la cual a su vez insertarán en el sobre de respuesta, FIRMARÁN el sobre en el espacio indicado y enviarán por correo o devolverán la boleta marcada al centro de votación y servicios al votante (VSPC, por sus siglas en inglés) en la oficina de la Secretaria en el Tribunal del Condado de Saguache, 501 4th St., Saguache. El VSPC estará abierto desde el lunes 23 de OCTUBRE hasta el martes 7 de NOVIEMBRE, de lunes a viernes, de 8:00 a. m. a 4:00 p. m.; el sábado 4 de NOVIEMBRE, de 7:00 a 11:00 a. m.; y el día de las elecciones, el 7 de NOVIEMBRE, de 7:00 a. m. a 7:00 p. m. Las boletas electorales también se pueden depositar en las urnas ubicadas en el estacionamiento sur del Tribunal (501 4th St., Saguache), la oficina subsidiaria del (182 E Galena Ave., Crestone) y la municipalidad de Center (294 Worth St., Center). A partir del 20 de OCTUBRE, las urnas estarán disponibles las 24 horas del día hasta las 7:00 p. m. del día de las elecciones. Las boletas deben recibirse antes de las 7:00 p. m. del día de las elecciones. Las boletas recibidas después de las 7:00 p. m. del día de las elecciones no se incluirán en el conteo. Los matasellos no cuentan.
 Trish Gilbert, Secretaria y Oficial de Registro

No. 1679 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, September 21, 2023.

Passing the Forgiveness Test in Your Life

Most people would say they have goals and want to make progress in life. It's a natural desire, and there's nothing wrong with wanting promotion in various areas. But we need to realize that anytime we ask God to promote us, or use us in greater ways, we're going to have to go through a time of testing and preparation to get there.
 It's important to understand that God will never tempt us with anything evil, but He will allow—and even sometimes arrange—for things to happen in our lives that will challenge us and help us develop the character we need to successfully handle greater privileges and responsibilities.
 James 1:2-3 (AMPC) says, "Consider it wholly joyful, my brethren, whenever you are enveloped in or encounter trials of any sort or fall into various temptations. Be assured and understand that the trial and proving of your faith bring out endurance and steadfastness and patience." When we go through trials with a good attitude, trusting God to use them for our good, then they will work things out of us—immature behaviors and ungodly mindsets—and cause us to grow in our faith.
 There are different kinds of tests that get us to the point where we learn how to do things God's way. One of the most common tests is the forgiveness test.
 Forgiving people who hurt you, disappoint you, do something you don't like, or maybe even betray you is not easy. It's one of the most challenging things we have to learn to do as Christians, because it can seem so unfair to just let someone get away with the injustice they've done.
 I understand this very well because I felt that way when the Lord spoke to my heart about forgiving my father for the years of abuse that he put me through. But I came to realize that holding on to my anger was really just continuing to hurt me. I needed to be more concerned about myself and my relationship with God, rather than trying to make him sorry for what he had done. The truth is, when you choose to forgive people, you're doing yourself a favor.
 In Matthew 5:8 Jesus says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God" (NIV). And Proverbs 4:23 says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it" (NIV).
 It's so important for us to keep our heart right with God. When we do, we can hear Him more clearly, be a lot more sensitive to His presence, and enjoy close fellowship with Him. And there is nothing we need more than the presence of God in our lives! God is the source of every good thing, and Psalm 16:11 (NKJV) says, "...In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." I love Psalm 17:15, which says, "...I shall be fully satisfied, when I awake [to find myself] beholding Your form [and having sweet communion with You]" (AMPC).
 If we are not pure in heart, we're sacrificing an intimate relationship with God, because we'd rather harbor anger, bitterness, and resentment toward others in our heart.
 Everyone experiences offenses at times, and when we do, we have to be determined to do something about it with God's help. The Bible says in Proverbs 4:23 that YOU need to guard your heart...not that He'll send an angel to miraculously do it for you. So when you recognize that you're offended by something, you need to quickly take action, doing what God tells you to do to overcome it.
 Mark 11:25 says, "Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop" (AMPC). This verse is saying that if we choose to hold on to unforgiveness, then God can't forgive



Moving Up Higher with Joyce Meyer

us of our sins, and our intimacy with Him will suffer.
 The best thing we can do when we need to forgive someone is pray for them, make the decision to forgive, and "let it drop (leave it, let it go)." That means you stop talking about what they did, stop thinking about it and rehearsing it over and over and over in your mind.
 The quicker you decide to let offenses go, the easier it will be; however, if there is a hurt that has been in your heart for a long time, it may take some time for you to get totally free of it. But you can do it—by God's grace—if you won't give up!
 Jesus gave His life so we can have relationship with God, not religion. I want to encourage you to choose a pure heart, free of unforgiveness, so you can have a personal, intimate relationship with God that will fill you with His joy and prepare you to fulfill His good plan for your life!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-part teaching resource **Don't Panic: Living Worry-Free Every Day!** 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.

HARVEST 2023

How to incorporate tech into farming business

The agricultural industry long has been a vital part of society, providing foods for billions of people across the globe. Farming can be a challenging profession, and farmers routinely find creative solutions to overcome obstacles to effective production. Thanks to technology, finding solutions has become that much easier.

Yet not every farmer who is set in his or her ways is ready to welcome changes that incorporate technology right away. In fact, reluctance to turn over operations in some part to artificial intelligence or smart technologies could be due in part to farming being such a nuanced skill and the role intuition plays in the growth of crops. The following are some ways for seasoned and novice farmers to seamlessly incorporate technology into their operations.

Start with peripheral tech

Farmers can begin implementing technology that does not directly relate to farming operations. Examples include switching to efficient and intuitive accounting and payroll systems to save time. If a farm also includes a retail enterprise, such as a farmers market, upgrading point-of-sale technology, like credit card readers or e-commerce websites for

new revenue potential, can be good a good starting point.

Assess operation weaknesses

Figure out where the business is lacking and could use some help. Perhaps you're having difficulty maintaining adequate irrigation or plant nutrition is compromised due to soil deficits? Precision automation farming advancements that employ remote sensors can assess conditions and fine tune adjustments to alleviate these issues.

Get training

Novel technologies can increase crop yield and make for more efficient use of limited resources. However, people who may never have employed drones, IoT devices or soil sensors can expect a learning curve. Visiting a nearby farm operation to learn how they have implemented technology and gaining hands-on experience can be invaluable. In addition, request that a tech vendor provide thorough instruction on products to make it easier to seamlessly integrate new technology into an agriculture business.

Tap into workforce talent

The Food and Agriculture Orga-



nization of the United Nations says agriculture and food production accounts for 28 percent of the entire global workforce. There are more than 570 million smallholder farms worldwide. Technology can be utilized by agricultural businesses to zero in on intelligent and qualified employees who can take operations to the next level. Websites like Glassdoor, Indeed and ZipRecruiter remain helpful tools when looking for qualified job candidates. The internet is an essential employment resource, and farms can utilize it to acquire new hires.

Agricultural businesses can explore various ways to gradually and seamlessly make technology part of their operations.



Explaining precision agriculture

Few, if any, aspects of life in the 21st century have not been touched by technology. Advancements in technology have affected everything from the way students learn in the classroom to how senior citizens connect with their grandchildren. Technological advancements also have left their mark on industry, including the agricultural sector.

Modern agriculture bears some similarities to farming of past eras. Technology has affected the agricultural sector for centuries, and modern farmers know that's no different today. One of the more recent developments in the agricultural sector is the rise of precision agriculture, a farming management concept that can pay dividends for generations to come.

What is precision agriculture?

Precision agriculture (PA) is rooted in improving crop yields through

the utilization of technology. PA is designed to help the agricultural sector maximize resources and improve yields and the quality of crops. That's a critically important function as the world population continues to grow and the demand for food increases as a result.

What are some examples of PA technology?

Sensors are a prime example of PA technology that helps make farms more efficient and productive. Sensors serve various functions by helping farmers gather data on the availability of water in soil, the level of compaction in soil, leaf temperature, insect and disease infestation, and other areas.

Weather modeling is another component of PA that can help farms be more cost-effective and efficient. Whereas in years past many farms would need to manually assess certain variables to determine when

to harvest, weather modeling technology has enabled some farmers to generate remote readings, saving time and money.

How does PA help farmers?

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Alamosa Chamber of Commerce's Oktoberfest Sept. 23

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The 2023 Oktoberfest, hosted by the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce, will be from 2 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23, at Cole Park. The event will feature a variety of brewers and distillers from all over the San Luis Valley, and beyond, and will also have non-alcoholic offerings.

There is something for everyone at Oktoberfest, a family-friendly event with plenty of games, contests, and live music from Four Letter Word Band and of course, DJ E.

There will also be bouncy houses, the Salida Circus, Hall's Way Escape Room, giant yard games, free face painting, and, of course, rounds of stein holding contests, a keg toss, and giant beer pong sponsored by the Young Professionals of Alamosa.

Want to make it extra fun? They will be hosting a costume contest with prizes for anyone that comes in traditional "Oktoberfest" attire. In fact, anyone who comes in costume is guaranteed a free swag item.

General admission is free with a small tasting package available as well as VIP Unlimited tasting bands. All packages come with a free keepsake acrylic tasting mug to use at the event and take home. Tasting wristbands are \$10 and include the free mug and two free drink tokens; purchase additional drink tokens for \$5 each. Unlimited VIP tasting wristbands are \$50. Purchase tasting packages at the North end of the park.

Visit www.alamosachamber.com/oktoberfest and follow them on Facebook AlamosaChamber, for ongoing updates on schedules, new brewers, vendors, and activities.

Premium sponsors include the City of Alamosa,



File photo

Attendees are encouraged to dress in traditional Oktoberfest garb for the annual costume contest at the Alamosa Chamber of Commerce Oktoberfest. One contestant is shown from the 2022 'brufest'.

mosa, First Southwest Bank, LMNOC Broadcasting and Visit Alamosa. Sponsors include High Peak Event Company, Sand Dunes Recreation, The Valley Courier, My Brother's Place, Valley-Wide Health Systems, SLV Adventures, Alcon Construction, Wolf Creek Broadcasting, REC/CIELLO, Alamosa Home, SLV Health, Will & Dawn Krebs, RE/MAX Advantage-San Luis Valley, SLV Federal Bank, Big R, TAHR Services Inc., Purple Pig Pizzeria, Wall, Smith & Bateman, Walmart, Young Professionals of Alamosa and Walgreens.



Courtesy photo

Pictured in front of the El Paso County courthouse are 2022-23 San Luis Valley Mock Trial Team members from left to right, Judge Crista Newmyer-Olsen, Dhara Patel, coach Lisa Mizell, Estevan Vega, Jacquelyne Garcia, Angela Walzl, Paloma Zahringer, Itzel Lopez, Jude Walzl, Damion Garcia, and coach Chad Keizer.

Justice Committee seeking SLV Mock Trial Team members

Informational meetings Oct. 13 and 27

CONTRIBUTED

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The San Luis Valley Mock Trial Team was formed in 2020 through the 12th Judicial District's Access to Justice Committee and is gearing up for the 2023-24 mock trial competition.

A team of San Luis Valley high school students will again have the opportunity to prepare a mock trial case and compete at the regional Colorado High School Mock Trial competition in February, with an opportunity to earn a spot at the state competition in March of 2024.

The official 2023-2024 mock trial case will be released at midnight on Oct. 31 and team meetings will begin on Friday, Nov. 3, at the Alamosa County Justice Center.

Please see TEAM on Page 3

DiAntonio to depart CRT

He will take over as the new artistic director of Utah Shakespeare Festival this fall

CONTRIBUTED

CREEDE — Creede Repertory Theatre's (Creede Rep) board of directors announced Wednesday, Sept. 6, the departure of their longtime producing artistic director, John DiAntonio. The 13-year veteran of Creede Rep is leaving to take over as artistic director of the Utah Shakespeare Festival in November.

In his decade-plus tenure with the company, DiAntonio has solidified Creede Repertory Theatre as a regional powerhouse with his visionary leadership and passion for the craft.

An actor, director, and playwright, DiAntonio began as a member of CreedeRep's acting company in 2011. He was integral in the creation of the Headwaters New Play Festival in 2012 and became the associate artistic director in 2015. Creede Rep workshopped and

produced his plays "Harry the Great" and "Kind of Red" for the Mainstage Theatre as well as numerous plays for The KID Show program and Young Audience Outreach Tours including "Reading and Other Superpowers," "Math-stronaut," and "Viva Agua."

DiAntonio moved into the position of executive director in 2017 and in 2019, was named producing artistic director.

Bob Johns, president of the Board of Trustees, notes that "DiAntonio led Creede Rep through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic including the cancellation and restructure of the 2020 season, an entirely outdoor season in 2021, and the return to the indoors in 2022. Under his leadership, Creede Rep saw a 100% audience return in 2023. He will leave a legacy and a lasting impact on the direction of Creede Repertory Theatre going forward."

"There are no words to adequately express what Creede Repertory Theatre and the town of Creede mean to me and my wife, Caitlin (actor Caitlin Wise)," says DiAntonio. "This place will forever be a part of my heart and



John DiAntonio

soul. CRT welcomed us with open arms from the beginning, presenting endless opportunities and exciting challenges, that made me the artist and man I am today. The theatre has never been stronger thanks to the loyalty of our community; thank you for all the love and support you have given us over the last thirteen years."

Please see CRT on Page 3

Madrigal named Colorado Governors Fellows

This year's cohort is the most geographically diverse



Azarel Madrigal

DENVER — CiviCO, a nonprofit that cultivates civic-minded leaders, announced 30 Colorado business executives and community leaders as 2023-24 Colorado Governors Fellows. Azarel Madrigal of Alamosa with First Southwest Community Fund made the list.

The Colorado Governors Fellowship program prepares mainly private and nonprofit sector leaders for opportunities to deepen their understanding of Colorado state government and statewide public policy issues. CiviCO received more than 80 well-qualified applicants to the Colorado Governors Fellowship program.

"I am thrilled to welcome the newest cohort of Governors Fellows through the continued partnership between CiviCO and the Colorado Governor's Office. These fellows will gain valuable experience from this program and go on to help ensure Colorado is the best place to live, work, and run or start a business," said Gov. Jared Polis.

Monte Vista's Back to School Bash is a blast

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTEVISTA— On Friday, Sept. 8, the Monte Vista School Parent-Teacher Organization in conjunction with the LOR Foundation held a "Back to School Bash" at the high school baseball field. It was open to the public.

Approximately 500 people, including students, parents, and teachers, attended the event. The entrance to the event was decorated with green, white, and gold balloons. There were two bouncy houses at the event for children, along with a snow cone shack, a booth where you could purchase Pirate t-shirts and hoodies, a booth hosted by student council where you could purchase baked goods, and a booth where free backpacks were being given away.

People were offered free dinner along with free entrance to the high school football game that evening, and various other booths around the baseball field. The LOR Foundation had a booth at the bash.

Monte Vista High School Cheer Team Head Coach Valerie Atencio spoke about the event and her position.

"So far, this has been great. We have seen a lot of people, a lot of kids. Just seeing the community come together here for this great event is what matters," Atencio said. "We are here to give thanks to the LOR Foundation and to the community. We were able to obtain a grant through the LOR Foundation for the Monte Vista High School cheerleaders. We purchased cheer mats, poms, flags, and a lot of other goodies to give out to our friends and fans. It has been so nice. We are hoping to go forward and go to competition and hopefully bring home first place this year. As cheer coaches we help with the transportation for the

cheerleaders to get them to away games. We also coordinate pep-rallies, so that the team can support their fellow teammates and clubs. We are proud to go to competition every year against roughly 30 other teams in Colorado."

PTO Secretary Bridget Sandoval said, "Things have been going good. It's been busy, I am loving this. I think the teachers are having fun. I am running bouncy house number two and there have been so many people that have come out. It's great, it's what we were hoping for."

Monte Vista School District Superintendent Scott Wiedeman was pleased with the attendance at the bash.

"I think it's going really, really well," Wiedeman said. "I just want to thank the LOR Foundation, the PTO, all the people, Jeremy Silva for donating the backpacks for our kids. It's been a good turnout. I hope everyone enjoys the football game afterwards, too."

PTO President Sarah Noller was selling Pirate t-shirts and hoodies at the event.

"We started the PTO in 2019 at Bill Metz Elementary and we just decided this past year that we wanted to expand this to the entire district," Noller said. "We worked with the LOR Foundation to come up with some projects, and this was one of them. I think this event has been great. I am really enjoying seeing all the families out there having a good time. There is free food, free back packs, student council is having a bake sale over there. It's been so much fun. Some of the things we have done for the schools are a water bottle filling station over at Metz, an electronic hole puncher for the fifth-grade hall. We also help the schools wherever they need help. We volunteer at family fun nights and for

other events, too."

Ivette Atencio, who is Monte Vista officer for the LOR Foundation, was also at the event.

"I am excited to be here. We are funding a bunch of different projects for the PTO," Atencio said. "So far, we have done the Shade Structure at Bill Metz, the

Delta Center has their basketball hoop. We helped with some playground equipment for the Early Childhood Center at the high school. We have done some things over at Marsh. There's a few more projects in the works that should happen here in the next couple of months. Also sponsoring this bash tonight. It's

wonderful to hear that parents and kids are enjoying themselves here tonight and see them interacting and laughing together. Also being told where there is more need has been great. It's really heartwarming to be a part of the LOR Foundation and make an impact on this wonderful community."



Photos by Marie Mccolm

The Monte Vista School Parent-Teacher Organization held a 'Back to School Bash' before the Monte Vista High School home football game on Sept. 8.



Left: The Potato Festival on Saturday, Sept. 9, in Monte Vista had three large bouncy houses for children.

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Prime Packing ribbon cutting



Courtesy photos

Farm Fresh Direct of America celebrates new potato shed, Prime Packing. Prime Packing located north of Center, is Farm Fresh Direct of America's newest addition to its potato sheds in the San Luis Valley. They currently



have EXPO, Grower-Shipper and Blanca Potato. 'The investment by our growers to expand capacity is critical to our long-term vision for the Valley,' said Mike Hulett, CEO. John Artaechevarria, Monty Smith, Josh Wagner, Alex Miller and Rodney Smith are ready with the scissors. Prime Packing owners, staff and growers posed for photos and had lunch with Farm Fresh Direct of America.

CRT Continued from Page 1

Kate Berry has been appointed interim artistic director. Berry, currently the marketing director, has an 18-year history with Creede Rep, first as a member of the acting company and later as associate artistic director from 2018-2022. She will partner with managing director Morgan Manfredi to assure a smooth transition at the remote, mountain theatre.

DiAntonio says, "I have had the honor of working closely with Morgan and Kate for years. They care deeply about this theatre and community and have earned an in-depth understanding of the unique challenges of repertory theatre in a remote location. They are more than ready for the ex-

citing challenge ahead — the future is in good hands. I thank them, and the entire staff, for their unwavering commitment and sacrifice to make this theatre better every single day."

CRT will launch a national search for an artistic director in the coming weeks. In the meantime, DiAntonio will wrap up a successful 58th Season on Sept. 16 and remain in Creede through the end of October. Berry will begin her interim artistic director role at the close of the current season. This winter, Creede Rep will produce another celebratory holiday show with Patrick Barlow's adaptation of "A Christmas Carol," opening Nov. 24.

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

TEAM Continued from Page 1

The mock trial program offers several unique opportunities to high school students in the San Luis Valley. Students from any area high school, home school or alternative school may participate in the program. The coaches and instructors are legal professionals within the community who volunteer their time each year.

Students who choose to treat the program as a class are eligible to receive Adams State University credit for one year of their participation in the program. Judge Crista Newmyer-Olsen is the instructor for the Adams State University course. The program is an extracurricular activity for any student interested in theater, public speaking, government, or law.

The Colorado Bar Association has sponsored the Colorado High School Mock Trial Program since 1985. Each year more than 100 high school teams participate in Colorado's mock trial program. Approximately 1,500 students perform as attorneys or witnesses in a court case. Hundreds of attorneys, judges, teachers, and other community leaders volunteer their time to instruct students about the judicial system and the trial process.

More information can be found by going to www.coloradohighschool-mocktrial.com.

"The 12th Judicial District is proud to offer this opportunity to San Luis Valley youth," organizers stated.

A virtual informational meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on Oct. 13 and an in-person informational meet-

ing will be held at 10 a.m. on Oct. 27 at the Alamosa County Justice Center. Interested students, parents and teachers are encouraged to at-

tend. Those who wish to attend the virtual meeting may do so by going to <https://judicial.webex.com/join/crista.newmyer-olsen>.

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Courtesy photo

This photo is from the climber and is the south face of Kit Carson Peak from above Spanish Creek.

Saguache Search and Rescue responds to climber on Kit Carson

STAFF REPORT

SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAINS — On Sept. 5, Saguache Search and Rescue was called out for a climber who lost the route while descending Kit Carson Peak and became disoriented.

The climber was in communication with rescuers, and she was advised to descend via Spanish Creek.

A search and rescue ground team ascended the Spanish Creek Trail where they met up with the climber. The team and the individual descended without incident, and she was given a ride back to her vehicle at the Willow Creek Trailhead.

All search and rescue personnel were out of the field by 11:30 p.m.

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05 Notices

Rio Grande County Public Health Department is soliciting bid proposals from qualified contractors for an Outdoor Fitness Court STUDIO INSTALLATION at Centennial Park (North of Del Norte Town Hall), 120 Spruce Street, Del Norte, in Spring, 2024. The work under this contract shall include installation of the Fitness Court® Studio designed by National Fitness Campaign (NFC) for the Rio Grande County. The installation should follow all specifications and dimensions set forth by NFC. A complete set of instruction documents is included and required to be followed. Sealed proposals will be received at the Rio Grande County Public Health Department office until 12:00pm (MT), Wednesday, September 27, 2023. Contact the Rio Grande County Public Health Director at (719) 657-3352 or email kbankole@riograndecounty.org if there are any questions concerning this Request For Proposals (RFP). (9-20)

Rio Grande County Public Health Department is soliciting bid proposals from qualified contractors for a complete concrete slab to be installed at Centennial Park (North of Del Norte Town Hall), 120 Spruce Street, Del Norte, in Spring, 2024. The work under this contract shall include installation and site-work as required to install a concrete slab for a Fitness Court® Studio designed

by National Fitness Campaign (NFC) for the Rio Grande County. The concrete slab should follow all specifications and dimensions set forth by NFC. A complete set of construction documents is included and required to be followed. Sealed proposals will be received at the Rio Grande County Public Health Department office until 12:00pm (MT), Wednesday, September 27, 2023. Contact the Rio Grande County Public Health Director at (719) 657-3352 or email kbankole@riograndecounty.org if there are any questions concerning this Request For Proposals (RFP). (9-20)

Attention Rio Grande County Small Businesses: A total of \$200,000 in Federal assistance grants is available to small businesses located in Rio Grande County on a first-come, first-served basis until the allocated funds are exhausted. The maximum amount per business is \$15,000. Visit riograndecounty.org or contact the Rio Grande County Administrator for ad-

ditional details at (719) 657-2744 or by email rgadministrator@riograndecounty.org. (9-20)

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07 Help Wanted

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- Ski School
- Base Operations
- Retail
- Ticket Office
- Snow Removal
- Grooming
- Custodial Building
- Maintenance
- Ski Patrol

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1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15

16 17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25

Words: _____ Times: _____ Price: _____

Class: _____ Start Date: _____

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Or drop by at 835 First Avenue

All Classified Advertising must be pre-paid

DISCLAIMER

Please read your ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes notify us **IMMEDIATELY**. We will make changes for errors and adjust your credit **but only if we receive notice on the first day the ad is published**. We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper which reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser and not the newspaper is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. All classified advertising must be pre-paid.

Valley Wide Classifieds

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

calBank.com/careers or inquire at 705 Grand Ave, Del Norte or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE. (10-11)

RG BANK has an opening for a **Mortgage and Consumer Loan Officer** in our Monte Vista Office. The LO assists clients with the origination of residential mortgage loans for purposes of purchase, refinance and construction, including providing analysis and advice to current and prospective clients on home lending solutions that meet their needs and financial objectives. The LO will also assist clients with the origination of various consumer loans. The LO is expected to develop referrals as a means to grow lending business and client base. The LO is expected to maintain high standards of client satisfaction and loan quality. For a full job listing, with qualifications needed, skills necessary, salary range and application, visit: <https://rgbank.bank/careers/> (9-27)

Amazing opportunity for a personal care provider in the Antonito Area for a young lady, will train. This excellent position requires dedication, trustworthiness, and transfers. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday some weekends and overnights when needed. \$15.00 an hour call if interested 719-588-9430 or 719 376-2348 (9-20)

12 Houses for Rent

Charming remodeled one bedroom, one bath, one-person unit in a quiet four-plex in Del Norte. \$650/month, inclusive of water and sewer. No Pets. Credit report required. Call 719-850-0750. (9-27)

14 Business Properties For Rent

Professional Office or Residential space for one person located in a quiet four-plex in Del Norte. Approximately 700 sq ft with an

HEY, HUNTERS!!!

- HERE'S A GREAT DEAL FOR SALE -
- COMFORTABLE HIGH-COUNTRY HUNTING CAMP

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

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PROPANE HEATING SYSTEM FOR COOKING, THERMOSTATICALLY-CONTROLLED SPACE HEATING, & HOT WATER. PROPANE REFRIGERATOR

PURCHASE CONSIDERATIONS: IF THIS WERE A NEW LANCE TRAILER WITH ALL THE EXTRAS LISTED, YOU COULD BE LOOKING AT A COST IN EXCESS OF \$45,000.

BUT THIS IS A LIGHTLY-USED 2012 TRAILER. OWNER PAID \$19,500 IN 2023, AND IS ASKING FOR THAT AMOUNT TO SELL. BUT HE WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER ALL REASONABLE OFFERS.

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

AND HERE'S THE BEST PART; IT'S JUST RIGHT TO TAKE THE WIFE AND A COUPLE OF KIDS ON A MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE NEXT SUMMER!!!

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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



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

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!
MLS#806411
\$1,425,000



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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



Steffens & Company Realty
719-873-5605
30635 US HWY 160
South Fork
dee@steffenscorealty.com

All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.



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Valley Wide Classifieds

open entry area, separate office or bedroom, kitchen area, and 3/4 bath. \$850/month, inclusive of water and sewer. No pets. Credit report required. Please call 719-850-0750. (9-27)

16 Vacation

Vacation Cabin for rent by the night only. Full bath, queen bed, microwave & refrigerator. 469-446-2499. (9-27)

17 Real Estate For Sale

FARM FOR SALE in Waverly Area Sub-district #6, 1 1/2 center

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

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

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

town, electric and phone. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc. 719-580-0770. (TFN)

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

23 Lawn and Garden

Sprinkler repair. Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. TFN

32 Fuel & Heating

Laars Mini - Therm JVH Gas fired boiler, 160,000 BTU \$450,00. 1/2 HP Inline Cast Iron Pump 1inch inlet / Outlet. \$150.00 719-379-3921 (10-4)

NEED FIREWOOD? Call Elam at Cozy Glo LLC. 719-480-5047. \$190 per cord. Delivery available. TFN

33 Building Materials

For Sale: Old barn board siding on old, galvanized roofing. Call 719-843-0182 (9-27)

36 Miscellaneous

For Sale: New 9000lb car-lift, matching fridge & stove, chest-freezer, & a new base board trim. 719-850-2027 (9-27)

For Sale: Metal Barrels Black, Green, red, and white. Dozens of uses. Convert to troughs or feeders. Make a Barrel Stove out of them. \$5.00 a Barrel with Stationary lid. \$25.00 For removable lid. Call David 719-480-2145 (9-27)

Cozy Home Insulation could make your home or other dwelling Cozy before winter with spray foam insulation. Call David 719-480-2145 (9-27)

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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 497 Timberline Drive • South Fork

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

This South Fork Beauty checks all the boxes, both his and hers - and is a fun place for family and friends. Custom built Log home tucked in the trees and backs up to the National Forest. The main floor consists of an open area with beautiful carved mantel stone fireplace, designer backslash and large eat in counter space looking over the living area with custom soft close cabinets and plenty of storage and room for all your entertaining. Kitchen has wonderful large butler pantry with pantry sink and beautiful custom stained-glass door. The Detailed Check Boxes include radiant floor heating with four zones and two Rinnai on-demand water tanks. Light Touch lighting system and electrical in the floor. Master bedroom is on the main floor with sitting area with luscious mountain views. Master bath with beautiful large tiled walk-in shower. Guest bedroom and bath on main floor with elegant soaking antique tub. Upstairs spacious loft with two electronic skylights with rain sensors that will close automatically with additional sleeping area's 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 37 Million Court • South Fork

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

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 just a stone throw away from National Forest and public river access. Start your adventure call and schedule your showing today! \$175,000 MLS #804121 63 Doe Circle • South Fork

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719-850-1993
Bernadette Gingrass, Broker Associate
30635 US Hwy 160 • South Fork
bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

PRICE REDUCED



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 12272 County Road R5 • San Luis

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

SOLD

You Found It! Home Sweet Home, Finely Crafted, Ranch Style 2,109 square foot 3 bed 2 bath split floor plan home with detached 4 car garage for all your outdoor tools and toys! Large master bedroom bath with jacuzzi tub. Beautiful open kitchen, dining area with eat in counter, living area with cathedral wood beam ceiling, custom cabinets and wood burning stove. This home has large windows that brings in lots of natural light. Patio doors leading out to your back and front deck with 360 views of the beautiful Colorado mountains. Perfect place to enjoy your morning hot cup of coffee. You have year-round access in Highland Meadows, South Fork, CO, with paved roads, your own well and South Fork water and sanitation. This home is situated on a beautiful 1.1-acre lot with room for your RV, gardens and so much more. Additional heating sources on demand water heater and radiant floor heat to keep you nice and warm all winter long and indoor laundry area. This could be your permanent residence, your home away from home or your perfect vacation home. Moments from skiing at Wolf Creek, A stone throw away from public access to gold medal fishing on the Mighty Rio Grande River. Enjoy nearby hiking, golfing, hunting and 4 -wheeling. Start Your Adventure - Won't last long. Call and Schedule your personal showing today! \$489,900 MLS #801796 74 Highland Court • South Fork



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

Look Reduced Price! \$875,000 Owner Willing to Owner Finance for Qualified Buyers! Must See Custom-Built 5,350 sq. ft. Commercial Property in Fabulous South Fork, CO. Great Highway 160 exposure!! This building is extremely well built. The building was built for retail with many amenities. The environment is warm and welcoming. The 3,000 sq. ft. main floor consist of large receiving office, full kitchen and bath and several large open spaces and two additional design show rooms and large 1,000 sq. ft. heated warehouse with plenty of shells for storage and 12-foot overhead door. Lovely concrete outdoor patio with new vinyl fencing wired for low voltage lights this property sits on two lots with wiring running outside for lighting off outside signage. 1,350 sq. ft. Spacious upstairs with large open space, several large storage closets two additional offices, New 5/8" custom tile bathroom and large storage over warehouse. This well-built property has radiant floor heating downstairs and upstairs baseboard hot water heat. Property is wired for Cat 5 telephone jack in all offices, design rooms, kitchen bar, receiving office - etc. Cable tv jack, upstairs big room. There are 3 gas fireplaces, 2 wall thermostats with remote control. Wired for speakers though out the building for music. Swamp cooler and wired for electric dryer, set up for washer and has a Propane fired boiler and propane hot water heater. This property is a blank canvas with so much POTENTIAL for the right builder or person. Because there is no existing business at the present time, this makes this building available for a variety of business opportunities. Professional Work Environment for Professionals, Restaurant, Brew Pub, Events Center, Lodge or Cottage hotel, Retail etc. Come Paint your Canvas and start Your Business Adventure. Call and schedule your personal showing today! MLS#802191 Improved Price \$925,000! \$875,000 MLS #802191

173 W Frontage • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
(719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

PRICE REDUCED

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 compete with one car garage, storage shed, central well and town sewer. Cabin can be used as a full-time residence, or home-away-from-home winter or summer get-a-way! Rentals are not allowed in this subdivision. Don't wait! Start your adventure today! Only a short 17-mile drive from Wolf Creek Ski area. The mighty South Fork and Rio Grande River, Beaver Mountain reservoir & Million reservoir are just moments away. Bring your fishing pole and enjoy hours of world class fishing. Ski Wolf Creek, go 4 wheeling, hike, camp, hunt, Enjoying everything outdoors! Let's get started call /text and schedule your showing today! \$325,000 MLS #800364 31517 Us Highway 160 • South Fork



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

SOLD



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

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

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

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

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

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

37 Wanted

Dry Cottonwood. 719-850-2430 (9-20)

41 Farm Equipment

80,000 cwt potato storage for rent. This building has two air systems. One for each half of the storage bins. Rent for .50 / cwt. Cement floors. Single and three phase power. 24.hr. Monitor and rodent systems are already in

place. Central Valley location. 5 miles and 2.5 east. Email to processingproperties@gmail.com Or send a text to 719-580-4046. (9-20)

48 Pets and Supplies

Welsh Corgi/Lab mix puppies. Very cute! Won't get very big. UTD on vaccinations. \$100. 719-588-3687. (10-11)

Pot Belly Piglets: Cute, Black litterbox Trainable, and available now. \$50 each. 719-849-8261 (9-27)

For sale: Pure Bred Siberian Husky puppies, females. Shots. Masks. Blue eyes. Ready. Call or text 970-987-2800 (9-27)

65 Professional Services

Fire Mitigation: Weed And brush mowing to reduce fire danger. Call Darrell 715-699-3679 (9-27)

DeHerrera Designs: Residential Home Designs & Septic Designs. Your Vision is Important to Us Manassa, CO 559-572-3492 Email: deherreradesigns@live.com (9-20)

RELIABLE CARPENTRY 40-plus years-experience in carpentry, painting, stucco, tile, drywall, roofing, etc. Drug/Alcohol free.

Free Estimates 719-496-7630. (TFN)

Squeegee Luigi's Washing Services: Window washing and pressure washing services – Free estimates 719-588-2820 (TFN)

LICENSED PLUMBER does all types of plumbing repairs and plumbing remodels at reasonable rates. Quick service. Call anytime, available weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. TFN

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PUBLIC AUCTION

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30, 2023 • 11:00AM

Keith & Mary Lou Tallon Owners

Directions: From Fort Garland Colorado travel south on Hwy 159 to mile marker 26. At green metal shed on west side of road. Enter through Iron Gate that follows.

18905 SEMINOLE DRIVE • FORT GARLAND, COLORADO. (There are no street signs)

FURNITURE

- Heat Surge Space Heaters
- (Amish-made wood cabinets, 25" high X 32" wide X 11.5" deep)
- Pie Cooling Cabinet- 4 shelf (5' high X 30" wide x 13" deep)
- Spice Cabinet (40" high X 20" wide X 9" deep)
- Office Chair (barrel back on casters, oak)
- Lazy Boy Recliner
- Dining Buffet (2 drawers) and 3-Shelf topper (oak)
- Snack Bar Chairs (4, colonial style, oak)
- Kid's-size dining table (wood)
- Baker's Rack (black wrought iron frame)
- Five-drawer Dresser Chests (2 matching)
- Room Divider (4 panels)
- Desk & desk chair on casters (black metal/dark brown top, 4 side drawers and center drawer)
- Desk (small student desk - 4 drawer, and wood chair)
- Sears Kenmore Sewing Machine (with table)

ANTIQUES

- Vanity Dresser/Mirror
- Bath Sink/Pitcher/Mirror
- Rocking Chair
- Black Trunk • Hope Chest
- Flat-top Desk (solid oak)
- Brass Lamps (2)
- Barrister Book Case with Glass Doors

MANY OTHER ITEMS NOT LISTED WILL BE AVAILABLE DAY OF SALE

HOME DECORATIONS (INDOOR):

- Metal Buffalo-skull/feather sculpture
- Arrowhead candle sconces (2)
- Birdhouse collection
- Brass pieces
- Terra Cotta pieces
- Candle Sticks
- Buffalo Metal Sculpture
- Indian Folklore items

PATIO FURNITURE:

- Heavy Aluminum oval table, with matching: 2 captain swivel chairs, 4 side chairs, small rectangular side table & chaise lounge (includes cushions)
- Side table - Concrete top (inlaid mosaic) on metal base
- Candle Sticks (3 - 4ft Tall)

OFFICE EQUIPMENT:

- HP Printer • HP Printer/Fax
- Computer Monitor & Keyboard

GARAGE EQUIPMENT:

- Honda Inverter/Generator EU3000is
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Adams State Exceptional New Alumna Elena Burr has a heartfelt desire for health equity

By **DARIN PAINTER**
Adams State University

ALAMOSA — It happened in 2017, somewhere between Denver and Durango.

Elena Burr, Adams State University Class of 2015, and her husband were hiking along the Colorado Trail, spending time high up after they had been feeling a little down. Both had just quit their jobs — Burr didn't feel connected to the corporate role she took after graduating from Adams State University with a finance degree.

Suddenly, 10,000-plus feet above sea level, she experienced a jolt of clarity: True fulfillment in her life would arrive only if she dedicated herself to meaningful work that positively impacted lives. Burr had been yearning for the same sense of community and purpose she had experienced as a Grizzly student and swim team member.

"I like to say that I had an early midlife crisis," Burr says. "But the truth is, life is short. You have to chase the feeling of what makes you complete and fulfilled."

That a-ha moment was the start of an awe-inspiring journey for Burr, who set out to align her career with her values. Over the past few years, she has been a remarkable advocate for health equity and community empowerment across the globe. Her dedication to building optimal social, mental and physical well-being has earned her recognition as a rising star in the public health and nonprofit landscape.

It also has earned her Adams State University's Exceptional New Alumnus Award. Initially taken aback and humbled by the honor, she says it's a testament to the power of community and inspiration from colleagues who share her passion for public health and

fellow alums who shared a transformative experience on campus.

Burr will be recognized at the 2023 Alumni Awards Banquet on Sept. 22, in the Student Union Building. For reservations, visit adams.edu/alumni/homecoming/; call 719-587-8110; or email alumni@adams.edu.

Empowering lives, building communities

Shortly after the Colorado Trail hike, Burr found her calling at Esperança, a global health nonprofit committed to fostering better futures for families in underserved and marginalized communities. (The group changed its name to Advance earlier this summer.)

In less than a year, Burr advanced from an administrative role to Esperança's marketing manager, a role she held from 2018-2023. During that time, she was a key strategist for donor-stewardship initiatives, managed the nonprofit's press relations, and created and implemented a content-marketing strategy that helped Esperança surpass its \$2.2 million fundraising goal.

Meanwhile, she traveled across Phoenix, and into Mexico and Peru, witnessing major health disparities firsthand. She vividly recalls meeting a boy in Peru named Leo, whose family was among the last living descendants of the Incas. He had come out of his dilapidated house carrying blankets, and when Burr greeted him and touched his hand, "it was the coldest thing I'd ever felt," she recalls. "I just sat there for a minute, rubbing his hand between mine. That was our only form of communication, because I couldn't say 'sorry' or 'we're here to help.' It was a moment that will live with me forever."

Inspired to make a difference, Burr
Please see BURR on Page 10



Courtesy photo

Elena Burr, the 2023 Adams State Exceptional New Alumna, hiking the Teton Crest Trail.

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

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Solution to last week's puzzle

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S	T	A	T	U	S		H	I	S	S	E	D		
B	A	N	S	H	E	E	S	E	N	E	S	C	E	
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BURR

Continued from Page 9

used her storytelling and photography skills to capture the experiences and images of families involved in Esperança projects around the globe. She presented them in a clear, powerful way that elicited emotion and support from donors. She also led the effort to revamp Esperança's website and digital presence. Her work shined a much-needed spotlight on different aspects of the global-health crisis, while amplifying Esperança's mission. "She was able to focus the brand and messaging to better tell the stories of our work," says Tami Bohannon, the nonprofit's chief advancement officer. "Managing the communications team and strategy, she dove into learning how to best use social media channels and grew our followers. Website design was new, but no problem for her to learn about, understand and implement."

Burr blossomed, seizing new opportunities to stretch her capabilities. She took part in a leadership institute offered by the Arizona State University Thunderbird School of Global Management, working with participants from diverse corners of the world. In that program, she led her group to make a compelling recommendation on expanding health and wellness programming for underserved populations in California, Texas and New Mexico.

Burr also has taken on active roles in Arizona's public health and nonprofit communities, serving as the volunteer marketing committee chair for the Arizona Health Equity Conference and the public relations committee chair for the Young and Empowered Women's Association.

"Public health is such an important topic because it affects every aspect of your life. It really dictates your future," Burr says. "If we if can dedicate more resources to ensuring that everyone has access, and a level playing field to start off their lives, then the potential we're offering people is unlimited."

In February 2023, Burr left Esperança to become communications manager at Foundation for Senior Living (FSL), which provides safe homes, nutritious meals, home-care services and education to under-resourced communities worldwide. Its mission aligns seamlessly with Burr's passion for health, independence and dignity for all.

"Service has always been part of my life. I think it's what keeps us human," she says. "If you can provide a service to the community alongside good, genuine people who you can learn from, then all the better. Those are the positions I try to put myself in — with people who are dedicated to a cause and are always looking to grow."

Embodying the Adams State spirit and Adams State's culture of camaraderie and support struck an immediate chord with Burr during her freshman year in 2012. It was a pivotal year on campus, as the institution transformed from Adams State College to Adams State University.

She recalls a vibrant atmosphere brimming with the feeling of growth and new beginnings, and immediately felt at home in the intimate, welcoming environment. "The air around campus was all very exciting. I really felt the energy around their motto 'Great Stories Begin Here,' because I was starting a new chapter in my life."

Burr's Grizzly story included close-knit bonds with members of Adams State's housing community (she became a resident's assistant during her sophomore year), inspirational conversations with her professors and impressive success in the water for the women's swim team, where Burr formed lifelong friendships with teammates.

Her fellow swimmers provided one of her most-cherished memories at Adams State, when her coach and entire team drove to Arizona to comfort her at the funeral of her father, who had passed away suddenly. "They all wrote me such thoughtful cards that I still have to this day," Burr says. "That's the kind of team that it was, and that's the kind of people they are."

It's the kind of lasting imprint that made Burr's college experience so memorable, and the kind of heartfelt

compassion she believes is needed now to create a more just, inclusive, thriving

world for all. "I feel like everything I've done has

been a collaborative effort," Burr says. "And I wouldn't be at all who I am to-

day without the community I found at Adams State."

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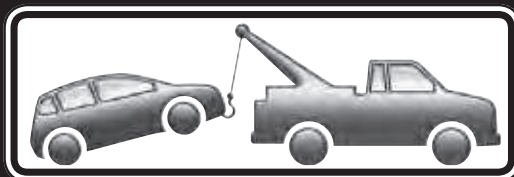
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Courtesy photo

Students pose for a photo during a benefit dinner for Center School District staffer Steve Martinez.

Center School District STARS organize benefit dinner for Martinez

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — A benefit dinner was held on Thursday, Sept. 7, to help with medical expenses for Center School District staffer Steve Martinez, who was diagnosed with cancer.

Katrina Ruggles organized the dinner with the help of the STAR program.

“Steve handles all our discipline support for our teachers and students,” Ruggles said. “He is a really kind, helpful leader and mentor for our students and staff. He is an overall beloved member of our school community. He has had cancer for a while now. His cancer had gotten better but then it came back. He is getting some treatments, but it’s pretty expensive. We really wanted to support him.”

Ruggles has been running the STARS program for about 20 years now. The program has adult leaders that mentor high school students, who in return mentor middle school students.

“The groups meet for various things, and they do leadership and development and mentoring services. The students all talked and wanted to host this chili supper for Steve. The idea was just wonderful, so we went ahead and made it happen,” Ruggles said.

Ruggles said she has a great set of leaders that help run the program and organized much of the dinner.

“I have Camille Villa. I have Joselyn Duran. I have Genesis Escalon. We also had Sharon Valadez. These are our STARS leaders. They got the kids well organized and put all of this together,” Ruggles said.

Ruggles said the chili supper was a success. The cafeteria made the chili, but the program paid for all the ingredients. Ruggles said that the cafeteria

and staff put in the time to cook and prepare the chili.

Ruggles said that they raised over \$3,000 for Martinez.

“We had a great turn out. We made \$3,299. We did pretty good. We did the chili supper, and we also took donations for dessert. The youth brought dessert; and some of the school staff brought dessert, it was really good,” she said.

Ruggles said the youth worked hard on everything for the dinner.

“They put their hearts into it,” Ruggles said. “They brought all the stuff to make, and they worked together, and they also helped cut up everything alongside the cafeteria staff. They were just chopping away. They got it all out there. They were serving chili, just working really hard, cleaning tables, and cleaning up. They made it all happen alongside all of us. It was an awesome collaborative event.”

Ruggles said that the Center Viking youth club was also involved. The club paid for all their kids to eat.

“We had all our athletes come. We tried to get all our athletes in, since it was game day for them, too. I think it all went well,” Ruggles said.

Ruggles thanked the STARS leaders for helping make the dinner happen.

“I want to also thank all our kids for showing up and working so hard, too,” Ruggles said. “I think this is a testament to their love and appreciation for Steve, and what an important role he plays at our school. Anybody that knows Steve, loves Steve. We are thankful to our staff and everyone that helped. We are looking forward to the day that Steve is feeling better and is well. We hope that he is able to put this all behind him. We hope this support really helps him with that journey.”

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

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Poor Boy Car Club donates \$5K to Center family

Money will help Jim and Shirley Sierra with medical costs

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — Poor Boy Car Club founder Richard Garcia on Wednesday, Sept. 6, gave a \$5,000 check to Jim and Shirley Sierra on behalf of the club to help with the family's medical costs.

Sierra has five autoimmune diseases, including interstitial lung disease, and must travel twice a year to National Jewish Hospital for treatment. The family has other medical expenses for various treatments that she receives.

Shirley Sierra said, "The Poor Boy Car Club is a blessing to me. These are people that don't just put on car shows to make money, they put on car shows to help people. I appreciate everything they have done for me. This really helps so much. Thank you."

The Poor Boy Car Club began when Garcia was in high school.

"I wanted to fix my car; it was a 72 Chavele. It took me 3 years to rebuild that car from start to finish. When I finished that, with my cousin Tony doing most of the motor work for me, I was like I love cars. We held our first car show at the park in Center. Our first car show we had like 29 or 30 cars show up," he said.

Garcia said that after that first car show, he started doing them every year. He became partial to the weekend after the Fourth of July. He said the idea of the club raising money and helping people began when his nephew contracted cancer at a young age. The club decided to raise some money to help his sister and nephew.

"We ended up having a car show in Sargent that year and raised quite a bit of money to give to my sister and to St. Jude. We were able to do donations that way because of the leukemia. We lost my nephew to cancer. He passed away, which left a big hole in our hearts. That is what made us realize we wanted to help people. We wanted to give money to people in need. So, after that we just have always done that."

The club has raised money and given it to people in need. "We have also helped people who had a death in the family, or someone who just needs some help. We enjoy helping. A



Courtesy photo

Jim and Shirley Sierra of Center received a check for \$5,000 from the Poor Boy Car Club.

lot of guys joined the club after that, and we just raise money and give it away to people in need," Garcia said.

Garcia said that he loves doing car shows and he loves helping people. Garcia heard about Shirley Sierra being sick and wanted to help her.

"She is a sweet person with a big heart, and really needed this help. Our car club issued her a check for \$5,000 and we are praying that it helps her with everything that she is going through," he said.

Shirley Sierra has been going to National Jewish Hospital for nearly a decade.

"I have been going to National Jewish Hospital for about 8 years now," she said. "I go at least two times a year but sometimes more. I had to have platelet transfusions in Alamosa. I have been on oxygen for 9 or 10 years now. Things have been really hard for me. I am so grateful to Richard, to his daughters, and to the whole car club. I want to thank them from my heart for what they have done for me. The trips can get expensive when we have to spend nights there, it adds up. I appreciate the car club so much."

Sierra's husband, Jimmy added, "Richard is great and works with a good group of people. I appreciate what they do. They are not just out there to help glory their cars, they are out there to help people. They are good people, and we appreciate what they did for us. Thanks to the anonymous donors and the people that donated. We appreciate the help so much."

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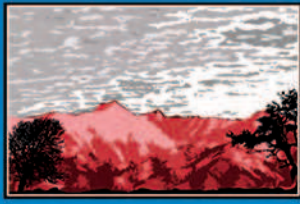
Plans underway for SdCNHA Cinco de Mayo in Alamosa

By SdCNHA
The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA) and San Luis Valley Brewing Company present a free community block party to celebrate local culture, heritage, and traditions through music, dance, food, drinks, and great conversation.
On Friday, May 3, 2024, the block of San Juan Avenue between 4th and Main Street, located next to the San Luis Valley Brewing Company in downtown Alamosa, will be blocked off for a community celebration of Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area's Annual Cinco de Mayo Block Party from 6-11 p.m.
Outdoor seating will be available, but we encourage you to bring your folding chair and come early for the best seating for the live performances! Enjoy specialty drinks and food from the San Luis Valley Brewing Company.
Stop by the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area table will receive SdCNHA promotional items and a traditional commemorative Cinco de Mayo T-Shirt while supplies last! In anticipation of the big day we thought it would be fun to share 10 more interesting facts about Cinco de Mayo that you may not know.
Not a celebration of independence
Cinco de Mayo is not a celebration of Mex-

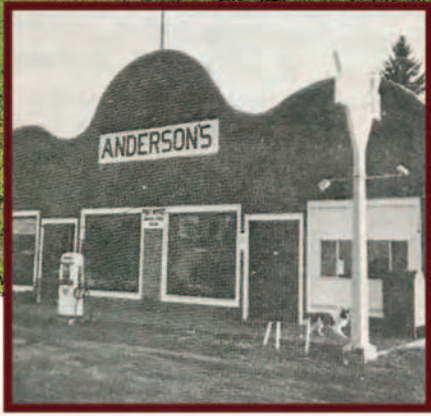
ico's Independence (which is actually September 16th), but rather a celebration of Mexico's victory in the battle at Puebla on May 5th, 1862 during the Franco-Mexican war. It was an unlikely win for the Mexican militia who were heavily outnumbered by the French. The victory became a source of pride for the country and is the reason we continue to celebrate today.
Mexico won the battle, but not the war
Although the Mexican Army won the battle at Puebla on May 5th, 1862 the French went on to win the war, occupying the region for five years.
Napoleon III had multiple motives on May 5
For the leader of France, Napoleon III, the battle at Puebla was an attempt at not only spreading his empire but at conquering a key Mexican access point to the U.S., where he intended to lend support to the confederate army during the Civil War in an effort to keep the U.S. divided and consequently less powerful.
Abraham Lincoln sympathized with the Mexican cause but...
Abraham Lincoln sympathized with the Mexican cause during the French occupation but was unable to lend direct support to the

nation due to the U.S. Civil War, which was taking place at the same time. When the Civil War finally ended, the U.S. forced France to withdraw its troops from Mexico and their empire collapsed.
Not a federal holiday in Mexico
Cinco de Mayo is not a federal holiday in Mexico and is a relatively minor holiday outside of Puebla, Veracruz and the United States. In Puebla and Veracruz, however, Cinco de Mayo is a very important state holiday celebrated with parades, festivals and reenactments.
Roosevelt helped popularize Cinco de Mayo in the U.S.
Cinco de Mayo became a popular holiday in the U.S. after President Franklin Roosevelt enacted the "Good Neighbor Policy" in 1933 to improve relations with Latin American countries.
Lots of avocados
According to the California Avocado Commission, Americans consume up to 81 million pounds of avocados on Cinco de Mayo every year. Holy guacamole!
The world's largest Cinco de Mayo party is held in
Los Angeles, Calif.! Other U.S. cities that throw big celebrations for Cinco de Mayo are

Denver, New York, Phoenix and Houston.
Some even celebrate with Chihuahua races
One U.S. city celebrates Cinco de Mayo with a Chihuahua race. Can you guess which city? It's Chandler, Ariz. Even Vancouver celebrates, marking the day with a "skydiving boogie" that consists of aerial acrobatics and an air show.
Americans like their tequila
According to the Daily Meal, the United States consumes twice as much Tequila as Mexico, where the spirit originated.
The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area preserves, protects and promotes the heritage of Colorado's first Hispano, agricultural and railroad communities and natural wonders. As stewards of this nationally significant location, SdCNHA aims to preserve and share the unique stories, cultures and landscapes of the San Luis Valley. With over 10,000 years of documented human habitation, this is where Colorado began. In 2009 congress declared the counties of Alamosa, Conejos and Costilla along with Great Sand Dunes National Park, Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge, Alamosa Wildlife Refuge and Baca Wildlife refuge to be a National Heritage Area.
We hope you join us for the celebration!



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Donn Vigil speaks about his life and heritage

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Donn Vigil recently spoke about his life growing up in Monte Vista and about his family and roots.

"I am a native of the San Luis Valley. I have been in Monte Vista all my life," Vigil said. "I come from a large family. My parents are deceased though and most of my brothers and sisters have passed away. I only have two sisters living, one that lives in Del Norte and one that lives in Monte Vista. I just lost a brother, he passed away a couple of months ago, he lived in Tennessee. They found Agent Orange from Vietnam, it finally caught up with him and took his life."

Vigil said that he had wonderful parents who taught him and his brothers and sisters a lot about values, how to treat people, and how to be good people. He also spoke about his heritage.

"I feel we all grew up to be successful. Growing up we didn't have a lot we were kind of from a very poor family," Vigil said. "We never went hungry though. We always managed to survive. We were happy. We were taught respect and to respect everyone. I am a second generation Mexican-American. My grandfather came from Sanora, Mexico. My father was raised in Antonito and settled in Monte Vista to raise his family. My first language was Spanish. We were taught Spanish in our household. My brothers and sisters and I also spoke Spanish. I tried to teach my son Spanish. I have been married for 39 years. I have one son named Chris and he is married and has a beautiful wife. We have six grandchildren. They live in the Valley. I remember my mom teaching my wife how to make tortillas and wanting to keep some of her traditions alive by teaching my wife that."

Vigil spoke about growing up and his different career and community paths. "I went to the United States Army.

I served for four years. I was a Post Commander at the American Legion 53," Vigil said. "I came home after the Army and worked various jobs. I was doing construction and then I had the opportunity to go to an appraisal school. I did real estate appraisals for a while. I then learned the mortgage lending side and became a loan officer. I worked at my job for 38 years. I ended up becoming the president of the Rio Grande Savings and Loan Bank. I retired from there in 2018 with 38 years of experience. Then I was on their Board of Directors for a few years and about a year ago I resigned my position on the board. I have served on numerous boards throughout my life. I have served on the ambulance board, the hospital board, chamber of commerce, Kiwanis, and



the Monte Vista school board. I have pretty much served my career for my community.

"Throughout my life and serving the community I have tried to do what I can to help make this place great. I am proud of being from Monte Vista. My wife and I have talked about it, there wouldn't be anywhere else we would want to live. This is home and this is where we will be until we are gone," he said.

Vigil spoke about his culture and about the Valley.

"This is really a great place to raise a family. In 2016, I was awarded the Hispanic Salute Award, for community leadership. I was honored and proud of that. I try to get people to unite and work together."

Vigil said he is proud of his accomplishments and helping many diverse people throughout his career.

"I recently ran into a gentleman from Mexico that I helped get a house loan years ago," he said. "He was excited to let me know that he paid off his house. He told me that if it hadn't been for me, he would never have gotten a house.

"I have always had a tremendous amount of diverse people come to me for loans and it makes me proud that I served all our community and helped them. I enjoy helping everyone," Vigil said.

Vigil said that he has a tremendous amount of love for all people and for God.

"It's nice to know that I can encourage and help people out there," he said. "I have a great deep love for the Lord

Jesus Christ also. I surrendered my life to him in 1982. He has had me on a different path ever since. Everything that I have done and had is because of him. The one thing I like to share with people too, is his goodness."

Vigil said if he could share anything with the community it would be to always put God first and to be kind and humble.

"Kindness goes a long way. Stay kind and be kind to people," he said.

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