

Shorts

Saguache Clerk, Recorder Office training

SAGUACHE — The Saguache County Clerk and Recorder's Office will be closed on Tuesday, Sept. 26, and Wednesday, Sept. 27, for training. Normal business will resume on Thursday, Sept. 28.

Health Fair is back in Rio Grande County

DEL NORTE — Rio Grande Hospital (RGH) has scheduled a Health Fair for Sept. 30, in Del Norte. The last time they had one was pre-pandemic. This time will be a little different. RGH is asking that people get their bloodwork done before the event. This way, people will have their results on the day of the Health Fair. Schedule an appointment for bloodwork by calling 719-657-4065.

"Your health is our priority," said Eva Timberlake, Development and Communications Officer for RGH, "Getting our community partner — Public Health, our providers, and healthcare workers together for this event is an excellent opportunity for the community to get a synopsis of their health."

RGH's Health Fair will be at the Del Norte's School's old Field House at 955 French St. on Sept. 30, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, visit RGH's website, RioGrandeHospital.org, under the Program and Events tab or email WeCare@riograndehospital.net.

CDOT to pave CO 114 west of Saguache

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The Colorado Department of Transportation is paving short sections of Colorado Highway 114 outside of Saguache over the next two weeks.

Crews will perform surface treatment on a 2-mile section between County Road CC 36 and Ford Creek beginning Sept. 18-20. The following week (Sept. 25-27), operations will move farther east between the Saguache Municipal Airport and the junction of County Road 46.

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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

Please see DONATES on Page 2A

Jim and Shirley Sierra of Center received a check for \$5,000 from the Poor Boy Car Club that will help with the family's medical costs.

Courtesy photo



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

Please see BENEFIT on Page 7A

4-H Youth Development Specialist Young moving on

Community can say thank you at open house on Sept. 15

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — On Friday, Sept. 15, the Colorado State University San Luis Valley Extension Office is hosting an open house to bid farewell to Area Youth Development Specialist for 4-H

Morgan Young. The open house will be held from noon until 4:30 p.m. at the CSU Extension Office in Monte Vista. The public is invited to attend.

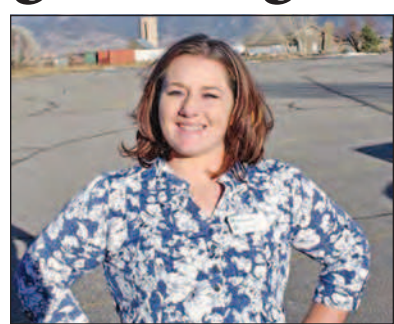
Young, who has been with the 4-H program since 2019, has made the choice to move with her family out of the San Luis Valley.

"I'm sad about leaving the Valley and leaving the 4-H program," Young said. "This has been a heart project for me. I grew up in 4-H, so to be able to give

back and be a 4-H agent for the past four years has been honestly an honor for me. I am really going to miss the kids, the work, 4-H just all of it. I put my heart into my job and these kids. I am really going to miss it all."

Young, who is a sixth-generation rancher, began her journey in 4-H when she was just 5 years old. At a young age, she enjoyed 4-H but couldn't wait until she was old enough to raise a calf. At

Please see YOUNG on Page 7A



Morgan Young

Future Town Event to be held in Center on Sept. 15

Everyone is invited to attend the free event

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — The Town of Center will be hosting the Future Town Event sponsored by the civic group Warm Cookies of the Revolution. The event is set for Sept. 15, and will be held at Center Town Park from 3-7:30 p.m.

The event will be on the same night as a football game. The event will have a pep rally and some pregame fun for the Center football team from 3-4 p.m. People who show up for the pep rally at 3 p.m. will also be given free admission to the football game that night.

There will also be free t-shirts given to the first 100 people that show up at the event. The pregame fun will take place at the Center Pavilion right behind the football field. There will be lots of music, refreshments, drinks, and cookies.

The Center High School Pep Band will be playing, and the 2MX2 band

Please see EVENT on Page 2A

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FSWB's Garcia earns banking diploma from Graduate School of Banking at Colorado

CONTRIBUTED

DURANGO — Joseph Garcia, Controller, Sr. Vice President of First Southwest Bank (FSWB), has graduated from the Graduate School of Banking at Colorado's state-of-the-art graduates school of banking program. Garcia was among 166 graduates of the class of 2023 honored during a ceremony on July 27 in Boulder. Students in the Graduate School of Banking at Colorado (GSBC) program receive their diploma in banking after

successfully completing two weeks of classroom training for three consecutive years. Classes focus on financial management and strategy, innovation and engagement, leadership and culture, and lending.

Graduates of the program are also required to complete six intersession projects, including an extensive bank management simulation course, where they assume the roles of senior management of a commercial bank, involving themselves in the group

dynamics and managerial skills of managing a bank in a competitive environment with changing economic conditions.

"The coursework and projects at GSBC strive to create technically sound and future-oriented community bank leaders," said GSBC President Michael Stevens. "The ultimate beneficiary will be the consumers and businesses in the communities where these financial professionals serve."

Garcia has more than 28 years of banking experience. Throughout his career,

he has worked as a teller, new account representative, bookkeeper supervisor, customer service manager, assistant controller, internal auditor, controller and senior vice president. He grew up in Center and received a bachelor's in Business Administration and a bachelor's in Accounting from Adams State University. In his free time, he enjoys serving on the board of the ASU Grizzly Club, coaching Alamosa Youth Football, and coaching at the Center Middle School.



Joseph Garcia

EVENT

Continued from Page 1A

will be playing as well. There will also be a live band featuring the music of a local Guatemalan band named Marimba Espiritu Maya. Everyone is invited to attend. There will be entertainment from live circus performers at the event, and various games for people.

The Future Town Event is brought to Center by the Future Town Tour that Warm Cookies of the Revolution is bringing to five cities in Colorado. The tour vividly reconceives the future of the American west through rural and urban collaboration. The idea is to employ the arts to revive the spirit of a community and their culture.

The Future Town Tour event for Center will be a local celebration of music, sports, and art. There will be Mexican food served at the event, including tacos, burritos, elotes, and green chili to name a few items. The event wants to hype up as many people as possible for the game that

will happen the same night.

Residents are encouraged to bring instruments, songs, raps, and poetry to the event to share with everyone.

Katrina Ruggles spoke about the event and how it would be a great cultural event for the town of Center.

"This is going to be a lot of fun," Ruggles said. "There will not be any food vendors, all the food will be free. We are going to have tons of great Mexican food. We are starting at 3 p.m. and will really hype things up. We will have a pep rally, some pregame fun, a live band. We will watch the game and then have another live band after the game. We are really looking forward to this event. We encourage everyone to come out and check out this great event sponsored by Warm Cookies of the Revolution."

For more information on the event or on the Future Town Tour or Warm Cookies of the Revolution, visit their website at warmcookiesoftherevolution.org.

DONATES

Continued from Page 1A

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 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."

OBITUARIES

Mary Frances Benavides

Mary Frances Benavides of Del Norte, Colo., returned to our Lord on Sept. 2, 2023. She was born on April 18, 1948, in La Garita, Colo. Frances grew up in La Garita and worked as a teacher aide for the Del Norte School District, as the church secretary for several years at Holy Name of Mary in Del Norte, then returned to the Del Norte School District to be a bus driver before retiring.

Frances spent her entire life loving and supporting her family. She was so proud of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She spent time enjoying the mountains while camping with them and her husband. She enjoyed fishing, going for walks, and just feeling close to God while there. Frances was a strong Catholic and dedicated much of her time to the church and helping others. She also enjoyed



growing, buying and planting flowers in her yard.

She is survived by her sons Larry (Denise) Benavides, Freddie Glen (Theresa) Benavides, her grandchildren, Dana (Dwight) Barlow, Khrystynn (Matthew) Cano, Kaleigh (Matthew) White, Alexander Benavides,

Brett (Maxine) Benavides, Natalie Benavides, Tomas Benavides, Jesse James Benavides, Austin Roberts, and her great-grandchildren, Zoey, Camrey and Kenzey Barlow, Miles Cano, Madilynn, Phoenix, Xander Benavides, and her sisters Ramona (Henry) Pena, Vicki Allarid, Marvina (Gilbert) Madril, and Joann (Terry) Lenertz.

She was preceded in death by her husband Fred Benavides, son Lawrence Benavides, mother Juanita Aguilar, sister Lucy Benavides, sister Kathy Benavides, and several aunts and uncles.

A rosary will be held Friday, Sept. 8, 2023, at St. Joseph's Church in Monte Vista at 7 p.m. Services will be at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023, at 1 p.m., followed by interment at the Del Norte Cemetery.

Arrangements in Care of Strohmayr's Funeral Home in Monte Vista.

Merolyn Kay Wyley

The Creede community has lost a true local icon with the passing of Merolyn Kay Wyley. She passed away at her home in Creede on Sept. 1, 2023. She was born in Monte Vista on Jan. 26, 1945, to W W "Bibs" and Nell Wyley.

Kay had a wonderful childhood growing up at Cottonwood Cove Lodge with her sister, brother, and more tourist kids than we can count. She was often up to no good playing endless pranks on the wranglers, family, and guests. She was always a hoot to be around and full of one-liners and endless stories.

Kay graduated from Creede High School in 1963 and from Adams State College in 1968. She left home to work for the Dallas Morning News for a couple of years but soon returned home to Creede. She worked as a secretary at both the Creede School and Homestake Mines before accepting the Development Officer position at the Creede Repertory Theater, which she held for 20 years. The Theater was her true calling and her passion. She loved all the company members and was a true supporter to all of them. We can be

sure that wherever she calls home now, she has her tutu on and is leading the Kazoo Band in style.

After retirement, Kay pursued her love for painting. She was an accomplished artist and was known for her paintings on aspen leaves and the Christmas cards she made for family for years. She enjoyed traveling with Nell and often made trips to the casino and abroad. Kay served on the Creede Board of Trustees for eight years. She was proud of the accomplishments the board made for the City during her term. She was a dedicated member of the Creede Ladies Aid Society for many years and served as the Treasurer for 9 years.

Kay was preceded in death by her parents Bibs and Nell Wyley; grandparents Clinton and Ethel Wyley; Luther Humberson and Margaret Kramer.

She is survived by her sister Gea Wyley; brother Ken (Cindy) Wyley; nephew B R (Kristen) Means; nieces Lauri Jordan (Nancy Leggitt) and Teresa Wyley; great-niece Aryonna Means (Chris Brewer) and great-great-niece Giavonna Brewer.

A memorial service will be held



at the Creede Community Church on Friday, Sept. 15, at 2 p.m. But in true spirit of Kay and her quirkiness, a pre-game lunch in the fellowship hall will begin at 12:30 p.m. to fill our tummies with food and our hearts with stories to honor our storyteller.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Creede Ladies Society to honor Kay.

Arrangements in care of Strohmayr's Funeral Home of Monte Vista.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

I know nothing nothing!

I realize you have to be a tad older to recall the phrase “I know nothing ...NOTHING!” made popular on a sitcom called “Hogan’s Heroes.”

“Hogan’s Heroes” was a weekly show about some Allied prisoners of war in a German camp whereby the prisoners got by with all kinds of sabotage and mischief right under their captors’ noses. The goofy Kommandant Klink ran the POW camp aided by his trusty yet bumbling Sergeant Schultz.

In every episode it seems, Schultz would hear of plans or see something he shouldn’t have and would respond, “I know nothing... nothing” and walk out. He was just trying to survive the war and not make waves and the best way he knew was to stay innocent of any and everything around him.

Which got me to thinking — a dangerous proposition according to Miss Trixie — about maybe, just maybe the more we know, the more that is required or expected of us. After all there was that Sergeant who was able to get along just fine knowing “nothing”. And he did it quite well I have to admit.

I think most men can relate that before they got married or hitched to someone’s wagon, they knew quite a bit about life, work, church, clubs, hunting and fishing just to name a few things we had to keep track of. And Ol’ Dutch did a lot of things and had some pretty important jobs of such but I soon found out that I knew “nothing” when around my “other.”

This can cause a lot of friction when men are younger as we still have some steam left in the old boiler. But as we age we find out that mostly we just do not care one way or the other about most things.

Now don’t get me wrong, there are some things like caliber of deer rifle and kind of fly we are using that are not up for discussion, but generally we don’t care where we eat, when we eat, what we eat, what we wear, who we socialize with, the color of the couch, blinds or carpets, where we have Thanksgiving and Christmas, who comes over and our opinion on most things can be flexible if need be just to get her to shut up. Did I say that?

Since Miss Trixie has been around it has come to me that I really don’t need to know much as she has total recall and I can just ask her. This frees up hard drive space in the old beaner for Ol’ Dutch and is super efficient especially the older I get.



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

For instance just today my son “Bubs” texted me and asked if we were available to babysit the grands in November for a few days. Now it used to be that they would have to remind me over and over and over again about said date or I might forget up to and including the day of said commitment.

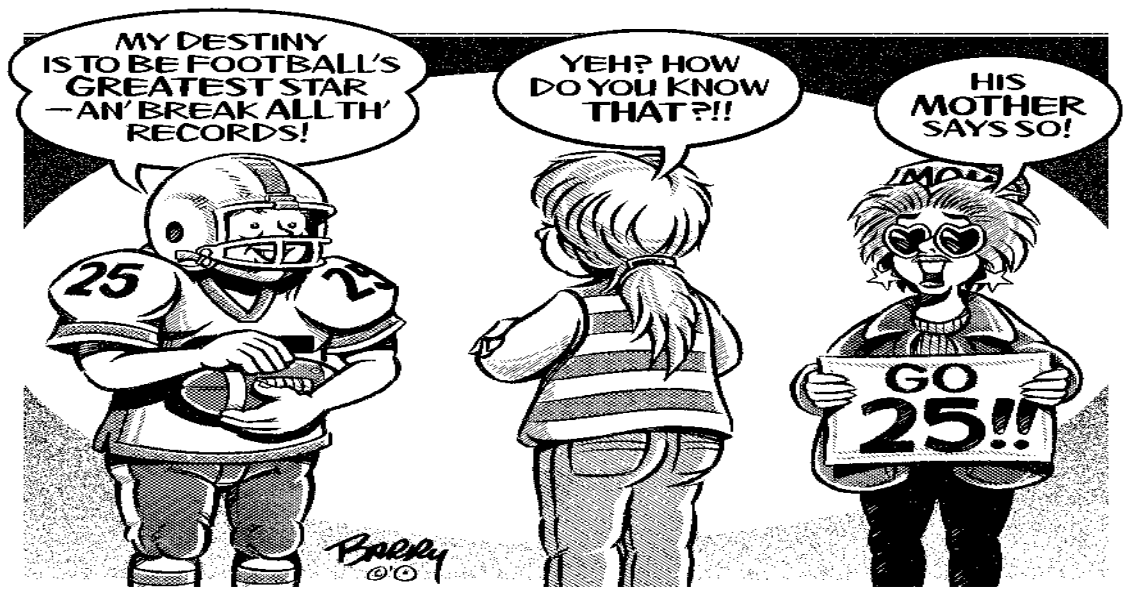
But sitting up in the aspens in my elk blind I simply forwarded that message to my Beloved and she put it in the database in her noggin. There is nothing like the feeling of being able to just forget said information and get onto bigger and better things like hunting.

As good as this is, there are some definite drawbacks to such an efficient storage system as it never seems to forget failures that Ol’ Dutch makes and these events, even though they are ten years old in happening, can come back to haunt me at the strangest times. Hopefully it comes rambling back out of Miss Trixie’s mouth when I don’t have my hearing aids in and since I only hear about 42% of what is said without them, my trespasses don’t sound half bad. Or a tad less actually.

I also am not constantly asked to do things for other people as they think I don’t know anything while Miss Trixie on the other hand fixes friends’ computers, cooks for them, looks up massive amounts of information for them, orders Amazon for them and hundreds of other chores.

So if you need something done or want to know about anything at all call Miss Trixie. Because Ol’ Dutch knows NOTHING..... NOTHING..

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



LETTERS

Communication to property owners of Saguache County

Editor,

Many Saguache County Property Owners were surprised and concerned when their Notice of Property Value and estimated new tax was received earlier this year. The real estate market soared during the pandemic and these real estate market increases are reflected in residential property owners’ valuations — many increasing 100% from the previous valuation period.

According to County Administrator Wendi Maez, Saguache County total property valuations, including agricultural and commercial which are valued differently than residential, have risen from a total collective value of \$95,843,000 in 2022 to \$123,118,000 in 2023 — an increase of 28%. Notice of valuations are conducted every odd-numbered year and for residential properties, are based on consideration of the market, or basically the price your home would bring on the open market.

The percentage of the property value that will be taxed is an adjusted value determined by Colorado legislators. In the past, the Gallagher amendment, an amendment to the Colorado State Constitution, was used to prevent unjustified increases in property taxes as the housing market in Colorado has risen over the years. In 2020, this amendment was rescinded. In 2022, the legislature reduced the assessment

rate (the percentage of your home’s value that is taxed) to 6.95% and then down to 6.75%. Another .05% reduction will be part of a complicated proposition on the ballot in November — Proposition HH.

To summarize the factors above, the real estate market drives residential property values. Market value can be recognized but cannot be changed. Assessed values are driven by assessment rates set by the legislature, must be uniform across the entire state, and may not be adjusted locally. Mill levies are local and may be lowered (other than for schools with bonds, which are locked by state statute).

Saguache County has several taxing authorities that place mill levies on taxes to be paid by property owners. They include Saguache County itself, which is only about 10 percent of your taxes. Other taxing districts include your local school district, local towns, water conservation districts, water and sanitation districts, fire protection districts, ambulance districts, library districts, and others that make up the rest of your bill. Each assesses a mill levy that added together determines how much property owners will owe on their assessed value.

The many taxing entities of Saguache County have been convened together to discuss the temporary lowering of the mill levy, or taxing percentage that

each taxing entity will collect. If the mill levies are not lowered for 2024 payments due, then taxing entities such as Saguache County, school districts, fire and ambulance districts may increase their revenues at a cost to taxpayers.

SB23-108 — Allowing Temporary Reductions In Property Tax Due — a measure passed in the final hours of this legislative session and strongly supported by commissioners throughout the state, provides taxing entities clear authority to float mill levies as needed so long as they don’t exceed what voters approved. Because we do have the authority to act, and the citizens we serve are facing steep property tax increases that are well above the rate of inflation, the Saguache County Board of County Commissioners is exploring the possibility of coordinating with all county taxing entities in an effort to reduce the total mill rates that impact property owners.

If you have any questions, you may reach out to the Saguache County Assessor’s office or the Saguache County Commissioners with contact information found at <https://saguachecounty.colorado.gov>.

Saguache County Board of County Commissioners

*Tom McCracken District 1
Lynne Thompson District 2
Liza Marron District 3*

Family from Gunnison appreciates service of Alamosa business

Editor,

On Friday, before Labor Day, we were traveling to Alamosa from Gunnison for our son’s Friday night high school football game. A large bird flew into our bumper and up into our windshield on the driver’s side.

We called Shrader’s about 4:30 p.m. They were so kind on the phone and agreed to stay late to replace our windshield that evening. They even loaned us their work truck to drive to the football game. When we picked up our vehicle that night, they hey had

vacuumed out all the glass and our car was safe to drive home.

Not that many people would have given this level of service on a Friday night before the long weekend. So impressed!

Jeni Vincent, Gunnison

CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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Vigil's competency questioned in 2020 murder of Woodman

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — A trial in the case of Nathan Vigil, who has been charged for his alleged connection with the July 11, 2020, murder of Alamosa resident Jon Woodman, has been scheduled to last for 14 days beginning on Oct. 30. But questions raised in June about Vigil's competency may either delay that trial for the third time or set the case on an entirely different trajectory.

A status hearing scheduled for Sept. 19 might indicate which path it will be. Vigil's progression through the judicial system has been a perfect storm of obstacles largely related to timing and circumstances unrelated to the case, not the least of which included Vigil's arrest and subsequent charges filed during the same time the 12th Judicial District Attorney's Office was transitioning from former DA Bob Willett to DA Alonzo Payne.

Payne, who resigned and was dismissed for unrelated actions, assumed his position with less than a full staff of prosecutors. Vigil was only one of two dozen felony cases awaiting adjudication.

After a month's delay requested by the prosecution, the preliminary hearing was held in May of 2021 with seven charges — murder in the first degree (felony 1), murder in the second degree (felony 2), robbery (felony 4), theft (misdemeanor 2), tampering with a deceased human body (felony 3), tampering with physical evidence (felony 6) and aggravated motor vehicle theft (felony 5) — bound over to district court.

The murder in the first degree and robbery charges were dismissed.

In the months that followed the preliminary, there were multiple continuances. Defense counsel stated they were conducting their own

investigations, which continued proceedings by four months.

There was another two-month continuance when the prosecutor did not file a writ in time to have Vigil transferred to a location where he could be present for court via Webex.

In January of 2022, the pending retirement of District Judge Martin Gonzales delayed the case until April. He said Vigil should wait to enter a not guilty plea until the judge who would preside over the case following Gonzales' departure was in place.

When District Judge Kimberly Cortez took over in April, she set a trial date for August of 2022. In a hearing on July 18, defense counsel informed the court that a resolution had been reached in the case. However, that resolution had been agreed to by Payne, who had resigned four days prior.

The new prosecutor from the state attorney general's office assigned to the case indicated she was not in favor of the plea agreement but there was a question of whether the DA's office would be forced to comply. An attorney representing the family of the victim said they opposed the plea agreement, as well.

The plea deal also contained sentencing stipulations — something judges had repeatedly told Payne would not be accepted. Judge Cortez reiterated that same statement in court. In August, Judge Cortez rejected the plea deal and set a new January 2023 date for trial.

In September, before the trial could begin, Vigil said he wanted to represent himself in court. Cortez ruled that would be "unfair" and the case was continued until a new defense attorney could be appointed.

In December of 2022, the new defense attorney assigned to the case requested the trial set for January be continued. The prosecution, which now included DA Anne Kelly after her appointment

several months earlier, did not object to the continuance. A second trial date was set for June of 2023.

In February of 2023, three months after the new trial date was set, defense counsel requested a change of venue. After hearing arguments in court and reviewing written responses to the motion filed by counsel, Cortez denied the change of venue.

In June, with the trial date approaching, defense counsel requested another continuance. A third trial date was set for Oct. 30, which is still on the docket.

But, also in June, a motion was filed by defense counsel questioning Vigil's competency to stand trial, which prompted the order for a psychological evaluation to be conducted by the Colorado Mental Health Institute in Pueblo (CMHIP). At that time, the prosecution echoed those same questions about Vigil's competency.

As has been reported in the Valley Courier, a staffing shortage at CMHIP has resulted in a massive backlog of psychological evaluations, delaying court proceedings by months and, in some cases, years.

Last month, the motion was filed for the evaluation of Vigil's competency to be conducted in person in the facility where Vigil is currently being held. On Aug. 25, Judge Cortez granted that motion and scheduled a status hearing for Sept. 19.

Throughout the entire process, Vigil has agreed to waive his right to a speedy trial. He has also had to be instructed by the judge multiple times in court to allow his attorney to speak on his behalf when Vigil has spoken out, making accusations of what he perceives as conspiratorial, prejudicial, and unfair treatment by Judge Cortez. He has also been instructed by Judge Cortez several times that all letters he writes to her

must be submitted through his attorney.

Many things could come out of the Sept. 19 hearing. There may be another continuance of the trial if the evaluation has not been conducted or completed. If the evaluation has been completed, the defense could request a second evaluation be conducted, which would also prompt another continuance. Or the evaluation may indicate that Vigil is not competent to stand trial and the prosecution may object to those results which would require a hearing with the judge. Or prosecution could not object to the results and Nathan Vigil would be transferred to CMHIP for treatment.

In any or all those potential outcomes, whether Vigil will stand trial on Oct. 30 for the second-degree murder of Woodman is still unknown.

According to court documents and local coverage in the Valley Courier, there was a formal filing of charges of Vigil on Dec. 8, 2020.

A news release from the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office said deputies responded to 4951 County Road 9 South on July 11, 2020, after family members expressed concern that they had been unable to reach Woodman, 64, who was last seen on July 3.

While at Woodman's residence, ACSO deputies contacted Vigil, who was living



in Woodman's house at the time. Vigil told deputies Woodman was in Pueblo but refused to allow deputies on the property to verify this information.

Deputies began investigating Woodman as a missing person. On July 12, ACSO deputies were called to Woodman's for a disturbance in progress. Once on scene, deputies were in contact with members of Woodman's family who had entered the property and located a buried body near the residence. The body was later identified as Woodman.

With assistance from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, Vigil was identified as a suspect. He was already in custody of the Colorado Department of Corrections on unrelated charges.

Alamosa Chamber of Commerce's Oktoberfest is 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, DJE.

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 Alamosa Chamber, for ongoing updates on schedules, new brewers, vendors, and activities.

Premium sponsors include the City

of Alamosa, 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.

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Student (13-18 in school)		\$801	/	\$1001	
Child (6-12)		\$409	/	\$510	
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3rd in Family		\$456	/	\$569	
4th in Family		\$375	/	\$467	
5th in Family		\$375	/	\$467	

SUPERSAVER PASSES		-48 Blackout Dates-		Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate	
Adult		\$780	/	\$974	
Senior (65 & older)		\$343	/	\$427	
Student (13-18 in school)		\$602	/	\$751	
Child (6-12)		\$307	/	\$383	
Tot (5 & under)		\$43	/	\$54	

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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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SLV Potato Festival celebrates harvest

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — There was lots of excitement and hundreds of people at Chapman Park on Saturday Sept. 9, as the San Luis Valley held its annual harvest celebration with the Potato Festival.

The festival kicked off at 8 in the morning with one of the festival's ever-popular Ag Tours. There were two tours this year, one at 8 a.m. and another at 1 p.m. The tours were to the Colorado State University San Luis Valley Research Center and to Martinez Farms. Attendees got to ask questions about potatoes, including how they are grown, what works best to grow them, vegetation time of potatoes, and in-depth questions about the grown cycle and life of potatoes. Experts on the tours gave lots of information.

The 5K Tater Trot also took place in the morning with lots of fun obstacles for everyone who entered. A Professional Chef Competition was held in the park during the day. The Mashed Potato Dunk Tank was set up in the park, and many people enjoyed dunking people in the gooey potato mixture.

There were also a total of 78 vendors at Chapman Park for the festival. There were numerous food trucks and people could be seen enjoying the food, socializing, and sitting for the chef demonstrations.

The Monte Vista High School basketball team, in conjunction with the Monte Vista Future Farmers of America, served a baked potato bar at the festival. According to Assistant Director of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee Jessica Bradshaw, the potato bar opened at about 11 a.m., and served

almost 600 potatoes before they were sold out by 1 p.m.

All over the park kids could be seen running and playing. There were a total of three giant bouncy houses in the park — one had a long green slide — and a giant swing that children and adults could attach around their waists and jump at least 20 feet in the air.

The Antique Iron Club had its colored train ride that they bring annually to the festival. Children could be seen laughing and smiling as they enjoyed a ride on the train across the park and on the walking path at the park.

There were also green and red tractors in the park along with a giant swather. Many vendors stated that they were having a good day and selling a lot at the festival.

The Rio Grande County 4-H Coordinator was at the festival with a booth, showing some youth a stem robotic program. Carlos Garcia was at the booth with his daughter Malori Garcia. Garcia was working on making a robotic hand out of some supplies that were given to her, a construction papered copy of her hand, along with some straws and string.

Malori Garcia said, "I have been having fun. There are so many fun activities to do here all day."

Bradshaw said attendance was good for the festival.

"We feel this is a success. Overall, we feel this is probably the largest Potato Festival we have ever had, and very well attended," she said. "We have had a steady flow of people all day long. Overall, I think the festival has gone really well. We are extremely thankful



Photos by Marie Mccolm

The Antique Iron Club had its colored train for people to ride in at the Potato Festival in Monte Vista on Saturday, Sept. 9.



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

for all the support that we have had throughout the community; for all the community goes that have come to support us, for all the sponsorships. We are very thankful that we are able to provide a fun family friendly event for all the community, to celebrate not only our industry but our community as well."



The San Luis Valley Potato Festival was held on Saturday, Sept. 9, at Chapman Park in Monte Vista. Nearly 80 vendors were set up at the festival.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2023
OTTO MEARS PARK, SAGUACHE CO
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Salida Din

Classic Rock 2:00 - 3:15



CB Jazz

Jazz Music 12:30 - 1:30

Shumei Crestone HIKARI Taiko

Taiko Drummers 12:00 - 12:30



Paper Moon Shiners

Vintage & Original Music 11:00 - 12:00





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Football

Platte Canyon 40	Center 6
Buena Vista 14	Centauri 12
Classical Academy 21	Alamosa 20
Hoehne 46	Sargent 0
Cedaredge 41	Del Norte 0
La Veta 60	Mountain Valley 26
Peyton 26	Center 14
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Car show, fly-in, quilt show, and steamroller event slated for Sept. 15-17

STAFF REPORT

CREEDE — The annual Cruisin' the Canyon Car Show is Saturday in Creede, but it is not all that will be drawing people to mountain town Sept. 15 and 17.

The Creede Chamber of Commerce has billed the third weekend of September as the "Fall Colors Car Show, Fly-In and Art Weekend."

Cruisin' the Canyon is the marquee event and begins with registration all day Friday followed by a meet and greet that night at the Visitors Center. Participating vehicle owners can mingle with the public and enjoy some light refreshments from 4 to 6 p.m.

Classic cars, trucks, and motorcycles will line Creede's Main Street for the Show and Shine from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Awards will be handed out at 3 p.m. at the intersection of Wall Street and Main Street.

After the awards ceremony, the Rod Run to the North Clear Creek Falls Overlook starts at 4:30 p.m. The Rod Run includes a stop for burgers at Freemon's Store before returning to the Visitors Center in Creede.

Also on Saturday, Sept. 16, is the 4th annual Steamroller Printmaking Event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is an outdoor printmaking event organized by the Creede Arts Council.

Artists will have created and carved wooden boards with their own original designs. The day of the event, the boards are inked by hand and placed on the street with paper placed over the boards. Then, a Steamroller (roadbed compactor) will roll over them, pressing the paper onto the board. It will be located on North



Event-packed weekend ahead for Creede.

Main Street toward the canyon cliffs.

Each artist's print will be available for purchase during and after the event. Local artists participating will include Colleen DeSanto, Jody Stroh, Amanda Charlton, and Allison Quiller.

On Friday, while people are registering for the car show, the Silver Threads Quilt Show begins its three-day run at the Community Center. The event is hosted every two years by the Silver Threads Quilt Guild. People can shop a treasure trove of handmade items and enjoy the Quilters Café. Vendors and quilt appraisers will be on site. Admission is \$5 per person. It runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday.

The weekend concludes with the Airplane Fly-in Breakfast at 9 a.m. at the Mineral County Airport. Planes from in and out of the Valley



File photos

The Cruisin' the Canyon Car Show is Saturday, Sept. 16, in Creede. Creede's Main Street will be lined with classic cars, trucks and motorcycles.

participate in the event.

For more information, visit www.creede.com.

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DF-CD-NP-G421

YOUNG Continued from Page 1A

11 years old, Young began raising cattle and would sell them at the county fair to help support her family.

Young went on to study Beef Production and Animal Science at West Texas A&M and earned her master's from the university.

Young went on to say she thought she was going to work in the beef industry as most people do with this degree. Young changed her mind completely when a young girl approached her about joining 4-H and expressed that the only person that was supportive of her wanting to join, was someone in the program.

Young said that after hearing from this girl, she had a turning point in her life, and really wanted to focus on making an impact on children with the program.

"I started in Chaffee County in 2019 and grew the 4-H program 20% over there during COVID," Young said. "Everyone knows how hard it was during COVID to do anything. So, it was a big deal that I had grown the program 20% during a time when kids were not getting out and socializing. They still had an opportunity to do that with 4-H so that was a big deal. I loved the challenge of it."

Young said she's also grown the program here, too.

"I hopped over here in 2021, right before the fair, almost a month before the fair," Young said. "I was just so impressed with the people here and their willingness to take me in. Here, we have grown the program by almost 30%. When I got here, there were only 200 and some kids in the program and that number has increased to 400. The program is just moving forward and growing. I appreciate everyone's trust in the 4-H program. It has just been tremendous."

Young also spoke of the impact of scholarships for kids from 4-H really can make a difference in students' lives. "We have scholarship shoots and different fundraising events, so our graduating seniors can have an opportunity at a 4-H scholarship," she said. "This is so important to me because I graduated out of college with no debt. That was not because mom and dad

paid for college for me. I busted it at scholarships and had the 4-H program and multiple other scholarships that helped put me through college. I also did my own work study at college. It has always been important to me to support these kids through their endeavors. These scholarships really do help with that."

Young also spoke of other things the local 4-H program does.

"We have AG Fest, for fifth grade classrooms and this teaches them about Colorado agriculture," Young said. "We have brought in partners like the Rio Grande Watershed education initiative, this is so educational. This teaches children everything about water, potatoes, to cows, to windmills. Growing this program and showing kids that there is so much more to this program than just cows and plows is such a big deal to me. Not everybody can have animals in their house. So, we want to create opportunities for everybody here, too."

Young also spoke of some of the things she really enjoyed doing with the program.

"My passion for helping with after-school programs was there, too," Young said. "I loved helping Alpine Achievers and Boys and Girls Club, these have driven me to do projects. We have gotten into these programs and have had such a good partnership with them too. I enjoyed doing career Thursdays at Centauri. I loved coaching the 4-H and Sargent livestock judging teams. I am excited to continue coaching livestock judging, too. I love doing fun things to get children engaged. Your children are only young for so long. I really tried to give kids some trade skills and career skills to help them move forward in their lives too. I wanted to give children a passion for whatever it is they like to do. That was my real goal with everything. I wanted to give kids that encouragement and spark to use all of this in their careers and moving forward in their lives."

Young stated that though she is happy about moving she is really going to miss the children.

"I used to take the kids to camps and

conferences," she said. "The kids have really changed my life."

Young added with tears in her eyes, "I have got memories with kids that are funny. These kids have changed so much for me. I hope that I have somewhat impacted their lives. I loved to see them grow every year. I loved to see what they had been doing and what they were excited about. I am really going to miss the kids."

Young wants to encourage the community to continue to support the 4-H program.

"This program really changed my life as a kid and my whole outlook on life," she said. "I believe that this program is creating good kids and good citizens for the future. I encourage the community to continue to support this. Whether that is sitting at a livestock show or giving a donation. These kids do a lot of work, and they deserve it."

CSU SLV Area Extension Director Larry Brown was grateful for all that Young did.

"When asked how I feel about Morgan leaving, I have to force myself to look at the other side of the coin and think about how grateful I feel for the time we had with Morgan, and how much she did to elevate our youth development program in such a short period of time," Brown said. "She made a contribution to our community that will remain after she is gone and will continue to grow like a snowball. As the youth she has influenced mature, and go into business, or take jobs, to become the leaders of our organizations, and volunteers in our community, Morgan's influence will multiply many times over."

"If we are to honor Morgan and her contribution to our community, we must shift our focus from losing her, to attracting the kind of new team members, who will build upon the new foundation she has built for us. I wish Morgan the very best of what life has in store for her and Justin, and I hope that she can somehow know the deep, deep gratitude I feel toward her for helping us through a most critical chapter of rebuilding CSU Extension and the SLV 4-H and youth development program," Brown said.

BENEFIT Continued from Page 1A

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 Josselyn 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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The Faithful Life God Can Bless

Do you feel like you're going through a time of testing in your life? Are you struggling with a situation that you're tempted to just avoid, ignore, or run away from because it's too hard to face head-on and overcome?

We all go through hard times and have to choose to trust God to help us deal with them and get through them or give up and give in to them. But if we give up, we won't move forward in life and experience God's best for us. We won't get promoted in any area of life.

God only knows what it took to get me from where I started to where I am today. It was hard, to say the least, to come out of the mess I came out of, being abused for so many years, and let God change my attitudes and teach me all the things I try to teach people from God's Word. Trust me, everything took a whole lot longer than I thought it would...and it was a lot harder than I thought it would ever be.

But I can tell you right now that I am grateful for every single thing I went through because in the process, I learned so many things that developed my character and prepared me to be a leader in ministry today.

I clearly recall the day when God spoke to my heart and said, "Joyce, I always want you to remember this: however many people I let you help, that's as many people as you can hurt." I had zero business being in a position of leadership until I passed my tests, became rooted in my relationship with Christ, and developed the character to keep me there.

Whenever I see a young person quickly promoted to a key position of leadership, it concerns me, because if you don't have the character to go with the kind of attention that comes with leadership...all you're going to do is create a huge mess. See, God promotes us after we pass our tests—not when we run away from them, ignore them,

or avoid them.

Thank God, He's faithful to help us do what we need to do to pass our tests when we keep our eyes on Him and trust Him. And just as He's faithful to us, He expects us to be faithful too.

To be faithful means to be trusted; reliable, sure, and worthy of confidence; firmly and devotedly supportive, loyal, worthy of trust, consistent, steady, constant, and steadfast. In 1 Timothy 3, the apostle Paul tells Timothy how to determine who is fit to be a leader. Verse 10 says, "These men must first be tested; then if they are found to be blameless and beyond reproach [in their Christian lives], let them serve..." (AMP). You build trust in someone when you see how they respond to different situations over time and are "tested."

Faithful men and women of God humble themselves under the mighty hand of God and trust Him to promote them when He knows they are ready for it (see 1 Peter 5:6). Now, that sounds really spiritual, so I want to make it practical: You're going to be under some human authority that you probably don't like and that you probably don't always agree with. You may even feel they don't always treat you right. And God is going to ask you to serve faithfully in that position with a good attitude.

The truth is, the only way you're really going to know what you're doing is to go through some things and be faithful—stick with things, don't give up and run away, and don't blame everyone else for your problems.

Proverbs 28:20 says, "A faithful (right-minded) man will abound with blessings..." (AMP). Faithful people are in it for the long haul. Being faithful literally means you find out what is right and you do it over and over... Have you been faithful with your health? Do you take



care of yourself or have you just abused yourself? Have you been faithful to take care of your possessions or does your car look like a trash can? Have you been faithful with your finances—to save some, spend some, and give some—or have you just spent it all?

It's important for us to be excellent and do the best we can in every area of our lives so we can "abound with blessings" from God.

Be faithful during your tests, right where you are, and God will promote you in due time. If you will do what He's telling you to do, faithfully, then there's no person on earth and no devil in hell that can keep you from what God wants you to have and the destiny He has planned for your life. If you will be faithful and diligent to do what is right—what you are supposed to do—then no one can keep you from the reward God has for you. God will promote you when you pass your test!

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.

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HARVEST 2023

Role of technology in agriculture

Modern industry is driven by technology. Advancements in technology have changed how business is conducted, with some industries undergoing dramatic changes since the dawn of the 21st century.

While agriculture might not be the first industry people think of when reflecting on the changing nature of industry, The National Institute of Food and Agriculture notes that modern farms are vastly different than those from a few decades ago.

Farmers have long relied on technology to make their operations as efficient, productive and profitable as possible. Precision agriculture, which refers to technological advances designed to propel agriculture into the modern, computerized and information-based world, is helping the

agricultural sector become more profitable and efficient while also improving safety and making agriculture more eco-friendly. In addition, the NIFA notes that the modern agricultural industry employs technology such as robots, temperature and moisture sensors, aerial images, and global positioning systems.

If it sounds complicated, that's because it is. For example, modern sensors can detect soil conditions, potentially producing hundreds of readings per second. These sensors help farmers know the best possible time to plant seeds so they can reach their full potential. That improves both the efficiency of modern farms as well as their output.

The NIFA also notes that agricultural technology has reduced

waste. For instance, thanks to agricultural technology, farmers no longer have to apply water, fertilizers and pesticides uniformly across entire fields. Technology has shown that farmers can simply target specific areas or even treat individual plants differently. That saves time and allows farmers to use only minimal quantities of water, fertilizer and pesticides. In addition, according to the NIFA, employing agricultural technology in this fashion leads to higher crop productivity and reduces runoff of chemicals into rivers and groundwater, thereby reducing the farm's impact on local ecosystems.

Modern farms are technological marvels where various technologies are being employed to produce crops more efficiently and safely than ever before.



Understanding smart farm automation

Modern agriculture looks little like the early days of farming. All aspects of farming have been modified by the access farmers now have to technologies to meet the demands of their work and the pressure a growing population places on farmers to produce quality food.

Farm automation, precision farming and smart farming are strategies utilized by today's farmers. These technologies have become important ways for farmers to optimize the production of food and improve its quality. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, agricultural production must increase by 70 percent in order to meet global food demand by 2050, by which time the population could be 9.7 billion persons.

Smart farming can make raising

livestock more accurate and controlled. While farm automation is a broad term, precision smart farming zeroes in on exact measurements between variations in land conditions and livestock, according to Techie Loops, a technology information website. Examples of farming automation technology include:

- autonomous vehicles and machines
- drones
- robotics
- GPS guidance
- micro-forecasting and weather forecasting
- soil sampling
- yield mapping
- use of artificial intelligence
- geomatics
- statistical processes, and more.

Farmers can employ these technologies to save time and also man-

age labor shortages. Robot-assisted irrigation systems, for example, can maximize efficiency of water distribution where it is needed the most.

Weeding robots can use artificial intelligence and computer vision to target field areas and reduce use of pesticides. Driverless tractors can make labor cheaper for farmers by plotting the machine's route and letting it run the course automatically. Harvest robots also exist to grab crops gently (some with vacuum technology) and reduce reliance on field workers. Some harvesters can determine ripeness of fruit via AI technology, according to Eastern Peak, a provider of custom hardware and software solutions for businesses.

Technology is changing farming in many ways. Innovations in automation can make operations more efficient and less costly. AG223780

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30th Annual Fall Festival and Quilt Show Sept. 16



Courtesy photos

The 30th Annual Fall Festival and Quilt Show is set for Sept. 16 at various locations in Saguache. Vendors will be in Otto Mears Park and the Saguache Sagebrush Quilters will be inside the Community Building.

By SAGUACHE CHAMBER

SAGUACHE — As the leaves begin to change color and the mornings greet us with cooler temperatures, we are reminded of

the annual event which occurs on the third Saturday in September. That would be the Fall Festival and Quilt Show held in Saguache.

Originally entitled Handmade in Saguache Festival, it was meant to celebrate the harvest and the labors of those who had created homemade items during the year. Over the years, instead of visitors traveling to find the treasures, it was brought to the park in Saguache for ease of shopping. Although fresh vegetables and some homemade items have found other locations,

you can find vendors with arts and crafts and creations available to enhance your home.

The Saguache Chamber of Commerce will host this event on Saturday, Sept. 16, in Otto Mears Park from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. You will find the Saguache Sagebrush Quilters inside the Community Building. On display and some for purchase will be the hard work of these folks. Be sure to purchase your ticket for the door prize of a handmade quilt which will be presented at the end of the day. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the event. The cost is \$1 for 1 ticket or six tickets for \$5.

Please see SHOW on Page 3



4th Steamroller Printmaking Event is slated for Sept. 16

CREEDE — The Creede Arts Council is hosting its 4th annual Steamroller Printmaking Event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sept. 16. This is an outdoor printmaking event held in Creede during the Cruisin' the Canyon Car Show.

Artists will have created and carved wooden boards with their own original designs. The day of the event,

the boards are inked by hand and placed on the street with paper placed over the boards. Then, a Steamroller (roadbed compactor) will roll over them, pressing the paper onto the board. The resulting outcome is an original fine art print.

Each artist's print will be available for purchase during and after the event. Local artists participating

will include Colleen DeSanto, Jody Stroh, Amanda Charlton, and Allison Quiller.

For more information, contact Creede Arts Council at creedearts@outlook.com. To learn more about the Steamroller Printmaking Event, follow CAC on Facebook or visit their website at www.creedeartscouncil.com/steamroller-printmaking.

CPW reminds people that the outdoors are multi-use

CONTRIBUTED

COLORADO — Hunters play a key role in supporting wildlife management efforts in Colorado and nationwide. Today, the revenue generated from hunting and fishing activities constitutes about 70 percent of the state's wildlife management funds.

Hunters and nonhunters alike should show respect and courtesy to all users engaged in outdoor recreation activities.

How can nonhunters prepare for hunting season?

The majority of public lands in Colorado are open to multiple types of recreational use. There is no need to limit outdoor activities in the fall; however, nonhunters should recognize that there are hunters on the landscape and additional precautions should be taken.

A general knowledge of hunting season dates and safety tips can help keep you safe.

Big game season dates

- Rifle bear season — Sept. 2-30
 - Archery season — Sept. 2-30
 - Muzzleloader season — Sept. 9-17
- Rifle seasons**
- 1st season — Oct. 14-18
 - 2nd season — Oct. 28 to Nov. 4



Courtesy photo

Hunting season is on the horizon and hunters are gearing up for exciting adventures. However, hunters aren't the only ones rushing to the outdoors this fall to enjoy everything Colorado has to offer.

- 3rd season — Nov. 11-17
- 4th season — Nov. 22-26

For safety reasons, big game hunters using a firearm must wear fluorescent orange or pink when in the field. While not required, it is recommended that other recreation users wear these colors as well, especially during the muzzleloader and rifle seasons.

A friendly reminder that it is illegal to intentionally interfere with hunters, including causing animals to flee, denying access to public areas or

injecting yourself into the line of fire.

Hunters' role in wildlife conservation

Colorado manages its wildlife using the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, the cornerstone of modern wildlife conservation across the United States. This revolutionary model was formed around the turn of the 1900s when sportspeople realized that market hunting was having an

Please see OUTDOORS on Page 9



Courtesy photo

The Crestone Energy Fair has music, speakers, presentations, performers, tours, live streaming, and vendors.

Energy Fair will soon be lighting up Crestone

By MARIE MCCOLM

CRESTONE — The Crestone Energy Fair has brought resourceful ideas, broad views, and ways for community members all over the Valley to better sustain their lifestyles through alternative living and energy, and this year is no exception.

The 34th annual Crestone Energy Fair will be held Sept. 16 and 17. The theme for this year's event is Reimagine: Self-Village-Nature. This event is one of the longest-running sustainability fairs in the nation, according to organizers. Approximately 2,000 people attended the event in person last year and approximately 1,000 livestreamed the event. The Crestone Energy Fair is billed to be a fun-filled, informative, packed event this year, comprised entirely of volunteers. This event is free to the public.

Some people in Saguache County have chosen to use alternative building material

for their homes, rather than traditional construction methods. Some examples are strawbale homes, hempcrete and earth ship-built homes, and solar and methane bio-digesters. The Crestone Energy Fair offers tours of completed and under construction homes of these types of dwellings to people who attend.

Event Producer Nick Nevares spoke about the event and the importance of teaching people how to use alternative methods of building to help them begin construction of their dwellings.

"There is definitely a need to help educate people with these other methods, that empowers people to allow them to build, with all of these alternative materials," Nevares said. "Saguache County doesn't have building codes. Finding a school that can teach all of this is almost impossible to non-existent. When the Baca

Please see ENERGY on Page 3

Lujan hits the 50-year mark at SLV Health

By DONNA WEHE

San Luis Valley Health

ALAMOSA — Eileen Lujan looks way too young to have worked for San Luis Valley Health for 50 years. She laughingly replies to this comment, “Well, I did finish high school at age 17.”

Lujan also went right to work at Conejos County Hospital and is now celebrating her 50-year anniversary during the annual Years of Service recognition event at SLV Health.

Lujan is an OR/GI Tech and she attended community college to obtain her certificate. At that time, it was called a GPN. After a year of shadowing and on-the-job training, she studied and passed her exam to become a Graduate Practical Nurse. But the story doesn't start here, it starts with Eileen's mother, Helen.

Lujan's mother became a widow when her husband passed away on the operating table. Before laparoscopic surgery, the process of removing a gall bladder was much more invasive and used ether (new anesthetics were not introduced until years later). He died due to the wrong amount of ether that was administered and there were nine children at home.

The CCH hospital administrator, Wayne Miller, knew that Helen would not be able to pay off the hospital bill. Dr. Davis had already written off his bill and was deeply saddened by the death. It was summertime, and the older kids took care of the younger siblings (the youngest was 11 months), so Helen started working as the equivalent of a CNA, again, with on-the-job training. The job stuck and she worked there for 36 years. Eileen overlapped at CCH, working alongside her mother, for 20 of those years. She recalls working alongside Dr. Celada when he was in surgery because Eileen was bilingual, and Dr. Celada was learning English.

After a year of working on the floor and training and she passed her certification, Eileen found that she was a good fit for being a surgery technician. When the outpatient surgery center opened in Alamosa at Stuart Avenue, she was asked to assist there 2 days per week. After the passing of Dr. Thomas, the main surgeon at CCH, the surgery center was phased out and Eileen began full days in Alamosa, eventually at the Regional Medical Center where she is today.

Dr. David Geiger has worked alongside Eileen for many years.

“Eileen saw almost unimaginable changes in surgical technology over the course of her 50 years. She has long been a valued member of the surgical team,” Geiger said. “Eileen goes so far as to proactively adjust the position of the video monitor during cases. It will be a long, long time before anyone else serves healthcare in the Valley for 50 years. Congratulations on 50 years!”

Eileen retired this past March, had the month of April off, and in May when there was a shortage of surgery techs, she



Courtesy photo

Eileen Lujan is an OR/GI Tech and has been working with San Luis Valley Health for 50 years.

was called and asked to come in PRN (part-time, on-call, no benefits) to help fill in until they could get fully staffed again. Her loyalty and dedication to the patients, to her team, and to the organization is commendable. Eileen has a good heart and an excellent skill set, and she's been through three major pandemics, so she is “seasoned” as well.

The HIV pandemic in the 1980s was personal and scary. Dr. McAuliff lost his first wife, Allison, to the disease.

“I loved working for him. I remember when it happened because we canceled the Christmas party that year to show our support for him. He was the Chief Surgeon at the time,” Eileen said.

In the late 1990s, another scare was the swine flu that was sweeping across the world. It's a virus that is a hybrid of human, bird, and swine flu viruses that is often detected in pigs. She recalls a lighter moment when she was called into the nursery to see a very unusual baby, and it was a baby pig someone had brought in a blanket.

“It's imperative to keep a sense of humor when you work in health care,” laughed Eileen.

COVID-19 was a scary time. Should she get the vaccine? She thought, well, I see a lot of doctors getting it, so we will either survive or die together. The surgery department basically closed its doors for over a month to elective surgeries. They only were called in for traumas or emergencies.

In reflecting back on the changes in healthcare delivery, she remembered when surgeries changed to laparoscopic. That was a huge game changer, along with eliminating ether. She remembers when they switched from cloth to disposable for their masks, gowns, and booties and when they eliminated glass for IV bottles, syringes, and needles. Becoming a plastic and paper disposable society changed healthcare practices tremendously.

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ENERGY

Grande community started, they realized that there was a need for this education. This event was created to do just that."

Nevaras said that the Crestone Energy Fair has grown to be so much more than just educating people on alternative construction of homes. It also provides information on new and diverse ways to generate power and provides other ways to live a sustainable life, alternatively.

"As an example of energy sources, Valley View Hot Springs, which is just down the road from us, they power their entire facility with human

Continued from Page 1

methane biodigesters," Nevaras said. "This means that they don't use anything other than the septic system. They are able to compact that methane, created from the septic system, and turn it into something that is clean burning and fuels their heating and their cooking. It also doesn't smell bad."

The Crestone Energy Fair is a non-profit organization with the Saguache Sustainable Environment and Economic Development Association, remaining their fiscal sponsor. This has helped them create a part-time director position

and some independent contractor positions.

In addition to the two-day event, continuing education is available in two-day workshops that are held once a month to give people the chance to dive deeper into this type of living.

The Crestone Energy Fair has music both days, speakers, presentations, performers, tours, live streaming, and vendors selling their goods. Food trucks will be at the event.

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

SHOW

Continued from Page 1

Inside the Community Building you will also find a couple of other vendors along with the Silent Auction. The Silent Auction is the one fundraiser held by the Chamber annually. Items will be donated by local supporters and vendors at the event. You can "Buy it Now" or place a bid and take your chances at the end of the event. Winners will be announced at 3:30 p.m.

Our Vendor Coordinator, Bonnie Saltzman, has been busy sending out invitations to potential vendors. It is not too late to sign up for a 10-foot-by-10-foot space. The vendor form is also available on the Chamber website www.saguachechamber.org. Select the Fall Festival on the Home Page and you will locate the form. If you need additional assistance, you can send an email to the Chamber at info@saguachechamber.org or call 719-849-0240.

Locate Edward Alloy in the park for balloon animals. He will be easy to spot — he will be the clown. Don Baker will be on hand with his local honey. St. Agnes Church will have a food booth in the center of the park and will be offering fajitas.

As more vendor responses are received, we hope to fill the park with the sound of fun and excitement.

As always, there will be live entertainment. Thanks to our Entertainment Coordinator, Scott Alexander, you will find an awesome lineup. Starting at 11 a.m., Paper Moon Shiners will perform until noon; at noon until 12:30 p.m. Shumei Crestone HIKARI Taiko will entertain you; then, CB Jazz will take the stage at 12:30 until 1:30 p.m. After some brief announcements, Salida Din will close out the entertainment from 2 until 3:15 p.m. Bring a comfortable chair or dance your heart out.

The newly built stage will host these entertainers. Terry Gillette was instrumental in obtaining funds from the Saguache County Commissioners through a Sales Tax Grant to build this stage. It is a portable stage and can be utilized for other events.

Stroll over to the Methodist Fellowship Hall to view entries in

the annual Photo Contest hosted by Sara Fernandez. The hall is located at 620 Christy St. in Saguache. Doors will be open from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The chamber wants to recognize the Saguache County Commissioners for their generosity through a Sales Tax Grant along with the Saguache

County Tourism Council for assisting the chamber to be able to advertise and host this event.

As the Saguache Chamber Board continues to grow this event, more details will be made available both on the chamber's website and on the Chamber's Facebook page.



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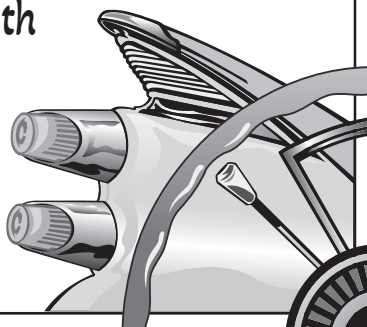
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05 Notices

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)

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

The Town of Center will be accepting applications for a Town Board Vacancy. This Vacancy will be until

the next regular election to be held on April 2, 2024. If you are interested in this position, please pick up an application at 294 S. Worth St during regular business hours. The application will need to be turned in by September 15, 2023. (9-13)

ESTIMATED CROP WATER USE

Weather Data from SLV Research Center located on the 9N and Hwy 285

Crop	Date Planted	Daily Crop Water use for Dates Shown (in./day)				Accumulated Water Use (ET) From 9/7 (inches)				
		9/7	9/6	9/5	9/4	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
		Moravian 69	04/05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Moravian 69	05/05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Early Wheat	04/05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Early Wheat	05/05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09
White Wheat	04/05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
White Wheat	05/05	0.06	0.08	0.07	0.09	0.14	0.21	0.30	0.38	0.56
WinterWheat	10/01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Potatoes										
Norkotah	05/05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Centennial	05/05	0.15	0.17	0.16	0.17	0.31	0.47	0.64	0.81	1.14
Nugget	05/05	0.16	0.19	0.17	0.19	0.35	0.53	0.72	0.90	1.26
Alfalfa	Est.	0.21	0.24	0.22	0.24	0.46	0.68	0.92	1.15	1.59
Lawngress	Est.	0.19	0.22	0.20	0.22	0.41	0.61	0.83	1.03	1.43

For the latest ET information, call 754-3494 extension x40 for Center, x36 for Center #2, and x38 for La Jara. Use the crop maturity and planting data and weather station closest to your own. Find this upJune 8d table each day at this web address: <http://aes-slvr.agsci.colostate.edu/daily-crop-water-use-report/>
This information is provided by the SLV Research Center (Colorado State University) and the Colorado Potato Certification Service. For info, call 754-3494 x26 or e-mail: andrew.houser@colostate.edu

WINTER WORK!

Full & Part-Time/Holiday Positions:
Winter Seasonal: November - April
ALL POSITIONS OFFER SKIING PRIVILEGES & A STARTING WAGE OF \$18/HOUR

Merit increases based on performance & experience

- Lift Department
- Food & Beverage
- Bakers
- Ski School
- Base Operations
- Retail
- Ticket Office
- Snow Removal
- Grooming
- Custodial Building Maintenance
- Ski Patrol

Onsite Call Center/Customer Service

Applications at WolfCreekSki.com/employment

Send applications and resumes to:
WolfCreekSki@WolfCreekSki.com
P.O. Box 2800
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147



WOLF CREEK
THE MOST SNOW IN COLORADO®

Write your own Classified Ad

Regular Classified Ad Deadline-Thursday 5 p.m.
15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications
\$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.
Garage Sale Ads: 15 words or less for 1 week
\$12 + 35¢ each additional word.
Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Private party only) Call 719-852-3531 for details.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Check One MasterCard VISA AMERICAN EXPRESS Cards DISCOVER NOVUS

Card#: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Mail with check or money order to:
Valley Publishing Classifieds, P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144
Or drop by at 835 First Avenue

All Classified Advertising must be pre-paid

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24

Words: _____ Times: _____ Price: _____

Class: _____ Start Date: _____

Valley Wide

Classifieds

Fall Flea Markets Saturdays 9:30-3 Hwy 160 & Adams Downtown Monte Vista "inside" Rain Brews has tables just \$20 (9-13)

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

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

07 Help Wanted

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

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

The Moffat Consolidated School District 2 is now hiring

- **Assistant Business Manager**
Minimum salary: \$43,469
- **District Office Administrative Assistant**
Minimum salary: \$40,560
- **K-5 Reading Interventionist**
Minimum salary: \$36,356
- **Paraprofessional**
Minimum hourly: \$16.50/hr.

These positions include:

- 4-day work week and paid time off
- District-paid benefits for employee health and life insurance.
- PERA retirement



Interested applicants are encouraged to apply and see job descriptions at www.moffatschools.org and provide a resume, letter of interest, and a completed application.

District contact: Joe Torrez, Superintendent 719-745-0500 jtorrez@moffatschools.org

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)

Rio Grande County is accepting applications for a Human Resources Specialist. Benefits include Health, Dental, Vision, Life Insurance and a 401(a) at 4% match. Starting annual salary of \$57,408 - \$59,717 DOE. Must pass a background check and pre-employment drug test, including testing for marijuana. Application and job description are available at riograndecounty.org and submit applications to humanresources@riograndecounty.org or pick up and drop off at 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. (9-13)

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 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

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.

Coffee & Conversation

for Veterans

Hosted by SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program

Meet and talk with other veterans who have shared similar experiences.

Where
American Legion Post 142
San Luis, CO

When
Every Tuesday
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Beginning September 12th

FREE COFFEE, DONUTS & WI-FI

FREE TRANSIT SERVICES

throughout the rural communities of the San Luis Valley

ROUTES ALREADY IN SERVICE:
Creede to Alamosa | KV Estates to Alamosa
Saguache to Alamosa | Saguache to Salida

New route from Antonito to Alamosa launching this fall.

For route and schedule information, visit MountainValleyTransit.com
Drivers needed, call 719-530-8980

Conour

Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society

www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org

If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366
Open Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sat. & Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m.
Monday & non-business hours by appointment only
2825 Sherman Ave. • Monte Vista

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

Visit Our Facebook Page

RESCUE PETS HAVE BIG PERSONALITY

Hundreds of loving pets lose their homes every day through no fault of their own. Stop in & visit us today to meet the incredible dogs and cats looking for immediate adoption, and forever change the life of a pet in need.

Cremation Service: Cats, Dogs, Ferrets, Birds...

Animal Weight	Semi-Private/Group Fee	Private Fee	Vessel Size needed
Small/ Pocket Pet	\$40.00		Mini - Small vessel needed
Cats	\$80.00		Petite - Small vessel needed
0 - 25 lbs.	\$80.00		Petite - Small vessel needed
26 - 50 lbs	\$140.00		Small-Medium Vessel needed
51 - 75 lbs.	\$175.00	\$200.00	Medium-Large Vessel needed
76 - 100 lbs.	\$200.00	\$275.00	Large Vessel needed
101 lbs. & up	Animals over 101 lbs. are ineligible for Group fee	\$300.00	Extra Large Vessel Needed

Payment is required at time the animal is dropped off.
Animal may be dropped off during business hours only.
Please allow 7 working days from drop off date for animal's return.
Ashes not picked up after 60 days will respectfully be spread over our Conour Garden.

Vaccinate! Your Pets

It is important that all pet owners have their dogs & cats spayed or neutered to control the pet overpopulation and vaccinate to prevent the spread of disease.

All breeds & ages of animals are a "best guess" and are not guaranteed to be accurate. Adoption fee includes: neuter/spay, vaccinations, de-worming and micro-chipping.
This ad space donated by Valley Publishing Inc.

Valley Wide Classifieds

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.

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)

Polaris Magnum330 4X4. Low hours gun-rack with case new battery great condition \$4,500 719.221.6468 (9-13)

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

SOLAR PANELS! 400 Watt and Smaller, We Stock Inverters, Charge Controllers, and Batteries in Brand Names of Outback, Magnum, Aims, Rolls, and More. Custom Cables and PV Wire. Bontrager's Variety Store. 9726 S. CR 3E Monte Vista. 719-852-0500. TFN

PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST

Whether you are home or away, protect what matters most from unexpected power outages with a Generac Home Standby Generator.

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE

CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE

(719) 900-0326

FREE 7-year Extended Warranty* - A \$735 Value!

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



GENERAC

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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



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

2937 Forbes Park Road - Fort Garland

This 2-bedroom, 2-bath home is fully furnished, move-in ready, and VRBO friendly. This one can make you money while you aren't there, and give you the most amazing, serene lifestyle imaginable when you are there! Scan the QR code below Dee's Picture and look for the post with this address. You will not believe the elk and deer that hang out in the meadow across the road most of the year. It's incredible!!
MLS #803633 \$417,250



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

All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.




3D Virtual Tours • Prompt, Easy Communication
Video Walkthroughs
Residential Photographer
Licensed and Insured Drone Pilot

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

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

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

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



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

Hubbards Trail
Gorgeous, bright, and spacious 5 bedroom 3 bath home bordering National Forest in South Fork. Numerous exterior outbuildings and RV setups/shelters - all engineered for snow load. MLS#803458



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

Commercial Duplex
used as a very profitable VRBO property AND a commercial excavation business with ALL equipment for sale at the Forbes Park Gate, Fort Garland. This is an impressive setup! \$799,000 for the Duplex and Property, or \$1,240,000 includes all excavation equipment and supplies. MLS#804495



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

Valley Wide Classifieds

37 Wanted
 Dry Cottonwood. 719-850-2430

48 Pets and Supplies
 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)

50 Livestock
 Assorted pullets. Ready now! Also young Guinea fowl. 719-852-0500

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

Need beautiful window blinds at the best prices? Call THE BLIND GUY at 970-799-0388 for a free estimate. (TFN)



REGISTER REPUBLICAN
"STAND AGAINST SOCIALISM"
Less government, lower taxes
REGISTER ONLINE at www.sos.state.co.us
or at your local County Clerk's office
 Paid for by the Rio Grande County Republican Central Committee

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

SOLD

This South Fork Beauty checks all the boxes, both his and hers - and is a fun place for family and friends. Custom built Log home tucked in the trees and backs up to the National Forest. The main floor consists of an open area with beautiful carved mantel stone fireplace, designer backsplash and large eat in counter space overlooking 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 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

Thinking of Selling Your Home? If so, I can help!
 Residential/Commercial/Ranch
 Call 719-850-1993



We work hard for you!

Call Bernadette today!

Steffens & Company Realty, INC
 719-850-1993
Bernadette Gingrass, Broker Associate
 30635 US Hwy 160 • South Fork
 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

NEW

Amazing Riverfront property located in beautiful well established Deer Park subdivision in South Fork, Colorado. This property is complete with paved streets, with sewer and water tap available. Flat building site overlooking the Mighty Rio Grande River with mature evergreen trees. Bring your fishing pole this property extends to the middle of the river. Located 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
Bernadette Gingrass •Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • 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
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Patrick Moran

Moran appointed to Divide District Ranger post

Former acting ranger and program manager returns to RGNF

By RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST

DEL NORTE — The Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) announced Thursday, Aug. 31, that Patrick Moran has returned to the Divide Ranger District to serve as the new District Ranger.

Moran returns to the RGNF after serving in a staff leadership role on the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire, since July 2021. Prior to that appointment, Moran served as the Watershed, Soils and Minerals Program Manager on the Rio Grande. Moran holds a degree in Geology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

“To have Patrick Moran return to the Divide Ranger District in a permanent capacity is a good step for the Forest and the community,” said Andy Kelher, deputy forest supervisor. “Patrick’s knowledge of the Forest will

be advantageous to both leadership and our employees.”

Kelher also mentioned the benefits of community and partner relationships already in place.

“I’m thrilled to begin my new role as District Ranger, serving the local communities and helping connect people to their public lands,” Moran added. “Returning to the San Luis Valley feels like a homecoming and I cannot wait to be back with the land and communities that I love.”

Moran steps into the position permanently after serving in a temporary assignment in the position earlier this year. Former District Ranger Martha Williamson, who had served in the role since 2014, left the RGNF for a new position in the Forest Service’s International Disaster Assistance Support Program.

In their free time, Moran and his family enjoy pulling their camper all over the country, swimming, playing board games, outdoor recreation, and the occasional Harry Potter movie marathon.

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OUTDOORS

Continued from Page 1

undeniable and potentially irreversible effect on North America's wildlife. This model created a structured system where fees from hunting and fishing activities are used to support conservation, defined as the planned and regulated use of our resources to prevent exploitation, destruction or extinction.

For almost two centuries, this model has been a large part of the reason why Colorado's wildlife is so healthy and abundant. This model is still the most successful wildlife management model in the world.

Hunters also play an important role in CPW's management of chronic wasting disease (CWD). Their participation in mandatory CWD testing initiatives is vital to wildlife managers' ability to assess the disease's prevalence and make data-driven management decisions.

"One of the only CWD management tools we currently have at our disposal is the hunting community itself," said CPW Big Game Manager Andy Holland. "Hunters play a vital role in controlling CWD by harvesting select deer and other cervids more likely to carry the disease and submitting samples for analysis. This helps CPW understand the disease's prevalence and distribution in the state and evaluate if management strategies are working."

What can hunters expect this season?

Last winter, the northwest region of Colorado experienced one of the harshest winters in decades, with relentless snowstorms and bone-chilling temperatures. Wildlife in the area endured a challenging period as food became scarce and they faced some of the most severe snow conditions residents had seen in the

past 70 years.

CPW's swift action to reduce license numbers for the area should positively impact wildlife populations in the coming years. Hunters with a tag in the Northwest can expect good hunting opportunities, with fewer hunters in the area and many deer and elk to be found in their usual hunting locations, although at lower densities.

Hunters in other areas might see additional hunting pressure due to reduced license quotas and shorter over-the-counter season dates in the Northwest, pushing others to hunt new areas. As always, hunters should watch weather forecasts leading up to their hunting seasons.

Much of eastern Colorado experienced an unusually dry winter last year, which resulted in minimal winterkill, and as spring arrived, residents witnessed an influx of much-needed rain. The precipitation has been a significant boon for wildlife on the plains, considering the region's 10-year drought.

Pronghorn herds were less robust than they were five to six years ago, which is expected when accounting for the long-term impact of drought on their populations. Hunters can see that reflected in the number of female licenses available on the Eastern Plains.

Hunters should remain dedicated to responsible hunting practices and wildlife conservation and understand that their role in supporting wildlife management is vital to preserving Colorado's rich natural heritage.

This fall, the overall hunting forecast remains positive for hunters despite the challenges posed by the severe winter of 2022-23.

A reminder that if you purchased a small game license as your qualifying

license earlier this year, you can hunt rabbits, squirrels, grouse, pheasants, doves and more within their respective seasons as listed in the small game brochure. Caliber restrictions apply west of I-25 during regular big game rifle seasons when hunting small game. To hunt furbearers or waterfowl, you must have a furbearer harvest permit or state and federal waterfowl stamps in addition to a small game license.

Planning your hunt

Find locations to hunt using CPW's Hunting Atlas. This resource allows you to find public land, save topographic maps, view big game migration corridors and concentration areas, and view OHV trails.

Additional licenses are still available! Licenses leftover from the draw are available for deer, elk, pronghorn and bear and you can purchase over-the-counter licenses for bear, elk, pronghorn, and whitetail deer. Licenses returned by other hunters (reissue licenses) are available every Wednesday morning. Check the CPW website every Tuesday for a preview list of reissue licenses before they go on sale the following morning at cpwshop.com.

Hunting resources are available at cpw.state.co.us/bg/hunting.

Shumei's featured artist Koichi Yamashita: Art Demonstration and Symposium on Oct. 1

CONTRIBUTED

CRESTONE — On Sunday, Oct. 1, starting at 1 p.m. Shumei International Institute is hosting an art demonstration with Japanese painter Koichi Yamashita. An art symposium with the artist will follow from 3 to 5 p.m.

Recently featured in "The Japan Times," painter Yamashita is drawn to the mountains. His unconventional sumi-e ink paintings depict the vast beauty of the rocky landscape. So detailed, they may be mistaken for photographs.

Yamashita must hike the mountain before he paints them. This February Yamashita quietly visited Crestone from his home in Japan. He hiked. He soaked up the beauty of this land. And then he returned home to paint.

Self-taught, Yamashita states, "I was born in the countryside and used to play in nature, climbing hills and mountains, trees and rocks, swimming in the river, and so on...I wanted to paint nature which I had seen for a long time."

After quitting his job and using his savings to explore the world and art, Yamashita pursued his dreams of painting.

On Oct. 1, starting at 1 p.m., Shumei will host landscape painter Yamashita for an art demonstration, where he will paint the stunning backyard peaks of the area followed by an art symposium and art reception from 3 to 5 p.m. This event is free to the public. Visit www.shumeicrestone.org or call 719-256-5284, for more information.



Courtesy photo

Shumei International Institute is hosting an art demonstration with Japanese painter Koichi Yamashita on Oct. 1. Pictured is one of his sumi-e ink paintings.

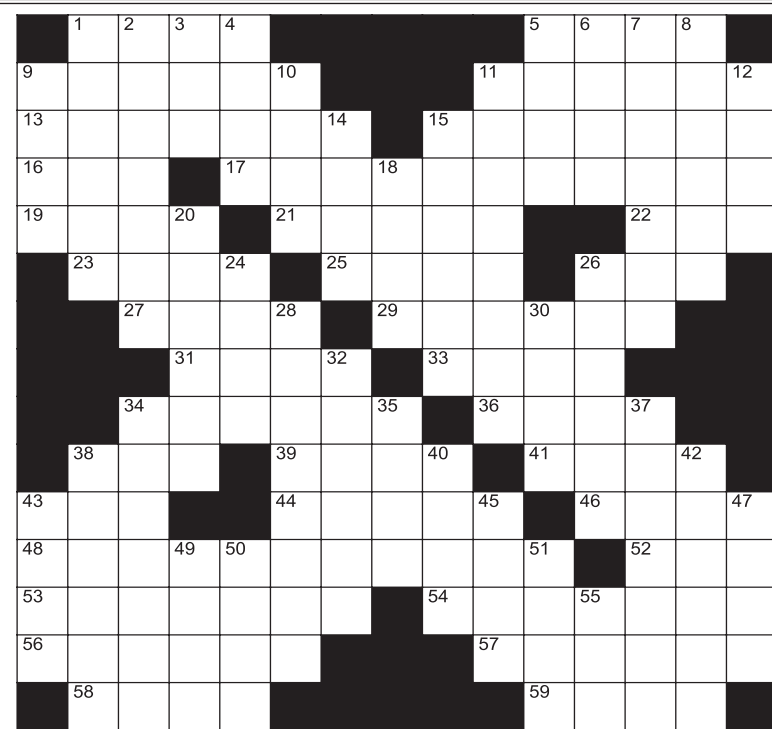
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Slovenian mountain
- 5. Growl
- 9. Where things stand
- 11. Made a sharp sound
- 13. Female spirit in Irish folklore
- 15. Deteriorate with age
- 16. A way to save for retirement
- 17. The Big Apple
- 19. Intestinal pouches
- 21. City in New Hampshire
- 22. Giving a bad impression
- 23. Samsung laptops
- 25. Without (French)
- 26. Scientist's tool (abbr.)
- 27. System of one more computers
- 29. Captures
- 31. Authentic
- 33. Female mammal's nipple
- 34. Pandemonium
- 36. Satisfy
- 38. Arrived extinct
- 39. Shipborne radar (abbr.)
- 41. Network of nerves
- 43. Monetary unit
- 44. Showed old TV show
- 46. They help you hear
- 48. One who eliminates
- 52. Congress' investigative arm
- 53. Parties



- 54. Most supernatural
- 56. Takes illegally
- 57. Breathes while asleep
- 58. Sea eagles
- 59. German surname
- 18. Affirmatives
- 20. "Full House" actress Barber
- 24. Traveled rapidly
- 26. Long upholstered seat
- 28. Set wages
- 30. Peter Gabriel song
- 32. Sides of a jacket
- 34. More beautiful
- 35. Actress Kate
- 37. Furniture with open shelves
- 38. Indicate
- 40. The cost of a room
- 42. Gets rid of something
- 43. Impudence
- 45. No No No
- 47. Drunkards
- 49. Middle eastern country
- 50. High energy lasers (abbr.)
- 51. Primary component of ribosomes
- 55. An informal debt instrument

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Looks at for a long time
- 2. Solution for diseases
- 3. Belonging to a thing
- 4. Former Packers fullback
- 5. Contemptible person
- 6. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
- 7. Helps
- 8. Final section of the large intestine
- 9. Invests in little enterprises
- 10. Look for
- 11. Unbeliefs
- 12. Susan and Tom are two
- 14. Female sheep
- 15. A poet writes it

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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Juntos 4-H preserving tradition in SLV through programs

By DIANE DREKMANN
 COSTILLA COUNTY — Juntos 4-H is focusing on the families of Costilla County. Carol Gurule, the SLV Juntos 4-H Youth Development Specialist with the CSU San Luis Valley Extension office, is partnering with several other organizations for several events which preserve family traditions and strengthen family bonds.

On Sept. 12, students at Centennial school in San Luis will have the opportunity to help build a horno — an outdoor adobe oven used to cook traditional food like chicos — near one of the mission churches in the village of San Francisco.

“Dr. Devon Pena is the lead person on the project,” Gurule explains. “Dr. Pena did a PowerPoint presentation on chicos” and various organizations became interested in continuing the culture by building a horno. “Students who volunteer to build the horno take a day trip.”

Dr. Pena’s family has been in the San Luis Valley since the Sangre de Cristo land grant. The family farm near San Acacio is watered by two “acequias” — hand dug ditches from the 1800s when San Luis Valley was first settled. Pena is dedicated to preserving the water, ecology, and biodiversity of plants used in traditional dishes, now becoming rare, through his research and his family’s non-profit, the Acequia Institute.

The horno building event on Sept. 12 is also supported by Move Mountains — an organization through Shirley Otero Romero that has programs which empower the youth of Costilla County. Costilla County Human Services and the San Luis People’s Market, a grocery store in San Luis that offers local food that is owned by Dr. Pena.

Cornellius Arellano is the head horno builder.

“(He) is also known for having the best green chili in the Valley,” according to Gurule. It is a chance to instruct children about their heritage and learn the old recipes and the importance of biodiversity, using “heirloom” seeds and organic farming.

Juntos 4-H is also hosting a special seven-week program for the families of Sierra Grande and Centennial schools, designed to encourage better communication, bonding, and problem-solving strategies between family members. The program is called Strengthening Families.

Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. Free childcare is also provided.

The first hour is spent learning skills, Gurule said. The parents and children separate, discussing similar problems and solutions. The second hour, families play games and do fun activities. The goal is to reach the family unit. Parents learn skills like how to set boundaries. Children learn strategies to cope with peer pressure, stress, and respect for parents.

The Strengthening Families program is open to 10-14-year-olds and their parents.

Sierra Grande will have the program Oct. 2-Nov. 13 from 5:30-8 p.m.

Centennial will offer the program Oct. 4-Nov. 14 at the same time.

To register for the Strengthening Families program, call Gurule at 970-491-5699 or Dee Kessler at 719-580-1413.



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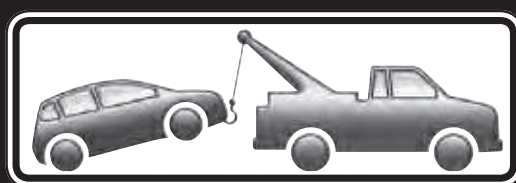
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Homelake residents enjoy breakfast in Rock Creek

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Once a year, Homelake Veterans have a special breakfast at the picnic area in Rock Creek. Staff members get up early, and head up before sunrise to begin cooking breakfast for the Veterans. This year's breakfast was on Aug. 31.

Pam Self, the Marketing and Admissions Director for the Veteran's Community Living Center at Homelake, spoke about the breakfast and said that the weather was ideal for the event. Thirty-five residents signed up to attend the breakfast this year.

"The weather was just perfect for this year's breakfast," Self said. "As soon as the sun rose above the mountains it warmed up very quickly. We have been hosting this annual breakfast for over 20 years, and we think this year has held the warmest weather yet. I also believe that this was one of our best attended Rock Creek breakfasts."

Coffee, bacon, sausage, eggs, pancakes, hashbrowns, tortillas and green chili, were served to the residents.

Self stated, "As you know, everything just tastes better in the mountains, by a

campfire. This year's menu did not allow anyone to leave hungry. It was really neat to listen to our residents' sharing stories about camping adventures they had in the past while they ate breakfast. I have the best job in the world."

Many of the Homelake residents have attended the breakfast for a number of years. They ride in multiple handicap accessible buses to the Rock Creek picnic grounds to the breakfast. Many residents are in wheelchairs, or have canes, but get up gladly to attend the breakfast, according to Self. They enjoy the morning and their breakfast with their friends at the picnic grounds, socializing and eating.

The Veteran's Community Living Center at Homelake provides a tranquil and comfortable place for disabled and aging Veterans to live serenely and among other veterans. The center believes in providing its residents with heartfelt and protective care.

The services they offer are nursing home, independent living with assistance, short-term rehabilitation, and short-term respite care with home care, and end of life hospice services.



Courtesy photos

Once a year, Homelake Veterans have a special breakfast at the picnic area in Rock Creek. Staff members get up early, and head up before sunrise to begin cooking breakfast for the Veterans. This year's breakfast was on Aug. 31.

The center also offers Veterans their own post office, bank services, a chapel, and indoor common areas that are laid out specifically for the veterans.

For more information on the breakfast or the Veteran's Community Living Center at Homelake, contact Self at 719-852-5118.



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Blue Yak tops Creede Salsa Fest



Courier photo by Keith R. Cerny

Scores of contest participants paraded downtown Creede on Saturday for the annual Salsa Fest, tasting dozens of entries to determine the best offered. Vicki Kulyk of Holy Moses (right) offered her green salsa to judges including Valley natives Russ and Becky Seymour of Angel Fire, N.M. Russ is a native of Monte Vista and Becky (Orr) of Alamosa. Blue Yak topped the best free style category and won overall honors. Tommyknocker Tavern took first for best red salsa while the Creede Hotel won for best green. Rincon Realty took first for best fruit salsa.

Saguache Senior Citizens meeting is set for Sept. 14

SAGUACHE — The monthly meeting of the Saguache Senior Citizens will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14, at the Senior Center. Refreshments will be served. The Senior Center is located at 605 Christy Ave. inside the Social Services building. Monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. The Senior Center is open to all seniors in Saguache County.

30TH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL & QUILT SHOW

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2023
OTTO MEARS PARK, SAGUACHE CO
10:00AM - 4:00PM

Salida Din

Classic Rock 2:00 - 3:15



CB Jazz

Jazz Music 12:30 - 1:30

Shumei Crestone HIKARI Taiko

Taiko Drummers 12:00 - 12:30



Paper Moon Shiners

Vintage & Original Music 11:00 - 12:00

VENDORS

* INSIDE THE COMMUNITY BUILDING
* AND OUTSIDE IN OTTO MEARS PARK

QUILT SHOW & SILENT AUCTION INSIDE COMMUNITY BUILDING



BECAUSE YOUR FOUNDATION IS CRACKED.

LIMITED TIME OFFER
\$500 OFF*

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- BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
- CRAWL SPACE REPAIR
- CONCRETE LIFTING

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GET A FREE INSPECTION

*Ten percent off any job over \$2500 up to a max of \$500. Coupon must be presented at time of inspection. Offer may not be combined with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Ask inspector for further details. Promo valid through 9/30/2023.

HEALTH FAIR

Saturday September 30

955 French Street
Del Norte, CO 81132
From 8:00am-1:00pm

Blood draws will be performed ahead of time, at RGH, by appointment only
September 5th-8th from 6:00am-9:00am
September 12th-15th from 6:00am-9:00am
September 19th-22nd from 6:00am-9:00am
Results will be available at the Health Fair

Please call Crissy Moeller at 719-657-4065 to schedule an appointment

