

## Shorts

### End of Life discussion set for Aug. 16

**ALAMOSA** — An End of Life discussion with Neil Ruddolph will be at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 16, at Hospice del Valle, 514 Main St., Alamosa — located between Oscars Restaurant and Rainbows End. For more information, call 719-589-9019.

### Care and Share Market Truck in DN on Aug. 10

**DEL NORTE** — The Care and Share Market Truck will be in Del Norte from 4 to 5 p.m. on Aug. 10 at Gateway Church, 975 Grande Ave., Del Norte.

The food giveaway is open to residents of Rio Grande County. There will be enough supplies for at least 100 families. Organizers ask that people bring their own boxes and bags.

For more information, call Kat Siglinger at 719-937-1351.



### San Luis Valley Fair schedule

**MONTE VISTA** — The San Luis Valley Fair is taking place this week in the Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista.

**Wednesday, Aug. 9**  
8 a.m. 4-H Gymkhana (Horse Awards Ceremony to follow)  
9 a.m. Rabbit Show  
5 p.m. Market Sheep Show  
Followed by Showmanship  
Hypnotist - Following Sheep Show

**Thursday, Aug. 9**  
9 a.m. Creative Cooks Contest  
Noon Cake Decorating Contest  
5 p.m. Market Beef Show  
Followed by Showmanship  
Hypnotist - Following Beef Show

**Friday, Aug. 11**  
8:30 a.m. Round Robin  
4 p.m. Sale birds back in pens  
6 p.m. SLV Fair Junior Livestock Auction- Barbecue Presented by Rocky Mountain Farmers Union  
6 p.m. Indoor Projects that did not make State Fair Check-Out  
6 p.m. All State Fair Projects to Extension Office (Extension Staff)  
Dance to immediately follow the Sale

## Author Franks contemplating next book in 'Crooked Forest' series

By MARIE MCCOLM

**MOFFAT** — Joni Franks, author of the award-winning book series, "Corky Tales," has been thinking about her next series of books. She recently spoke about this during an interview with the Center Post-Dispatch.

"I want to continue with the 'Crooked Forest' series," she said. "The series will continue with a book about finding compassion and forgiveness. Forgiveness would be in forgiving ourselves. These are ideas that I currently have to continue the series. Forgiving ourselves helps so much, when we can forgive ourselves, it clears emotional blocks and helps us along on our path in life. This is something I am thinking of continuing the series with, but I never know until I actually write it though."

Franks began writing in 2016. She wrote about her dog, Sagebrush, and their Colorado adventures. *Please see FRANKS on Page 2A*



Courtesy photo  
Award-winning author Joni Franks, of Moffat, says she draws inspiration from the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.



Courtesy photo

Construction of the first building of the Valley to Valley Senior Care Living Center in Saguache is nearly complete.

### First building of new senior living facility in Saguache nearly complete

By MARIE MCCOLM

**SAGUACHE** — Nearly a year after breaking ground, the first building of the Valley to Valley Senior Care Living Center in Saguache is near completion.

Chairman of the Board for Valley to Valley Senior Care, Terry Gillette talked about the building and the plans for the project.

"This project the Valley to Valley Senior Care Living Center, we are building the center just to the east of Saguache right off the highway. It's a beautiful little spot, we have got 10 acres, and it's right off the road. It's

*Please see FACILITY on Page 6A*

## Grand Champion Market Swine



Shortly before 10 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 7, Elaina Consaul's dark cross heavyweight took home Grand Champion Market Swine honors at the San Luis Valley Fair. Earlier, the 285-pound swine was chosen by the judge Grand Champion of the dark cross breed. The Swine Show began at 5:30 p.m. and Consaul was in the final class of the night as was the Reserve Grand Champion Market Swine that was shown by Aubrey Naranjo. Nearly 200 animals were shown during the Market Swine Show. The San Luis Valley Fair culminates with the Junior Livestock Auction at 6 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 11.

Photo by Brian Williams

## Poor Boy Car Show hoping for nearly 100 entries

### SoCo Suds and Sounds and car show is Saturday, Aug. 19

By MARIE MCCOLM

**MONTE VISTA** — One of the biggest car shows of the year is coming to Chapman Park on Saturday, Aug. 19.

This year's Poor Boy Car Show begins at 10 a.m. and is expected to be bigger and better than ever with demonstrations by local groups, and live music beginning at 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to come on out and dance to the music of Ruben Dominguez of the Sol Boyz, Absolution (2023 winners of

ALMA's Battle of the Bands) and Valley favorite Ol' Scratch.

Hosting the event this year is the nonprofit group the OptiMystics Citizens Action Network in collaboration with the Poor Boy Car Club.

OptiMystics President Adam Lock *Please see SHOW on Page 6A*

The third annual Poor Boy Car Show is set for Aug. 19 at Chapman Park and is part of the SoCo Suds and Sounds event organized by the OptiMystics Citizens Action Network.

Courtesy photo



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# OBITUARIES

## Benjamin John Davis

Benjamin John Davis, 41, died Aug. 5, 2023, at his home in Creede, Colo. He was born on Jan. 23, 1982, in Tribune, Kan., the son of Jane Davis.

Ben moved to Creede with his mom, Jane, in the summer of 1996 where he attended school and graduated from high school in Creede, May of 2000. Ben spent the rest of his life living in Creede, working at the grocery store as a clerk and a butcher and then worked for the City of Creede as the Public Works Director for many years.

Ben was a son, brother, and uncle. He always made time for his siblings, nieces, and nephews when they would come to Creede to visit. His favorite things to do with family were showing the kids the heavy equipment at his job, hunting mushrooms, camping, and showing them all around Creede.

Ben also spent the last few years transporting hikers in and out of

the mountains while they hiked the Colorado trail and loved every minute of it. He was the self-appointed ambassador to Creede, always showing up with a smile and a helping hand. He will be missed dearly by everyone that knew him.

Ben is survived by his mother: Jane Davis of Creede; three brothers: Dustan Ricker of Akron, Colo., Rustan Ricker of Phillipsburg, Kan., and Tristan Ricker of Elizabeth, Colo.; one aunt: Susan Cox of Portland, Ore.; and two uncles: Lynn Davis of Richmond, Va., and Mike Davis of Laramie, Wyo. Ben also has 11 cousins, six nieces and four nephews.

Let us not forget the many friends in Creede who affectionately called him "Jamin" and loved him as much as we do! You could not walk in anywhere in Creede by his side without someone hollering from across the room, "Hey



Jamin what's up." We love you Brother!

Graveside services for Ben will be held Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023, at 10 a.m. at the Creede Cemetery.

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

## Michael Wallace Danielson

Michael Wallace Danielson, 72, passed away on Aug. 4, 2023. Mike was born Sept. 11, 1950, in Concordia, Kan., to Whitney and Maxine (Ouellette) Danielson.

He was preceded in death by his parents Whitney and Maxine Danielson, brother Jeff Danielson.

Mike is survived by his wife, Carol (Koch) Danielson; brother Gary Danielson (Brenda); sister Julie Erickson (Tom); brother Jon Danielson; son Eric Danielson (Jesseca); son Chris Danielson (Katie); grandson Tyler Danielson (Christy); granddaughter Ashlynn Danielson and numerous other relatives.

Mike served as a Sergeant in the United States Air Force from January of 1971 until January 1975, as a Vietnamese Linguist. Mike was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Air Medal, and Air Force Good Conduct Medal.

Mike started enjoying trips to Creede with his family in 1983, was a resident of Creede from 1991 to 1995, owner of the Kentucky Belle

Market, and since 2012 had a summer home in downtown Creede where he spent his summers with his wife Carol and the rest of his family. They enjoyed the mountain views and creating many memories. He loved spending time doing outdoor activities, including traveling, hiking, walking, rock hunting, photography, and gardening. Family was his biggest passion, as he was always there to support and provide guidance to those he loved. Mike had a very generous and giving heart, evident by spending numerous days volunteering at Pueblo Cooperative Care Center, making a difference within the community. The compassion that Mike had to help others led him to make the decision to be an organ donor, so that he could continue to assist those individuals in need. He will forever be loved and deeply missed by family and friends.

Memorial Service The funeral service will be held on Sept. 8, 2023, 10 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Church, 212 N High Street, Clyde, Kan., where a luncheon will be held directly following the service. Interment of Ashes will be on Sept.



9, 2023, after the 4:30 p.m. mass at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 2900 Kimball Avenue, Manhattan, Kan., in the Columbarium where Mike will be laid to rest.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to:

Friends of Mineral County Emergency Services, P.O. Box 454 Creede Colorado 81130 or Pueblo Cooperative Care Center 326 West 8th Street Pueblo, CO 81003-3005

## Catherine Lague Woods

Longtime San Luis Valley native and porcelain artist, Catherine Lague Woods, passed away on Aug. 4, 2023, at River Valley Nursing Home in Del Norte, Colorado.

At age 103, Catherine is survived by her oldest son Richard Gene Woods, DVM of Del Norte, Colo., and her only daughter Gwen Marie Frison of Austin, Texas. She has six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Preceding Catherine in death

were her husband Richard Spencer Woods, DVM (Nov. 2002), son Roy Michael Woods (April 2014), and son John Lee Woods (January 2020).

Cremation was chosen and a private family memorial service will be held at a later date.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, words of comfort and tributes for Catherine's family, please visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com).



## Gail Soldato

Longtime Del Norte resident Gail Soldato died Sunday, July 30, 2023, at the River Valley Rehabilitation Healthcare Center Nursing Home in Del Norte, Colo.

Gail was born on Sept. 23, 1952, in Plattsburgh, N.Y. to Melvin Bennett Sr. and Ethelyn Bennett. She married the love of her life Don Soldato on Dec. 4, 1970, in Peru, N.Y.

Gail was a fun-loving lady who enjoyed life and the adventure life provided. She had a very deep love for her two children and her pets, of which she had many. She and her husband had a Ferrett rescue, at one point they had 28 Ferrets, they brought much joy into Gail's life.

Gail is survived by her spouse Don Soldato, her son Joseph Shane (Jen) Soldato of Kileen, Texas, her daughter

Donna Maria (Brian) Soldato McVeay of Owensmill, N.Y.; her two sisters Helen Bodnar (and spouse) of Florida and Lynne Lowe (and spouse) of Pennsylvania; her two brothers Melvin Bennett Jr. (and Spouse) of Utah and Warren Bennett (Kathy) of Plattsburgh, N.Y.; her grandchildren Shane Ice, Alex Soldato, Joscelyn Leach, Regan Soldato, Joey Soldato, Brennan Soldato, Gabe Soldato, and Adelynn Soldato; as well as numerous cousins and a few Aunts and Uncles.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her twin Guy Bennett, two of her sisters Janice and Janet and numerous aunts and uncles.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online



condolences, words of comfort and tributes for Gail's family, please visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com).

# FRANKS

Continued from Page 1A

together in the "Corky Tales" series.

"I wanted to tell a story about women being ranchers in what was thought to sometimes be a man's world of ranchers," Franks said. "I incorporated the little Corgi dog. In the story, the dog is born without a tail, and labeled as having no worth, and bullied and told that she can't be a real herding dog. A lot of people don't know but Corgis are herding dogs, cow dogs. The little dog feels so bad for what she doesn't have, and the woman is being told by the people she is buying the ranch from that she can't possibly be a rancher because she's a girl and because she has no help."

Franks said the woman becomes a successful rancher in the book and the little dog become a successful herding dog.

"It just all worked out for both of them in the book," she said. "I had never set out to be an author, but I shared the story, and I had people encourage me to publish a book and I did, and now my Corky series is an eight-book series and has won over 40 literary awards. It's been very successful. They are known as family books instead of children's books because they are more than just picture books. They have about 4,000 words each and they appeal to adults,

dog lovers, children, women ranchers, and Corgi lovers."

This, Franks said, led to the companion series "Crooked Forest."

"There are only two books in that series, but it will be a trilogy," she said. "The first book is about overcoming a broken heart, the second is about finding forgiveness and the third that I am thinking about will be about compassion and forgiveness."


Franks has won over 40 awards, including the 2022 Mom's Choice gold award, the 2021 International Readers Favorite silver medal award, the 2019, 2020, and 2021 Pinnacle Book Award for Category of Children's Interest, and 35 other awards.

In her books, Franks teaches problem-solving methods and addresses different subjects like environmental conservation, uncovering a person's life purpose, and recognizing that all beings are created equal.

Franks said that she obtained inspiration from the beauty of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains where she lives. She said that spending time in the high mountain meadows gives her the ability to create stories that are changing the world "one heart at a time."


For more information, visit her website at [www.jonifranks.com](http://www.jonifranks.com).

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Rock my world

Just this past weekend Miss Trixie drug Ol' Dutch to the annual Creede Colorado Rock and Mineral show to look at the pretty rocks. And it's not like I am not interested but I have a pretty good collection of said specimens myself and so tramping up and down the aisles and having to talk to people is kind of a stretch for this old man. Oh, I don't mind once I get there and actually, I found some great people this time to talk to, so it was definitely a win in the end. But I think Ol' Dutch is more like an old water pump these days that takes a little bit of priming to get me started.

But once you do, I am good to go, and I guess Miss Trixie knows this by now and drags me along to all kinds of social events which I end up enjoying. Once at the rock show I met Ken from Creede who has an impressive rock collection and old photos for sale. If you have not met him, you can look him up down beside the visitors center in Creede to see what all he has for sale.

And Miss Trixie, ever the planner for the future, scored a nice Amethyst rock from Ken for Grand #2 for Christmas. This 9-year-old child has somehow inherited her ancestors' penchant for rocks, and I look for her to maybe becoming a geologist someday, hopefully. So, we perused all the vendors there and saw some wonderful displays of the earth's amazing past. Crystals of every shape and size and color graced each booth and what a wonder they are to see too. After I finally got past the "do I really want to be here" stage, Miss Trixie had a hard time dragging me away from there.

I have often been amazed that a mere man can pick up a rock from the ground and hold it in his hand knowing it took many many millions of years to form. What an amazing thing to even contemplate but I think it's a lot like space in that our minds can never really grasp the miraculous nature of such things.

Ol' Dutch comes from a long line of rockhounds and many a summer was spent traipsing across Hell's half acre looking for gems, petrified wood, agate, arrow heads, quartz, crystals, and other rocks. I recall early on suffering from a sore neck from looking down all day and my



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

grandmother and great aunt breaking out the Icy Hot balm in the evening. They would apply copious amounts all over their tired old bodies and the smell would permeate the cabin the rest of the evening as we played solitaire together. That was ingrained in me so firmly that now all I have to do is get a whiff of that miracle salve and I am instantly taken back to those days, and I don't miss them nearly as much. I can simply close my eyes and be transported back to that old cabin on the river and the sounds of laughter as they win at double solitaire once again.

So, I did survive the weekend of activities once again and came to a realization about myself too. And that is if not for Miss Trixie shoving me along, I probably would be happy to sit at home and rot.

So, if you are out and about anywhere near where we abide and see long drag marks in the dirt, you will know that Trixie has drug Ol' Dutch along to another social event, rock show, bingo, party, potluck, grand opening, free hot dogs, Amish Bakery, parade, or other event of her choosing. And be careful as you approach said doings as there will be lots of other ruts from the other men who have been dragged there by wives, girlfriends, sisters, friends, and cousins. You don't want to get into a rut.

*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.*



## The problem that just won't go away

When I read the Salt Lake Tribune editorial on July 2, my heart sank. A Utah man with severe mental illness had died in a poorly regulated care home, with a mere \$8,000 fine levied against the managers.

The editorial was fierce: "It doesn't seem to matter how horrible the care ... how many of these residents live in filth and squalor ... the responsible authorities apparently make little to no effort to whip the homes into shape or, failing that, shut them down."

In 1976, my disabled brother, Mike Trimble, died in just such a care home, in Denver. I've spent a decade researching his life and death for my book, "The Mike File," and I know well the details and politics of his death.

Mike left home after turning 14 when his diagnosis — "paranoid schizophrenia, capable of violence" — shattered our family. A court committed him to the Colorado State Hospital in 1957. He never lived at home again.

When mental hospitals emptied their wards a decade later, Mike was mainstreamed back to Denver. Rejoining our family did not go well. Angry and resentful, Mike's visits triggered emotional chaos. He soon cut off all contact.

In 1976, Mike died during a seizure, alone in his boarding home and undiscovered for three days. The Denver media used his solitary death to expose the "ratholes" that warehoused people with mental illness. Our mother found out about the loss of her 33-year-old son from the front page of the Denver Post.

The owner of Mike's ironically named "Carefree Guest Home" described his death as a "slip up." The staff member who should have checked on Mike was "snowed under." Two other residents had died unnoticed in previous months.

In the days following Mike's death, the director of the Colorado Commission

on the Disabled demanded action. "I'm ... thinking ... of the other 85 residents there," he said. "How many of them were not seen over the weekend but did not die?"

Officials issued "a severe reprimand." Dr. Paul Kuhn, director of Denver's Personal Health Service, said that Carefree had made "significant improvements," but he mentioned only one: "Anyone not in the breakfast line is sought out and checked."

Kuhn gave Carefree a break because of poor funding that left the guest home perpetually understaffed. "This is more than a Denver problem," he said. "It's a statewide problem. It's a great societal problem."

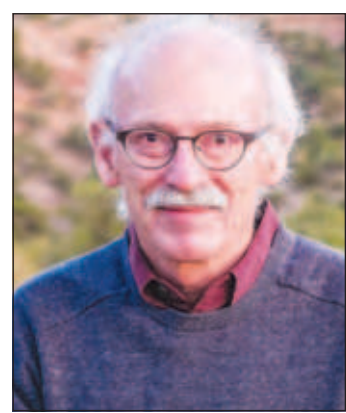
Reprimand issued, case closed, but hardly progress.

In 2002, The New York Times ran a Pulitzer Prize-winning series that included the story of Randolph Maddix, living in a private home for the mentally ill in Brooklyn. Maddix died during a seizure and wasn't found for many hours. "His back, curled and stiff with rigor mortis, had to be broken to fit him into a body bag."

In 2006, the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel ran a series on the horrors of board-and-care homes, including the tale of a resident who died and wasn't found for three days. These stories of outrageous neglect keep recurring, always about people overwhelmed by their mental disorders and neglected by their caregivers.

Why does Dr. Kuhn's "great societal problem" persist?

As we steadily eliminated more than 500,000 beds in state psychiatric hospitals starting in the mid-1950s, according to a study by the American Psychiatric Association, the number of people with severe mental illness was growing with the U.S. population. Stigma and shame often silenced their families. Effective treatment disappeared into the fog of competing agencies, with no coordinated plan



**Writers on the Range**  
by Stephen Trimble

for people with chronic mental illness. Then add today's epidemic of homelessness and prisons crammed with people who need psychiatric treatment more than incarceration.

While researching my book, I spoke with a Colorado psychologist who summed up our failure to care for our mothers and fathers, our brothers and sisters, our children and friends: "The mentally ill don't have a strong lobby."

The recent Tribune editorial proposes incentives for decently run care homes and appropriate punishments for neglect. But what we really need is a transformative system of care for the vulnerable and voiceless, and housing for those without homes. We know what to do. So far, we have chosen not to act.

This problem remains with us, just as it did in 1976 when I lost my brother. Please don't let us read these same plaintive stories and unanswered calls for action when another 50 years have passed.

*Utah writer Stephen Trimble is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. His latest book is "The Mike File: A Story of Grief and Hope."*

## LETTERS POLICY

Letters are welcome and encouraged. They should be fewer than 300 words, unless arranged beforehand with the editor, and they are subject to editing for length and clarity.

All letters must be signed by the author and include a phone number and address where the author can be reached (these are not for publication). Letters forwarded from other organizations or sent to staff and not for print must be designated as such. Letters over 300 words and without contact information will be returned to

the sender or discarded.

We will accept one letter per person, per subject, per four issues. We reserve the right to reject letters for reasons we believe are appropriate. Please send letters to Letter to the Editor c/o Valley Publishing, PO Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or e-mail to bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com (Attention: Letter to the Editor). Deadline for letters is 5 p.m. Friday.

Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.

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# 'A historic investment in Colorado'

## A year after becoming law, the IRA delivers benefits to the SLV

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Against a backdrop of numerous national headlines declaring July as the hottest month on record on the planet according to the World Meteorological Organization and a bevy of other noted scientists and scientific organizations, Senator Michael Bennet was joined by Governor Jared Polis and other elected officials in noting the one-year anniversary of the August 2022 passage and signing into law of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

"The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is the most significant climate legislation that any country on the planet has ever passed, and Colorado had a big hand in not only passing this bill — but shaping it," said Sen. Bennet. "This is a moment when we're finally investing in America again, addressing our changing climate, leading the energy transition, and building an economy that when it grows — it grows for everyone, not just those at the top."

Within a year of being made law, the legislation has brought significant benefits to the San Luis Valley in support of both the future of agricultural professionals and protection and conservation of the valley's wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities on public lands.

As was reported in the Valley Courier July 21 edition ("ASU receives \$4.6 million inaugural grant"), the university will receive the funds over the next five years for the inaugural, "From Learning to Leading: Cultivating the Next Generation of Diverse Food and Agriculture Professionals Program," supporting student scholarships and paid internships through 2028. With funds allocated in the legislation, ASU is part of a USDA \$262.5 million grant investing in institutions of higher education to foster the next generation of diverse agricultural professionals across the nation.

More than \$11 million was also allocated to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Colorado for two "Restoration Landscape" areas, with the San Luis Valley selected as one of two areas for investment.

According to the BLM website, "Ecologically critical wetlands and riparian areas provide habitat for numerous birds and federally listed species, and the San Luis Restoration Landscape Area is sacred to a number of Tribes.

"Investments in restoring this landscape provide a unique opportunity for the BLM to conserve and restore wildlife habitat and fisheries, improve hunting and fishing opportunities, and foster climate resilience while benefiting historically underserved, disproportionately impacted communities.

"Projects will protect cultural and historic resources, expand recreational uses, and manage fuels and water resources at the headwaters of one of America's great rivers, the Rio Grande."

"The San Luis Valley Restoration Landscape will enhance riparian ecosystems like Blanca Wetlands and lands along the Rio Grande, increasing hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation opportunities," says BLM Colorado Director Doug Vilsack.

The United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development describes the IRA as "the largest single investment in rural electrification since

the passage of the Rural Electrification Act in 1936."

As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Bennet helped write and pass the long-term clean energy tax credits in the IRA, including those for solar, wind, and battery manufacturing.

Bennet also secured direct pay provisions to allow rural electric cooperatives, public power companies, Tribes, and other entities without tax liability to access clean energy tax credits, which is a first.

He further advocated for the nearly \$14 billion to invest in clean energy in rural America and lower costs for families in those communities, including nearly \$10 billion to help rural electric cooperatives transition to clean energy.

Those investments are already playing out at the state level with the legislation attracting significant investment to Colorado, including a \$250 million investment from VSK Energy to build a solar panel manufacturing facility in Brighton, a \$40 million investment from Vestas Wind Systems to upgrade its Windsor and Brighton factories, and a \$400 million investment from Meyer Burger Technologies to build a solar cell manufacturing facility in Colorado Springs.

Bennet also successfully pushed for \$20 billion in working lands conservation measures and \$5 billion to restore the health of our forests to prevent wildfires, modeled after his Outdoor Restoration Partnership Act. Restoring the health of our forests, especially in the watershed, is key to water conservation.

"The law is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build critical

infrastructure, to protect communities from wildfire and extreme heat and to drive climate-smart agriculture and renewable energy initiatives nationwide," a statement from Bennet's office reads.

A study gauging the success of the IRA in reducing carbon emissions so far was published on June 29 in the journal "Science". The study was conducted by nine research teams across the nation, including the prestigious Princeton team led by leading scientist Jesse Jenkins.

Those research teams found that the IRA will dramatically cut U.S. carbon emissions, with economy-wide emissions reductions between 43% and 48% below 2005 levels by 2035. That's not enough to reach 50% below peak levels by 2030, as the U.S. has pledged.

"IRA doubles the pace of reductions but should have tripled it to hit our 2030 climate goals and get on the path to net-zero by 2050," says Jenkins.

Specifically, before the IRA, the U.S. was cutting its carbon emissions by about 2% per year. With the IRA, Jenkins' team estimates that pace doubled, jumping to about 4% annually.

To reach 50% below peak levels by 2030 and net-zero over the next three decades, the country would need to cut carbon emissions by about 6% per year.

"We need to build on the historic success of the IRA with robust regulations and additional state and federal policies to close the emissions gap," Jenkins says. "We have to do more."

Senator Bennet is scheduled to visit the San Luis Valley on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. He will visit with city and county officials and a local heritage site.



Photo courtesy of Senator Michael Bennet's office. Senator Michael Bennet joined by Governor Jared Polis and U.S. Colorado Representatives Yadiro Caraveo and Brittany Pettersen in Brighton.



Blanca Wetlands, part of the San Luis Valley Restoration Project funded by the Inflation Reduction Act.

Photo courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management

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The Zinger folds to a mere 10 inches.

backseat or trunk. Then, there are the steering levers. They enable the **Zinger** to move forward, backward, turn on a dime and even pull right up to a table or desk. With its compact yet powerful motor it can go up to 6 miles an hour and its rechargeable battery can go up to 8 miles on a single charge. With its low center of gravity and inflatable tires it can handle rugged terrain and is virtually tip-proof. Think about it, you can take your **Zinger** almost anywhere, so you don't have to let mobility issues rule your life.

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# Wildland fires on the San Juan National Forest continue

*Drivers should exercise caution on Hwy 160 near Pagosa Springs due to emergency vehicle traffic*

By JOHN WATERS

The 1,372-acre Dry Lake Fire, burning in the First Notch area of the Columbine Ranger District, did not grow on Monday and is now 47 percent contained.

Firefighters are continuing to mop up and secure the fireline. Pockets of vegetation inside the fireline continue to smolder and burn, though fire activity and smoke production will decrease through the week. A lightning strike on July 30 ignited the burn.

The indirect fire suppression tactics used by fire managers have resulted in the successful thinning of overgrown oak brush and grass growing in the understory of the ponderosa pine forest cover. According to the forest service, the benefits of this strategy include reducing hazardous fuels, encouraging native plant growth, increasing species diversity, and enriching wildlife forage.

The Unmanned Aerial System (UAS), or drone provided continued critical aerial imagery for firefighters. The UAS platform is equipped with an infrared camera that can detect sources of heat on the ground below. Firefighters repeatedly utilized the UAS to patrol the fire containment lines and did not discover any sources of heat outside of the established perimeter, according to the forest service.

Smoke will continue to be visible to travelers along Highway 160 between Bayfield and Pagosa Springs and to some residents in Ignacio and Archuleta County. There may be extra fire vehicle traffic in the area and along First Notch Road (FR 620)

throughout the week. As of 2:30 p.m. on Monday, the Quartz Ridge Fire was, burning approximately three miles into the South San Juan Wilderness and has grown from 19 to 130 acres in the last 24 hours. Firefighters are unable to directly engage the fire due to fire behavior, the remote location, and firefighter risk associated with the terrain and working in dead and down trees. Fire managers continue to develop a strategic plan to suppress the fire should it move into terrain more favorable to engagement.

The Quartz Ridge Fire is expected to remain in a remote location of the South San Juan Wilderness. The Quartz Meadows Road (NFSR#685), the Quartz Ridge Trail (NFST#570) and the Quartz Creek Trail (NFST#571) are closed to the public.

Drivers should watch for increased fire vehicle traffic in the area of Highway 160 and Forest Service Road 667, East of Pagosa Springs.

Fire crews from other teams in the region as well as out of state assisted in these fires and the San Juan National Forest issued this statement in appreciation:

“The collaboration amongst partners in Southwest Colorado directly contributes to the success of our firefighting organizations. A big thank you goes out to Upper Pine River Fire Protection District for their support of the #Dry Lake fire. UPFPD is hosting the Incident Management Team in their outstanding Admin building, giving fire personnel an excellent Incident Command Post location to plan and prepare for daily operations on the Dry Lake fire.

“And to our partner and cooperating agencies fighting fire with us, thank you! We are working alongside local crews from Los Pinos Fire District, Durango Fire & Rescue, Upper Pine, as well as out-of-area crews from Idaho, Missouri, South Dakota, and eastern Colorado.”



Photo courtesy US Forest Service

Julie Pitney of the Shadow Canyon Type II Initial Attack crew out of Boulder uses a drip torch to burn fire fuels on the Dry Lake Fire on the San Juan National Forest on Aug. 7.

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**NEW MOON CELEBRATION**  
**August 12 2023**

**Frontier Drive Inn Center, CO**

Artwork by Shar Tuiaso and Cari Conari

**FREE August 12 - Save the Date!**  
**New Moon Celebration**  
2pm - Dark

**AND**

**Wild & Scenic Film Festival**  
8:30pm - 10:30pm

SCAN FOR MORE INFO and to buy tickets  
to view the Film Festival virtually - \$10 for 10 days

# SHOW

Continued from Page 1A

is excited about the coming event, officially called SoCo Suds and Sounds featuring the Poor Boy Car Show.

"I'm really happy to see how this event has evolved and grown over the past 3 years. Adding a free concert in the park is the perfect way to wind up the festival," Lock said. "We especially want to thank the LOR Foundation (Monte Vista) and High Mountain Ag for sponsoring all of the entertainment this year."

This will be the third car show brought to Monte Vista by the OptiMystics and the Poor Boy Car Club.

Richard Garcia, president, and organizer of the Poor Boy Car Club is also looking forward to the event.

"This all started when we met the OptiMystics, and we realized that all of us had something in common," Garcia said. "We love hosting these events, bringing people together and seeing the community enjoy themselves. Our Car club also gives money every year to families in need."

Last year they gave \$3,000 to families who needed assistance due to medical illness.

"This is a great event that brings

people together from everywhere," Garcia said. "We are excited about putting this on, and we enjoy working with the OptiMystics on this. They are a great group promoting growth and positivity to the town. We are hoping to have more cars than last year, and registration is still open. Last year we brought people from New Mexico and all over the Valley. I am excited that we get to do this again. Come on out. We are hoping to reach our goal of 100 cars this year."

The show will also feature a kid's bouncy house, Hall Way's Escape Room and the Monte Vista Parks and Recreation Department is having a Cornhole Tournament. The SLV Sword Guild will be holding demonstrations on martial arts from the Middle Ages and Renaissance era, during the day. There will be an air guitar contest during the concert, with plaques handed out to the winners.

More entertainment includes performances by the Monte Vista Youth Cheerleaders, MS KAIS Academy of Performing Arts, and The Novel Nomads.

There will also be various food



Courtesy photo

trucks and alcoholic drinks including Colorado Farm Brewery, Angelica's Dreamcycles, Tacos Martinez, Fuel by Blessed, Chef Charles, and the Suavecito Grill.

"With under two weeks until the event, we have more vendors than last year and expect even more by Aug. 19," Lock said.

OptiMystics Secretary and Announcer Roy Aiken said, "Live

music is the key change this year. We've got top-shelf local Valley acts performing starting at 3 p.m. We'll know how good it's going by how many car show guys stay past 5 p.m., because the music is going until sundown. If nothing else, Suds 'n' Sounds should be the party to send off the summer in

proper style. Everyone should be good and energized for the harvest season."

For vendor information contact the OptiMystics, at 719-239-1811 or visit online optimystics.org.

For car show information or to register, contact Poor Boy Car Club President Garcia at 719-580-2673.

# FACILITY

Continued from Page 1A

got the national forest right around it. It gives us a lot of space we can do gardens and other activities to develop the site. For most of the seniors this is a much better environment than the city. We can put in gardens and add activities."

Gillette said the assisted living building that is nearly complete will house eight people. They plan to put up multiple buildings.

"We also just got a grant to build a daycare-type facility behind the assisted living building," Gillette said. "That will work out really well, too. There's a lot of people who have a parent or someone with them and they need a place to take them while they are working. A lot of these people are functioning well, they just need someone to make sure they are OK and that is what this other building will be."

Gillette said the grant will pay for the whole building, too, and "this will be put in very quickly, within about six weeks to two months."

The building that is almost done, is about three-quarters done and is key to the remaining structures.

"We have put in all the infrastructure for the multi-building complex in that one, too, the plumbing, the inner hookups, the ground hookups, so it took a lot longer, but as we add all the other buildings, it will go a lot quicker with all of this in place,"

Gillette said.

The idea for the Valley to Valley Senior Care Living Center began with Eve Braden. Braden is passionate about helping the senior community thrive. Braden's father suffered from Alzheimer's disease and Braden moved her father from New York and to live with her in Colorado, so that he could have a better quality of life.

Braden's father passed away, but she wanted to do something to honor his memory. Braden began the Valley to Valley Senior Care non-profit organization in 2006. She is currently the chief executive officer and the facility director for the Valley to Valley Senior Center in Salida.

In November of 2022, the expansion to Saguache for a new Valley to Valley Senior Center began. That month they broke ground on the new center.

Braden works diligently to ensure the employees in Salida are fully trained to provide quality and professional care to the residents and plans to do the same in Saguache.

In memory of her father, who was a World War II Veteran, the facility in Salida houses Veteran and non-Veteran residents and Saguache will do the same. The Saguache living facility will have a commercial kitchen, library, dining area, exercise room, and other accommodations

for its residents.

Gillette is excited to see the completion of the building.

"I am happy to be a part of it all, to see this all coming together," she said. "There are other buildings that still need to be constructed before it's all complete, but we are gaining. We don't have a list of residents waiting yet, but there is knowledge out there of the center so we know that it will fill up fast. It's nice to see something like this happening, this will really help our older residents stay with a sense of community, and help their family members stay close to them."

Gillette said they accept and appreciate donations "big or small they all go to the completion of our center."

For more information or to donate, contact Gillette at 515-480-1636.

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**Request For Proposal (RFP) Trash and Rubbish removal**  
Saguache County is looking for a contractor for the removal of and disposal of trash, rubbish, debris, and assorted waste materials from land located in Saguache County. This shall include, but not be limited to, the removal and disposal of trailers, building materials, trash, debris, asbestos, and various materials that require removal. This position shall be on call or as needed. Bids should include, but not be limited to, hourly rates, and the rate for special material removal that may not be allowed for disposal in a land fill or conventional waste facility.  
For question, please email Amber Wilson at [atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov) or call 719-655-2231.  
Proposal may be emailed, mailed or hand delivered. Email RFP to [atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov), mail to PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or hand delivered to 505 3rd Street, Saguache, CO.  
Proposals must be received by 3pm on Thursday, August 31, 2023.  
**No. 1675 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, July 27 and August 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2023.**

**RESOLUTION**  
**Call for Nominations**  
**Board of Directors Election, November 7, 2023**  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of Center Consolidated School District 26JT in the County of Saguache, State of Colorado, calls for nomination of candidates for school directors to be placed on the ballot for the regular biennial school election to be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023.  
At this election 3 directors will be elected representing the following director districts for a term of office of four years: Director of District C and 2 Directors for Members at Large. To be qualified, a candidate must have been a registered elector of the school district for at least 12 consecutive months before the election and a resident of the director district which will be represented. A person is ineligible to run for school director if he or she has been convicted of committing a sexual offense against a child.  
A person who desires to be a candidate for school director shall file a written notice of intention to be a candidate and a nomination petition signed by at least 25 eligible electors who are registered to vote in the regular biennial school election.  
Nomination petitions may be obtained at the Center Schools Administration Office, located at 550 S. Sylvester Ave. Center, CO 81125. Office hours are 8:00PM - 4:00PM, Monday through Thursday.  
The Board of Education hereby directs the designated election official to publish this call for nominations no earlier than August 9, 2023 and no later than August 24, 2023. Completed petitions shall be submitted to Roseann Martinez no later than 4:00 P.M. on September 1, 2023.  
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of Education of Center Consolidated School District 26JT., County of Saguache, State of Colorado has caused this call for nominations to be given this 18th day of July, 2023.  
  
  
**No. 1676 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, August 10, 2023.**

# PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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**Saguache County Landfill RATE INCREASE NOTICE**  
NEW RATES EFFECTIVE: August 15, 2023

Services	Current Rate	New Rate
Min. Trash Charge (200 lbs. and under)	\$6.00	\$7.00
Add'l Charge/100lbs - (201 lbs. and above)	\$2.00	\$2.00
Untarped or Uncontained Charge	\$20.00	\$20.00
*Burnables	\$1.20	\$1.50
Construction Debris (non-compactable)	\$2.00	\$2.00
*Commercial (compacted)/ton	\$17.90	\$18.50
Freon Unit (w/certificate of freon removal)	\$37.00	\$37.00
Junk Vehicle	No Charge with Title	No Charge with Title
Mobile Home - In County	\$500.00	\$500.00
*Mobile Home - Out of County	\$1000.00	\$1200.00
Small Animal (400 lbs. and under)	\$10.00	\$10.00
*Large Animal (401 lbs. and above)	\$19.00	\$20.00
Passenger/Light Truck Tires (no rim)	\$5.00	\$5.00
Passenger/Light Truck Tires (with rim)	\$10.00	\$10.00
Truck/Large Tires (no rim)	\$12.00	\$12.00
Truck/Large Tires (with rim)	\$23.00	\$23.00
*Tractor Tires (no rim)	\$20.00	\$25.00
*Tractor Tires (with rim)	\$27.00	\$37.00
Large Furniture (mattresses, box springs, recliner etc.)	\$10.00	\$10.00
Recyclables (see website for accepted items)	Regular Trash Rates Apply	Regular Trash Rates Apply
Metal	No Charge	No Charge
Non-Friable Asbestos	NO LONGER ACCEPTING	NO LONGER ACCEPTING

Mixed loads will be charged as trash  
THE FOLLOWING WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE SAGUACHE COUNTY LANDFILL:  
No Hot/Smoldering Trash, No Electronics, No Paint Cans (Wet or Dry)  
No Hazardous Materials (Needles, Batteries, Light Bulbs or HUMAN BODILY FLUIDS OR WASTE)  
\*Anyone caught dumping Hazardous Materials will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.  
New rates will be posted on the county website under the landfill tab: [saguachecounty.colorado.gov](http://saguachecounty.colorado.gov)  
Saguache County Landfill  
25125 Kelly Road / CR 55  
Saguache, CO 81149  
Direct Phone Number to Landfill: 719-221-1956

# Reyna Martinez brings wealth of experience as new RETAC Coordinator

By DONNA WEHE

Director of Communications, SLV Health

ALAMOSA—Reyna Martinez may look familiar because you may have met her as an ER Tech at SLV HRC, an EMS responder with Alamosa Ambulance, a Victim Advocate for the SLV, or bringing meals to first responders. She recently accepted the position as the Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Advisory Council (RETAC) Coordinator for the San Luis Valley. She brings all of this experience to the position, plus a passion for the medical field and coordinating activities in the community. Especially, she is excited about prevention and coordinating resources.

There are 11 RETACs in the state of Colorado, which are authorized to provide a coordinating approach to emergency medical and trauma care. Each council consists of five or more participating counties, which appoint individuals who volunteer their time to support the EMS and Trauma systems across the region. Check out their website at SLVRETAC.org.

Reyna has been busy in her new

role coordinating resources, grants, education, training, and outreach in the region. She listens to the needs of the ten agencies that she coordinates with to individualize their needs. Maybe their need is for additional training, or perhaps assistance with a grant for equipment...she is able to obtain resources and share the information across these agencies, saving them time and effort.

“With the coordinating and collaboration of SLV RETAC and other agencies across the San Luis Valley, our first responders will receive the support and resources they need in order for them to continue serving our community and provide high-quality care to the community,” stated Reyna.

The SLV RETAC adopted the motto of “One Mission, One Team,” to stand united for all of the first responders in the region. “Our goal is to stand behind our first responders who have committed their lives to public service. They strive to serve with a passion, taking on difficult duties. When the community is in need, these agencies unite together as one team, working in unison.”

Roni Wisdom, Alamosa County

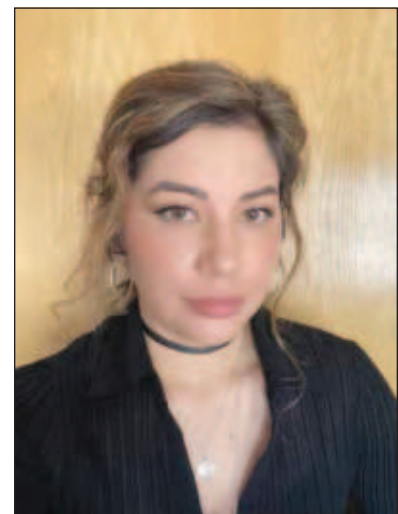
Manager, remarked on the resources Reyna is already bringing to the valley. “She brought access to mental health services to all of the first responders and their families. She helped coordinate the SLV Teen Justice League for crime prevention activities, and she is supporting all of the services across the valley with food, training, and grants. She personally started dinners for first responders who were working on Christmas. Everyone appreciates how she brings us all together.”

Reyna appreciates all that Alamosa County has done to support her efforts and RETAC. “Although I am working for SLV RETAC, I am also working in conjunction with Alamosa County in order to be able to apply for all these grants and bring these additional programs and resources to the region. The Peace Officer Mental Health program, SLV Teen Justice League, SLV P.R.O.M., and Shield 10-78 are all made possible because of Alamosa County’s willingness to be the fiscal agent. These are all reimbursement grants, money RETAC does not have, and therefore Alamosa County has allowed me to apply for these grants

under their supervision to be able to provide these services and resources.”

The Shield 1078 grant allows Reyna to purchase needed food for first responders who may have long events where they cannot leave the location. 82% of first responders in the SLV have already used some of the mental wellness services. And the first community event, a swim night, supported by the SLV Teen Justice League, will be held at Splashland on August 18.

“I learned from my mother who is a registered nurse, that when you receive, you give back. That is the motto of my work ethic. To give back, to bring needed resources, and to listen to the community to identify the needs. I am honored to support all of our first responders in this new role.”



Reyna Martinez

Reyna may be reached at slvretac8@gmail.com.

# Wheeler Road repairs began Aug. 7

CONTRIBUTED

DELNORTE—The Divide Ranger District announced Thursday, Aug. 3, the start of repairs to Forest Road 600, which provides access to the popular Wheeler Geologic Area. To accommodate heavy equipment moving in narrow areas and provide for public safety during the repair process, motor vehicle access to the road will remain closed until repairs are completed.

“I am pleased to announce that the repairs are beginning on this popular road,” said Kristen Schmidt, acting ranger for the Divide District. “The road will re-open when we have mitigated all the severely damaged sections and are confident that no further resource damage will occur by having the road open.”

The timing of repairs on this road was a difficult balance for the forest’s road crew. The availability of equipment and qualified operators needed to align with snow melt and other conditions. Schmidt reminds forest users that this road has always been a difficult 4-wheel drive road and the repairs will not change this character.

As with the recent announcement of Continental Bridge repairs starting, the district is asking the public to be patient and avoid this area during construction, to ensure everyone’s safety.

Forest engineers have been planning the work for several months. Special heavy equipment has been ordered and will arrive within days. The repairs are expected

to take approximately four weeks to complete. If the road has no other safety issues after that time, it will be reopened.

Access to the road was closed on Sept. 27, 2022, after heavy monsoonal rains produced severe runoff, creating washouts, mud bogs, and dangerous undercuts in the road corridor. Many vehicles got stuck and required others to assist with getting them out. With minimal options available for repair or bypass, Forest engineers advised the closure.

Access to the Wheeler Geologic Area is still available by a long foot hike or horseback ride.

# South Fork Friends Foundation sets dates for annual SOFAAR Burro race

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — The second annual Alder Ass race is trotting into South Fork at the beginning of September and with it comes two days of fun and festivities. South Fork Friends Foundation President Luke Brennan is excited and ready to bring another year of fun to the small mountain town just in time for summer to drift into fall.

The Second Annual South Fork Alder Ass Race will be on Sept. 2 at Brown’s Park, 86 County Route 15, South Fork.

“For 2023, we will have more racers, spectators, volunteers, and vendors. There is a pre-race party the night before (Friday, Sept. 1) at the new Wolf Creek LOGE for racers, volunteers, sponsors and is open to the public. There will be several famous burros present for petting, photo opportunities, and autographs,” said Brennan. The pre-race party begins at 5:30 p.m.

Last year’s race was a huge success with just shy of 60 competitors who lined up along the starting line near Brown’s Park. The course meandered its way along the banks of the Rio Grande and into the Alder Creek area before turning back and ending at the

starting point. Burro racing has gained popularity in the past few years, including in South fork and neighboring areas in the San Luis Valley. One thing for certain when it comes to burro racing is that the burros enjoy what they do and look forward to it every year right along with their handlers.

Each burro is equipped with a pack saddle carrying traditional mining gear of gold pan, pick, and shovel for the 8-mile and 19.25-mile courses. Items may be carried inside saddle bags or may be attached and displayed on the pack saddle. Traditional mining gear may be checked at the finish line. There is no minimum weight requirement for burros to carry.

According to Brennan, the race needs more volunteers.

“There are a large number of volunteer positions available from working the registration table to timers, aid station personnel, ticket sellers, parking attendants, photographers, and more. We will take all the help we can get,” said Brennan.

To volunteer, or for more information, call, or text Brennan at 315-382-6200.

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## How You Can Have the Best Relationships

I did it all wrong for years. And I was miserable! I’m talking about my attitude and my stinkin’ thinkin’ that was focused on the thought “What about me?!” And it came out in my behavior: If I didn’t get my way all the time, I tried to control other people through my temper.

I honestly didn’t know what my problem was until God spoke to my heart one day and said, “You’re selfish. You’ve studied My Word about spiritual warfare, prosperity, healing, having power and authority as a believer in Christ...but how much time have you studied about My love?”

That was the beginning of discovering that I would never be happy and have peace until I learned to love like Jesus loves.

One of the first messages God put on my heart to teach was titled “Tell Them I Love Them.” At first, I didn’t want to do it. I thought, *People already know You love them, God. I want to teach a really powerful message...something they haven’t heard before.* But God showed me that if people really knew He loved them and what that means, then they would live much differently than they do.

See, when we know and experience God’s love, we can share it with others. Imagine what the world would be like if everyone who calls themselves a Christian would really love each other with His love. Think about it. There would be no gossip, no judgment or criticism, no exclusive attitudes that make others feel rejected, and people’s needs would be met much more than they are.

Thankfully, Jesus gave us very real, practical examples of how we can love the way God loves us.

**Loving Others “to the Highest Degree”**

John 13:1 says Jesus “loved them to the last and to the highest degree” (AMP). In the following verses, He demonstrates what it means to love

others like this. And it shocked the disciples.

In those days, there were servants who washed people’s feet when they came to visit. It’s likely they were considered the lowliest servants in the household. Now Jesus, the Son of God Himself, got up from supper, took the servant’s towel, and proceeded to wash the disciples’ feet. His message to them was to love one another by being a servant, because God wants His love to flow through us and touch other people’s lives.

Love is not just a feeling or a theory; it’s a decision we make and an action we take. It’s so important for us to study what the Bible teaches about God’s love so we can learn to love like Jesus. And we have to pray for God to help us learn how to walk in love—to be a servant who “washes feet” by helping others.

**Washing Others’ Feet**  
Matthew 7:12 (NIV) says, “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you...” This is so critical because if we want to have meaningful relationships with others, then we need to invest in their lives by giving them support, encouraging them, helping to meet their needs—serving them as we’re able to do it.

It’s easy to help people you like or those you want to impress. But when it comes to doing something for someone you don’t know or someone you don’t have a natural interest in, it can be a different story. And sometimes we don’t feel like serving our family. I know from personal experience that people can be willing to help others at church or work, but they aren’t willing to do the same things for their family.

I’ve learned that what I do in front of people publicly won’t really mean anything if I’m not living a life that pleases God at home, too. I thought I would die of frustration before I finally got this, so I know it’s not easy. We have to realize we’re naturally selfish, and we must make a conscious



decision to think of others on purpose or we’ll miss many opportunities to serve them.

I want to encourage you to read John 13 and pay close attention to what Jesus did and what He said. Spend some time studying scriptures about God’s love and pray for Him to show you ways you can serve the people in your life. See how many creative ways God puts in your heart to “wash feet.” You’ll probably find it’s easier and more simple than you thought it would be to help make someone’s life better.

God wants us to have success and enjoy our lives. The secret to having this life is to die to self, get over being the center of your world, and begin to focus on looking for someone who needs your help every day. When you do this, you’ll become more satisfied, content, peaceful and happy than you’ve ever been!

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s four-part teaching resource **Enjoying Successful Relationships**. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://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](http://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.

# Local scouts on 'trip of a lifetime'

## Floating the Yukon River

By KEITH R. CERNY

SAN LUIS VALLEY — A group of mostly local scouts from local BSA Troop 307 (boys) and 1307 (girls) embarked on an epic canoe trip earlier this week, floating the mighty Yukon River from Dawson City in Yukon Territory down river to Circle, Alaska.

According to local scoutmaster Matt Abbey, the Yukon River is notable for flowing the wrong direction, northward, for much of its 2,000-mile trip to the sea, as well as being one of the longest and largest rivers in North America.

"Our local scouts will tackle a very scenic 200-mile section of the Yukon which includes exploration of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, mining ghost towns, river paddle-wheeler graveyards, arctic bush communities, roadhouses and abandoned gold dredges," Abbey said. "They will become steeped in the history of the Klondike Gold Rush, the works of Robert Service and Jack London while working on their merit badges, camping skills, and advancements."

He added that this is a "trip of a lifetime, and our scouts have worked diligently on their skills and preparation."

The group will be on the river Aug. 3-10, with a haul out and recovery near the Arctic Circle, followed by a long drive south to Fairbanks, AK from where they'll return to Colorado.

Abbey gave special thanks to St. Paul's Anglican Church in Dawson City for hosting the scouts for a few days ahead of the river embarkment and to the Fairbanks Alaska Princess Lodge for letting the group camp on their lawn after the trip.

Scouts slept on the floor of the church Wednesday after a planning meeting to discuss bears, moose, water rescue and buddy boats. Many in the group visited museums and other historic sites in Dawson and completed a service project by weeding the front courtyard of the church.

Canoes and all other equipment for the trip were booked ahead in Alaska so it didn't have to be shipped there.

Updates will be provided as social media services allow, Abbey said.

The following is a journal entry by William Walker, 14, of Del Norte, a first-class scout in Troop 307:

"Day one flight one we arrived at the airport in Denver. We checked in our bags, and we were on our way. We went through the north gate at airport security. We had gotten through the hustle and bustle with 30 minutes to spare. After we had a bite to eat it was time to leave at 7:30 a.m. mountain standard time. As we boarded the plane, fastened our seat belts and took off, we whispered to ourselves goodbye Colorado.

"We saw incredible sites on the plane from mountains to oceans, fields and valleys. Then it was over. We got off the plane in Vancouver, Canada. Although we had still had two flights ahead of us. It was 11:00 a.m. and our flight wasn't until 1:30. We ate lunch and played games till it was time to leave again. We sat down and fastened our seat belts, and we were ready to take off.

"Third flight. We took pictures and admired the view then we

landed in White Horse Yukon where we waited a long time for the final leg of journey. This time we were flying to Dawson with Air North. As they told us to set our seatbacks and tray tables to their full upright positions we knew this was going to be a good trip.

"When we landed, our canoe and equipment outfitter was there and ready to pick us up and drive us to town. That night we stayed in a church and we're ready to go to sleep and have a great day the next day."



Scouts from the San Luis Valley are shown preparing to shove off on the banks of the Yukon River in Alaska.



Scouts from the San Luis Valley pictured on arrival at Dawson City in Yukon Territory.

Courtesy photos



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Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

Covered Wagon Days is set for the first weekend in August beginning on Aug. 3. Del Norte will be a hot spot for fun for the entire family with everything from a car show and a parade to a book sale and ice cream.

## Covered Wagon Days sets schedule for first weekend in August

By LYNDSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — It is hard to believe that the summer is quickly coming to a close and that the annual Covered Wagon Days celebration is just a few weeks away. This year events will take place beginning on Aug. 3 with two quilt shows coming to town and then three days of fun and activities for the entire family.

These wonderful quilt shows highlight local talents of quilters from around the Valley and beyond. Kathy's Fabric Trunk is always an intriguing and fanciful place to visit even when a quilt show is not taking place but when the quilts are brought out and hung along the walls, it transforms into a quilter's dream. Kathy's Fabric Trunk Quilt Show runs through Saturday, Aug. 5.

The San Luis Valley Quilt Guild will once again be gracing the halls and show rooms at the Rio Grande County Museum with their assortment of quilts that they have worked on for several months. Each year, the quilt guild prepares what are called Challenge Quilts for different categories, and these are on display for two weeks beginning Aug. 1. People that



come to the show are encouraged to vote for their favorite. Friday will feature the annual Veteran's dinner and auction which will be held at the High Valley Community Center. People that

come to the show are encouraged to vote for their favorite. Friday will feature the annual Veteran's dinner and auction which will be held at the High Valley Community Center. People that

**Please see DAYS on Page 3**

## Rhythms on the Rio sets stage for locals

By LYNDSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — With only one week until Covered Wagon Days and Rhythms on the Rio, South Fork Music Association and event coordinator Scott Stecken and his team of volunteers are gearing up for the busy weekend, Aug. 4-6.

The music kicks off on Thursday, Aug. 3, with a special concert in the Del Norte Town Park to close out the summer music program. The Town of Del Norte, in partnership with Rhythms on the Rio, brought one of the bands from the concert to play for free and to celebrate the beginning of the weekend-long festival which runs Aug. 4, 5, and 6.

Friday night gets funky with a touch of good jiving soul with headliners The Motet. According to their bio, "Forming over two decades ago, the funk five-piece The Motet have learned to work as an interlocking unit, with each member bolstering one another towards the best creative output. This symbiosis has led to a unique style and cohesive musical chemistry, as seen in the band's immaculate live performances and seamless blend of funk, soul, jazz, and rock."

The festival grounds located just north of Del Norte will be packed with food vendors, craft vendors and even the tie-dye tent will be back.

Stecken also confirmed that the morning yoga classes, and other activities will be available throughout the weekend. Locals wanting to come and enjoy the lineup can do so and receive a local's discount off of tickets. Tickets can be bought online or at Trade and Post

in Del Norte and at the gate each day.

Saturday night is all about bluegrass and folk music. Headliners for Saturday night are The Kitchen Dwellers and according to their bio, they are full of colorful tunes that will please crowds of all ages. "Kitchen Dwellers twist bluegrass, folk, and rock through a kaleidoscope of



homegrown stories, rich mythology, American west wanderlust, and psychedelic hues."

Sunday closes out with the award-winning Infamous String Dusters. "The GRAMMY Award-winning quintet — Andy Falco [guitar], Chris Pandolfi [banjo], Andy Hall [dobro], Jeremy Garrett [fiddle], and Travis Book [double bass] — have musical influences that truly run the gamut, but their common denominator is certainly bluegrass — the sound that has in essence defined the course of their career. The Infamous String Dusters stand out as the rare group who can team up with contemporary artists on late night television one night and headline the legendary Red Rocks Amphitheatre or perform alongside The Grateful Dead's Phil Lesh and have recently emerged as proprietors behind their newly found independent record label, Americana Vibes."

Other bands that will play throughout the weekend and bring flare and good vibes wherever they go include Cabinet with Larry Keel, The Brothers Comatose, Lindsay Lou, Shinyribs, The Hip Abduction, T-K, and the Holy-Know-Nothings and so much more.

For the full lineup and schedule of events, visit <https://rhythmsontherio.com>.

## Creede Ladies Aid Society hosts successful fundraiser

By LYNDSIE FERRELL

CREEDE — As the oldest organization in Creede, the Ladies Aid Society brought another year's fundraiser to a close on July 13, and once again, the community that supports this annual event showed up in style. The annual Creede Ladies Aid Society's Rummage Sale was a huge success, and the organization thanks the community for all the support over the years.

The Ladies Aid Society was established in 1899. Being such a small town, residents have had to rely upon one another in times of need. In true community spirit, the Ladies Aid Society continues to this day its mission

of providing financial assistance to neighbors experiencing unexpected misfortune, with the Rummage Sale proceeds being its major fundraiser.

"We were able to bring the largest department store to Creede for a day and a half. We have such generous donors every year and we are so grateful. People plan their summer vacations just so they can be here to help with this event. It is amazing to see how wonderful our community is, near and far. We are very fortunate to be able to help each other in this way," said Ladies Aid President Jenny VanRy.

The day and a half event saw crowds **Please see FUNDRAISER on Page 2**



Courtesy photos

Before and during pictures show the work that goes into the Creede Ladies Aid Rummage Sale fundraiser. This annual event was a hit again this year, raising funding to help support those in need throughout Creede and the Valley.

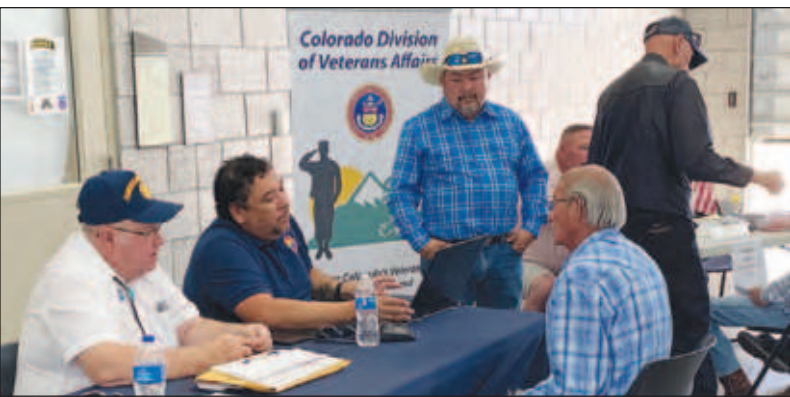
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Courier photo by John Waters

Seated (left) is Rio Grande County Veteran Service Officer Jack Rudder, and (right) is Eric Moncibais with the Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs at the Veteran Resource Fair on July 24 at the Colorado Army National Guard Armory.

# Veteran gathering a success

By JOHN WATERS

**ALAMOSA** — The Veteran Resource Fair at the Colorado Army National Guard Armory on July 24 was considered a huge success with dozens of Veterans participating, according to organizers.

The focus of the fair was to educate Veterans about the benefits available under the federal Pact Act. The legislation, passed last year, allows Veterans who were exposed to burnpits, Agent Orange, and other substances during their service to be eligible for benefits.

Although there is no deadline to apply, Veterans who file claims before Aug. 9, 2023, can have their claims backdated to August 2022.

The fair was sponsored by the Veterans Coalition of the San Luis Valley. Mary Cornum with the organization said the event was a success and had over 100 Veterans and providers in attendance.

“We are a frontier community, we are underserved in healthcare, access, and in transportation to the Front Range,” Cornum said. “We have many elder Veterans who don’t want to travel and can’t travel and yet they have to get services in Denver. Many Veterans will not travel and don’t get services. The

## FUNDRAISER

Continued from Page 1

of people flocking to the Virginia Christensen Center that was packed full of treasures donated over the years to the organization. Everything from furniture to books and more filled the gym and offered people a chance to repurpose some wonderful items.

Throughout the rest of the year, funding raised during the Rummage Sale is used to provide for those in need within the Creede community and beyond. With rising costs and inflation, the organization has seen an increase in need over the last several years and they are happy to help in every way they can. “We donate to the Homelake Veteran’s home every year in partnership with the Sewing Sisters. Each resident Veteran receives a gift certificate, cookies and the Sewing Sisters make quilts, walker bags, neck pillows and blankets.”

Their generosity doesn’t end there. The organization also provides hygiene kits inside sewn fabric bags to migrant workers in the Valley as well as bereavement dinners and so much more. “We are so very happy to be able to provide services to our communities.”

This year the fundraiser made \$28,500 in just a day and a half and that isn’t even the end number for the year. “Not bad for a day and a half and during that time we were able to meet the needs of people from Creede and valley wide. When you think about it, \$28,000 in a day and a half would make many retailers in the valley happy!”

Plans for the group’s 125th anniversary in 2024 are already underway.

VA [Veterans Affairs] is a maze that is hard to function in. Our purpose is to help Veterans function in that system.”

In addition to the coalition, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs, and Alamosa County Veteran Service Officer Bill Brown, all were at the fair providing services to Veterans.

Veterans can reach Veterans Affairs at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov). Alamosa County Veteran Services Officer Brown is at 719-589-1109.

# SLV Pride set for Aug. 25-27



Photo courtesy of SLV Pride

Members of SLV Pride accept a donation check of \$269 from the Narrow Gauge Book Cooperative in Alamosa. SLV Pride is gearing up for a weekend of events, including music, entertainment, food, and a parade in Alamosa the weekend of Aug. 25-27. On Aug. 25, the festivities get underway with a party at Spare Keg Brewerks in Alamosa at 7 p.m. Pride Fest at Cole Park in Alamosa is Saturday, Aug. 26, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Sunday a drag brunch begins at 9 a.m. at San Luis Valley Brewing Company in Alamosa and the cost for the brunch and show is \$30.



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# Compton selected as superintendent of Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

CONTRIBUTED

MOSCA — The National Park Service (NPS) announced Wednesday, July 19, the selection of Andrea Compton as superintendent of Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. She started her new assignment on July 17.

“Andrea has been acting in the park superintendent position and has already proven to be a great fit for the role,” said Acting Deputy Regional Director Jim Ireland. “We are excited to have Andrea officially fill the position. She has a passion for team collaboration to find solutions to short and long-term efforts.”

At Great Sand Dunes, Compton will oversee a staff of 26 permanent and seven seasonal employees. The park protects the tallest dunes in North America and are the centerpiece in a diverse landscape of grasslands, wetlands, forests, alpine lakes, and tundra.

In addition to serving most recently as the superintendent at Cabrillo National Monument, Compton previously was acting superintendent at Joshua Tree National Park and worked as chief of resources at both Joshua Tree and Cabrillo.

Prior to joining the NPS, Compton worked in academia and in environmental consulting. She has a master’s in fishery and wildlife biology from Colorado State University and a bachelor’s in ani-



Andrea Compton

mal ecology from Iowa State University.

“I am pleased and honored to have been selected as the next superintendent at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve,” said Compton. “While serving in the acting role, I was impressed by the park, its staff and its strong partnerships and Tribal relationships. I look forward to continuing to work with these

groups as we look to the future.”

Compton will relocate to the area with her husband, and they are looking forward to exploring the area around Great Sand Dunes and learning more about the San Luis Valley. She succeeds Pam Rice, who recently accepted a new position as partnerships program coordinator with the National Park Service’s Washington Office.

# Mid-summer seat belt enforcement period began Monday

*Seat belt citations in Colorado are up 52% this year*

CONTRIBUTED

STATEWIDE — Starting Monday, July 24, through Friday, Aug. 4, the Colorado Department of Transportation, the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) and 51 participating law enforcement agencies throughout Colorado will begin the July seat belt enforcement period.

During the same enforcement period last year, 788 citations were issued to drivers for not wearing a seat belt or having unbuckled passengers in their vehicle. That included 68 drivers who had an improperly restrained child in their vehicle.

Recent data shows that 479 drivers and passengers were killed in vehicle crashes in Colorado in 2022. Most of those lives lost (236) were not wearing a seat belt. Thirteen Colorado counties, including Gilpin County, Gunnison County and Logan County, reported that 100% of their roadway fatalities in 2022 were unrestrained vehicle occupants.

“Refusing to wear a seat belt can’t be uncoupled with a possible consequence of death. So, while you may have the right not to protect yourself, I can’t accept that unbuckled fatalities in Colorado are a far too common occurrence,” said Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “As we head into the last Click It or Ticket enforcement period of the summer, remember, there can be consequences much worse than a citation.”

Last year, 1,963 drivers were issued citations in Colorado during the April and May Click It or Ticket enforcement periods. This year, 2,992 drivers were cited during the same two enforcement periods. This is a nearly 52% increase from last year.

“Those who decide to go unbuckled must understand they are at greater risk of injury or death in the event of a crash,” said CDOT’s Office of Transportation Safety Director Darrell Lingk. “We have the power to lower the

rate of unbuckled traffic fatalities with one simple action: wear your seat belt.”

Properly wearing a seat belt is crucial — no matter if you’re the driver, a passenger, or sitting in the second or third row of a vehicle. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), wearing a seat belt in the front seat of a vehicle reduces the risk of moderate injury by 50% and fatal injury by 45%. Additionally, nearly 60% of backseat passengers who were killed in a crash in 2021 nationwide were unbuckled. Wearing a seat belt will always be the first choice a driver or passenger can make to prioritize safety while on the road.

The Click It or Ticket campaign urges Coloradans and visitors to fasten their seat belts, every ride, every time. Proper seat belt usage is the No. 1 way to protect yourself in the event of a vehicle crash and minimize the risk of injury or death. Fines for not buckling up begin at \$65, and parents or caregivers caught with an improperly restrained child can receive a minimum fine of \$82.

• Adults — Colorado has a secondary enforcement law for adult drivers and front-seat passengers. Drivers can be ticketed for violating the seat belt law if they are stopped for another traffic violation.

• Teens — Colorado’s Graduated Drivers Licensing (GDL) law requires all drivers under 18 and their passengers, regardless of their age, to wear seat belts. This is a primary enforcement, meaning teens can be pulled over simply for not wearing a seat belt or having passengers without seat belts.

• Children — Colorado’s Child Passenger Safety law is a primary enforcement, meaning the driver can be stopped and ticketed if an officer sees an unrestrained or improperly restrained child under age 16 in the vehicle.

Click It or Ticket is a nationwide campaign from NHTSA. Since Click It or Ticket was introduced in Colorado in 2002, statewide seat belt use has increased from 72% to 87%. For more information about seat belt safety and enforcement citation numbers, visit [SeatBeltsColorado.com](http://SeatBeltsColorado.com).

# DAYS

Continued from Page 1

community Center this year. The dinner begins at 6 p.m. and raises funds for the Homelake Veterans Center in Monte Vista. Tickets for this event will be available for purchase at the door.

Saturday is packed full of events that kick off at 7 a.m. with the Val Alto pancake breakfast at the High Valley Community Center and the Bees Knees 5k run. The starting line and registration will also be at the community center.

As people finish breakfast, they can go to the annual Del Norte Public Library book sale and support the community organization. All proceeds from these events go toward community funded projects.

At 9 a.m. there will be a car show at the Del Norte Town Park and a merchant open house all along Grande Avenue. The parade kicks off at 10 a.m. and this year’s theme is “Through the Ages”. Parade participants will be decorating floats with 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s themes.

At 11 a.m., the Del Norte Fire Department serves barbecue off the grill for its annual fundraiser. After lunch at the fire department, people can visit the Rio Grande County Museum for its annual ice cream social and fundraiser that will help preserve the Barlow and Sanderson Stagecoach and Stage Office.

Afterward, and as the warm afternoon hits the streets of Del Norte, adults can have a beer at the new beer garden and then take a tour of the Historic Windsor Hotel.

The park will busy with plenty for people to do — enjoy the car show, participate in corn hole, volleyball, and horseshoe tournaments, and shop the many vendors that will be set up.

The weekend will end with the annual fly-in breakfast at the Kent Rominger Airport and church in the park. For more information or a full schedule of events, visit [www.coveredwagondays.com](http://www.coveredwagondays.com) or visit them on Facebook under Covered Wagon Days.

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## 07 Help Wanted

**Ecodynamics Inc is hiring a general shop and field worker.** Tasks include inventory, loading customer orders, shop cleaning, pump tech.assistant in the field. Please drop off resume in person at 5492 US Hwy 160 E, M.V. For more info, call 719/852-2662 (8-23)

**Rio Grande County Department of Social Services is seeking an Employment Benefits Unit Case Manager.** Position provides a full range of ongoing case management services to clients. Requirements are a High School Diploma or GED, in addition to one to three months related experience and/or training, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must have computer skills, including word processing, spreadsheet applications, and various data entry programs. \$18.34/hour (negotiable)

depending on experience). Background check and pre-employment drug testing, including testing for marijuana is required. Applications are available online at [www.riograndecounty.org](http://www.riograndecounty.org) or pick up and submit to Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. (8-23)

**Rio Grande County Clerk & Recorder Office is seeking a Deputy Clerk.** This position assists the public in person and over the phone, processes documents for recording, Maintains receipts. Assists with voter registration and election preparation and other duties. Requirements are a High School Diploma or GED, in addition to one to three months related experience and/or training, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must have computer skills, including word processing, spreadsheet applications, and various data entry programs. \$17.18 -\$17.86/hour (negotiable depending on experience). Background check and pre-employment drug testing, including testing for marijuana is required. Applications are available online at [www.riograndecounty.org](http://www.riograndecounty.org) or pick up and submit to Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. (8-23)

**Needed: EXPERIENCED Head**

**Cook-Monte Vista - (2+ years experience; references needed).** This position is responsible for Food Preparation according to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and must be familiar with Colorado Retail Food Establishments Rules and Regulations and certification Food Safety and Handling. Cooks and oversees the preparation and service of meal. Cooks in large quantities. Paperwork. Must be familiar with the monthly inventory of food and supplies. Will assure the safety and hygiene of food preparation and food delivery. Hours: 5:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., M-F. For more information call 719-589-4511. Applications and Full Job Descriptions are available at South-Central Colorado Seniors, Inc., 1116 3rd St. Alamosa CO or call 719-589-4511 for more information. (8-9)

**Monte Vista Head Start is accepting applications** for the following Positions: Teachers Assistants and a Fulltime Floating Substitute Teacher. Requirements: High School Diploma or Equivalent. CDA/Colorado Shines Level 2 or Higher. Please Contact MVHS or Pick up an Application at: Monte Vista Head Start, 2863 Sherman Avenue, Monte Vista, Co 81144, (719) 852- 3215 (8-2)

**Work for Rent.** One Queen, small

motel Room. Wolf Creek Ranch Ski Lodge. 9 miles from Wolf Creek Ski Area. Free utility, free wifi, and free direct tv. Email or call us for an application. [wcrsl@wolfcreekranchco.com](mailto:wcrsl@wolfcreekranchco.com) (719) 873-5371 (8-9)

**Remarkable 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. (8-9)

**WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge is hiring for Operator I positions...** starting at \$18.00/hour NO CDL REQUIRED! Or \$19.68/hour for those with a CDL License! REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must have a current and valid Drivers License. Applicants should have a high school diploma or GED and six months or more of relevant experience. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County, please note that the cho-

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com)

## 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 7/27 (inches)				
		7/27	7/26	7/25	7/24	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day	
		Moravian 69	04/05	0.08	0.10	0.13	0.14	0.18	0.31	0.45	0.59
Moravian 69	05/05	0.20	0.24	0.29	0.29	0.43	0.72	1.02	1.30	1.84	
Early Wheat	04/05	0.10	0.13	0.16	0.17	0.23	0.39	0.57	0.74	1.10	
Early Wheat	05/05	0.20	0.24	0.29	0.29	0.43	0.72	1.02	1.30	1.84	
White Wheat	04/05	0.14	0.18	0.23	0.23	0.32	0.55	0.78	1.01	1.47	
White Wheat	05/05	0.20	0.24	0.29	0.29	0.43	0.72	1.02	1.30	1.84	
WinterWheat	10/01	0.06	0.08	0.10	0.11	0.14	0.24	0.35	0.46	0.69	
<b>Potatoes</b>											
Norkotah	05/05	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.31	0.45	0.76	1.07	1.36	1.93	
Centennial	05/05	0.20	0.24	0.29	0.29	0.43	0.72	1.02	1.30	1.84	
Nugget	05/05	0.19	0.23	0.28	0.28	0.41	0.69	0.97	1.23	1.75	
Alfalfa	Est.	0.22	0.27	0.33	0.34	0.50	0.83	1.16	1.48	2.10	
Lawngrass	Est.	0.19	0.23	0.28	0.28	0.41	0.69	0.97	1.23	1.75	

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-slvrc.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](mailto:andrew.houser@colostate.edu)

## CLEARY BUILDING CORP. You're invited! OPEN HOUSE SALE!

AUGUST 3-4 • 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. AUGUST 5 • 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Best Prices of the Season!



Experience the Cleary

### Advantages:

- Personal service to provide the best solution for you with our DreamMaker 3D Design Software
- Custom designs & in-house Engineering to MAXIMIZE VALUE!!

Stop in or contact us for a FREE consultation.

**ALAMOSA, CO**

6750 Cramer Rd.

(West of Comfort Inn)

719-589-2112



Featuring:

800-373-5550 • [ClearyBuilding.com](http://ClearyBuilding.com)



# Valley Wide Classifieds

sen candidate will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening and criminal background check, prior to being hired. In addition to the increased hourly rate, the County Employee benefit package includes: vision, dental and health insurance coverage, paid time off, and a generous 401k retirement plan. Operator I is a full time position – applicants must be able to operate light and heavy equipment and perform manual labor in the maintenance, repair and minor construction of roads, streets, bridges, signs, markings and related facilities. Applicants must be physically capable of periods of sustained physical exertion and may be required to lift and move up to 75 lbs. to 150 lbs. Applications are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office 305 3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 – 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website – [saguachecounty.colorado.gov](http://saguachecounty.colorado.gov) under the Road and Bridge Department tab. Please fill out and submit the County Application. A complete job description is available at the Road and Bridge Office. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge – at the address listed above, sent by email to [mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov) or faxed to: 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until qualified candidates are hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (8-2)

**WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge is looking to hire a Shop Foreman....** Starting at \$27.00/hr SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must possess a current Class-A CDL license with

heavy semi-truck endorsement and a current medical certificate. Applicants should have a high school diploma or GED equivalent, along with extensive knowledge of vehicles, equipment and mechanical maintenance procedures. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County, please note that the chosen candidate will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening and criminal background check, prior to being hired. Shop Foreman is a full time salaried position – qualified candidates will be able to perform a variety of skilled and semi-skilled duties associated with the supervision of assigned road crew which include installing, repairing and maintaining Saguache County Road and Bridge's property within the Right-Of-Way. This position is expected to work during road emergencies so you should be available to work nights, weekends and holidays when needed. In addition to the salaried rate, the County Employee benefit package includes: vision, dental and health insurance coverage, paid time off, and a generous 401k retirement plan. Applications and a complete job description are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office 305 3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 – 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website – [saguachecounty.colorado.gov](http://saguachecounty.colorado.gov) under the Road and Bridge Department tab. Please fill out and submit both applications: The Saguache County Application and the Drivers-Application. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge – at the address listed above, sent by email to [mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov) or faxed to: 719-655-2543.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until a qualified candidate is hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (8-2)

## 13 Mobile Homes for Rent

**3-2 double wide on 3 acres in South Fork.** nice place. (Horses allowed). On well water. No smokers. must provide verifiable references of employment, income, previous rental history and pass a background check. \$1075 a month 512 627 9787

**For rent: 1br/1bath, cozy South Fork Park model,** partly furnished w/laundry October 1 thru June 30 (9-month lease), for couple or individual. 55+ only. Nonsmoker. No pets or children. Must follow HOA. \$2500 month/dep \$2500. Utilities included. Extra storage and RV parking/storage negotiable. 719-849-0870. (8-23)

## 14 Business Properties For Rent

**Pleasant Professional Office OR Residential space located in Del**

## 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.

**Norte.** Approximately 800 square feet with an open entry area, separate office or bedroom, kitchen area, and 3/4 bath. \$875/month. Please call 719-850-0750 (8-23)

## 16 Vacation

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

## 17 Real Estate For Sale

**FARM FOR SALE in Waverly Area Sub-district #6,** 1 1/2 center pivots in grass and alfalfa, large hay shed, 2 bedroom home, 3 steel grainers, numerous out buildings on 8 Mile Road. Ready to farm 2023 season. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty, Inc 719-580-0770. (TFN)

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

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

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

## 23 Lawn and Garden

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

## 24 Garage/Yard Sales

**Big Yard Sale: August 4-6 8 AM-4:30 PM** 430 Cherry Street, Del Norte Construction supplies, tables, chairs, much more. See SLV Yard Sale FB (8-2)

# WANTED Rock Hounds Creede Rock & Mineral Show



**August 4, 5 & 6, 2023**

**10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**FREE ADMISSION**

Mineral Specimens, Fossils, Nuggets, Geodes, Silver Ore, Opals, Turquoise, Jewelry, Beads, Meteorites, and more...

**Geology Programs - Fri. & Sat. Evenings - 7 p.m.**

**UNDERGROUND MINING MUSEUM • CREEDE, CO**

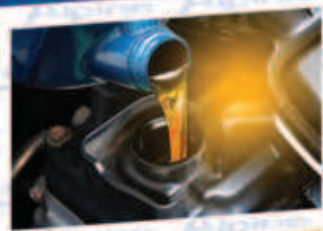
[www.creede.com](http://www.creede.com)

Sponsored by the Creede Visitor Center/Chamber of Commerce • 719-658-2374

**\$500 CASH BACK**

**\$1000 TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE**

**\$39.99 OIL CHANGE**



Fastest Growing Dealer In Colorado

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PUEBLO Ford



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Sales: (719) 319-3576 Service: (719) 319-3576 Parts: (719) 319-3576

# Valley Wide Classifieds

## 31 Health

Free: Reiki energetic healing sessions 719-842-2698 (8-16)

## 32 Fuel & Heating

For Sale: Iron Wood, Stove/Chimney Pipe on top 8-inches wide Call 719-588-2442 (8-2)

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

## 36 Miscellaneous

For Sale: Roof top Evaporative Air conditioner like New Condition \$250.00. 719-852-2945 (8-16)

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! 355 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

## 64 Autos for Sale

GMC SUBURBAN 1500 SUV FOR SALE 1999 SLT Looks great! 170,900 miles Champagne Gold w/ grey leather seats (for 8) Automatic push button 4 WD V8 5.7 liter engine \$4,500.00 Call Dan Finley 719-658-0719 Terri 720-530-3547 (8-23)

## 65 Professional Services

**Fire Mitigation: Weed And brush mowing** to reduce fire danger. Call Darrell 715-699-3679 (8-16)

**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)



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 

## LOST & FOUND



Found on 7/26 between 1st and 2nd St on Miles St in Center

*If you live in Center and are missing a dog, please give us a call! We have quite a few dogs that have been picked up over the past couple of months that haven't been reclaimed.*

*Please note adoptions go in order of contact made.*

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.*

# All adoptions over 8 months old are half-off until Labor Day!

We currently have 3 litters of puppies and could use any supplies to help them over the next few months. Puppy food, sheets and treats would be amazing! Thank you all in advance!

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.



## Steffens & Company Realty

**719-873-5605**  
30635 US HWY 160  
South Fork  
dee@steffenscorealty.com  
*Dee - formerly known as Diane Chapman - is a 4th generation South Fork Native and 1994 graduate of Del Norte High School. Licensed in 2011, Dee knows the area and knows local real estate.*

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

135 Aspen Drive West - South Fork  
4 bed 2 bath log cabin with fenced yard and 2 car garage in the heart of South Fork. VRBO OK. MLS#804126



NEW

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

**PRICE REDUCED TO \$545,000**



810 Grand Ave, Del Norte  
Prime business location, 3,000 sq ft. BUSHY CORNER LOT  
Text 134436 to 25678 for more info - Can become any business! MLS#779889

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

**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

**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



NEW

**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



NEW

**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



NEW

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

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



NEW

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

# Duncan Cabin offers primitive cabin rental experience

*Historic cabin offers unique recreation experience on the National Forest*

**CONTRIBUTED**

**SAGUACHE** — The Saguache Ranger District announced recently that the historic Duncan Cabin joined the District's Cabin Rental Program on June 24. The district's only primitive cabin offers a unique experience for the hearty cabin-goer with a four-mile hike in, no water, electricity, heat or cookstove, and plenty of remoteness. "This new recreational opportunity comes after a significant preservation process," said Saguache District Ranger Tristram Post. "We are pleased to offer this unique cabin stay experience

for the adventurous folks that prefer to stay in places off the beaten path." The cabin offers solitude and amazing views of the valley in a setting that is far from your typical 3-star hotel stay. Post added that, with a small corral on-site, horses would be the ideal mode of transportation into the cabin. As with all rental cabins on the Rio Grande National Forest, the Duncan Cabin has unique features and rules. Cabin renters should bring their own cookstove and can get water to filter, or for their stock at the nearby Pole Creek. Learn more at [www.fs.usda.gov/recrea/rio-grande/recreation/camping-cabins/recrea/?recid=84408&actid=101](http://www.fs.usda.gov/recrea/rio-grande/recreation/camping-cabins/recrea/?recid=84408&actid=101). Restoration of the cabin was conducted by partners at HistoriCorps in 2011

with the goal of preserving site history and to eventually include on the Forest Service cabin rental program. In doing so, the cabin will be preserved, maintained, and enjoyed for future generations. Funds for the majority of restoration work were allocated as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Additional restoration work will continue into the future. See the cabin preservation plan, including a brief history, on the cabin's web page above. Reservations for the Duncan Cabin are available by calling 1 877-444-6777, or online at [Recreation.gov](http://Recreation.gov) and searching for the Duncan Cabin. Reservations can only be made up to 6 months in advance. The nightly fee is \$40. There is no minimum night stay, and a maximum of 14 nights are allowed.



Courtesy photo

The Saguache Ranger District announced recently that the historic Duncan Cabin joined the District's Cabin Rental Program on June 24.

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

**SOLD**

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

This South Fork Beauty checks all the boxes, both his and hers - and is a fun place for family and friends. Custom built Log home tucked in the trees and backs up to the National Forest. The main level has an open area with beautiful carved mantel stone fireplace, vaulted ceiling, stunning entrance to behold! Custom designer backslash and large eat in counter space looking over the living area with custom soft close cabinets and plenty of storage and room for all your entertaining. Kitchen has wonderful large butler pantry with pantry sink and beautiful custom stained glass floor. The Detailed Check Boxes include radiant floor heating with four zones and two Rainin on-demand water tanks. Light Touch lighting system and electrical in the floor. Master bedroom is on the main floor with sitting area with luscious mountain views. Master bath with beautiful large tiled walk-in shower. Guest bedroom and bath on main floor with elegant soaking antique tub. Upstairs spacious loft with two electronic skylights with rain sensors that will close automatically with additional sleeping areas including office space and additional large size bedroom with barn door and bath. Enjoy your 3-car garage with large workshop and more than enough room for all your mountain toys. Your family and friends will love the upstairs bungalow above the garage with kitchenette, living area, built-in beds additional bedroom and bath. Bring your family and friends to gather to enjoy the great outdoors! Boarders National Forest, with streams, creeks, lakes rolling topography, open fields, pine, fir, aspen trees, mountain views and abundant wildlife! Beautifully designed home tucked peacefully into the woods and easily accessible to town, Wolf Creek Ski Area and the Rio Grande Golf Course Resort. Once in a lifetime Opportunity! This property perfectly captures the best of both worlds between outdoor recreation and exceptional entertainment. Start your dream and Call/Text me to schedule your personal showing today! **\$1,395,000** MLS #796960  
 37 Million Court • South Fork  
**Bernadette Gingrass •Steffens & CO. Realty**  
 (719)850-1993 • [bernadette@steffenscorealty.com](mailto: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](mailto:bernadette@steffenscorealty.com)

**PRICE REDUCED**

Darling authentic 1,232 Sq. Ft. 2-bedroom 2 bath log cabin with upgrades galore! Located in Log Haven. Tucked along the mountain side backing up to national forest with beautiful views of the surrounding cliffs. Open living room, dining, kitchen area with new propane Vermont Casting stove to keep you cozy and warm all winter long. Kitchen is quaint and bright with custom granite countertops. This cabin has a covered front porch and wonderful back deck. The perfect place to enjoy the wildlife, peace and quiet and that first hot cup of morning coffee. Nice fence back yard with gate opening to the national forest. Hike for miles out your own back door. Downstairs has a master bedroom and a full bath. Upstairs additional bedroom, bathroom and nice size sitting nook, great space to enjoy that best-selling book or use for your office den. This cabin comes complete with one car garage, storage shed, central well and town sewer. Cabin can be used as a full-time residence, or home-away-from-home winter or summer get-a-way! Rentals are not allowed in this subdivision. Don't wait! Start your adventure today! Only a short 17-mile drive from Wolf Creek Ski area. The mighty South Fork and Rio Grande River, Beaver Mountain reservoir & Million reservoir are just moments away. Bring your fishing pole and enjoy hours of world class fishing, Ski Wolf Creek, go 4 wheeling, hike, camp, hunt, Enjoying everything outdoors! Let's get started call /text and schedule your showing today! **\$325,000** MLS #800364  
**31517 Us Highway 160 • South Fork**  
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Check out this small diverse farm. The home is a 2bed/2bath, 1703.2 sq foot, historic adobe that has been fully and beautifully restored. Enjoy Colorado from the large (768 sq ft) open porch. This home sits on 126.06 deeded acres of land situated in the bottoms of the old Culebra River Drainage. The soil is sandy and loamy and has been used for vegetable crop production in the past w/o the use of pesticides or herbicides. It is watered by the San Acacia acequia with an early decree for 1.62 CFS. There is a domestic house well permit number 284703. The property also has a holding pond for irrigation water. The owner is installing a new side roll sprinkler, which will irrigate up to 80+ acres M/L. The new side roll irrigation system will be installed before closing and will increase production. There are several outbuildings useful for storage and/or animals. The farm is located in Costilla County, Colorado just north of the New Mexico state line. It is about one hour to Taos. The Rio Grande River is about 12 miles away. Red River Ski area and Rio Grande del Norte National Monument are near Questa, New Mexico about 40 minutes away. The Sand Dunes National Park is about 45 minutes north. **\$550,000** MLS #797313  
**12272 County Road R5 • San Luis**  
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**SOLD**

You Found It! Home Sweet Home, Finely Crafted, Ranch Style 2,109 square foot 3 bed 2 bath split floor plan home with detached 4 car garage for all your outdoor tools and toys! Large master bedroom bath with jacuzzi tub. Beautiful open kitchen, dining area with eat in counter, living area with cathedral wood beam ceiling, custom cabinets and wood burning stove. This home has large windows that brings in lots of natural light. Patio doors leading out to your back and front deck with 360 views of the beautiful Colorado mountains. Perfect place to enjoy your morning hot cup of coffee. You have year-round access in Highland Meadows, South Fork, CO, with paved roads, your own well and South Fork water and sanitation. This home is situated on a beautiful 1.1-acre lot with room for your RV, gardens and so much more. Additional heating sources on demand water heater and radiant floor heat to keep you nice and warm all winter long and indoor laundry area. This could be your permanent residence, your home away from home or your perfect vacation home. Moments from skiing at Wolf Creek, A stone throw away from public access to gold medal fishing on the Mighty Rio Grande River. Enjoy nearby hiking, golfing, hunting and 4-wheeling. Start Your Adventure - Won't last long. Call and schedule your personal showing today! **\$489,900** MLS #801796  
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# Adams State receives \$4.6M USDA inaugural grant

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

**ALAMOSA** — Adams State University announced recently received a \$4.6 million NextGen grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The inaugural, “From Learning to Leading: Cultivating the Next Generation of Diverse Food and Agriculture Professionals Program,” will support student scholarships and paid internships over the five years.

As Colorado’s premier Hispanic Serving Institution, Adams State will receive \$4.6 million over the five years from the investment. Zena Buser, Ph.D., professor of business, will oversee the program.

“We are excited for the USDA Next-Gen opportunity as it increases support for our students in pursuit of their academic goals as well as their active introduction to the SLV agriculture, food, and natural resources industries. The grant supports scholarships as well as internships, so will reduce students’ economic burden to pursuing a degree while simultaneously supporting their access to hands-on experience in the industry. We also thank our regional employers; they are instrumental to this endeavor as they welcome students into their operations, providing mentorship as well as experiential learning opportunities.”

The USDA \$262.5 million grant is an investment in institutions of higher education to foster the next generation of diverse agricultural professionals across the nation. This program is funded by President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act, which aims to lower costs for American families, expand access to markets to producers from all backgrounds and communities, build a clean energy economy and strengthen American supply chains.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s (NIFA) “From Learning to Leading: Cultivating the Next Generation of Diverse Food and Agriculture Professionals Program” (NextGen) will enable eligible institutions, from New York to the Northern Mariana Islands, to build and sustain the next generation of food, agriculture, natural resources and human sciences workforce. This includes efforts to strengthen USDA’s workforce through enhanced educational support, experiential learning and exposure to early career opportunities.

Eligible institutions include: 1890 Land-grant Universities, 1994 Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving Institutions (HSI), Alaska Native-serving and Native Hawaiian-serving Institutions and institutions of higher education located in the insular areas, as well as their partners. The \$262.5 million investment will provide training and support to more than 20,000 future food and agricultural leaders through 33 project partners.

“Each generation of agricultural professionals faces new challenges as we feed our world’s growing population, and the future generations give me hope that we will rise to the occasion to meet these challenges with opportunity,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “We need to ensure our youth have the education and training they need to accelerate the development of an agricultural system that is climate-smart, sustainable, profitable and equitable. This historic investment from the Biden-Harris Administration in our nation’s Minority-serving Institutions brings us closer to building a workforce that represents the richness and diversity of all the communities we serve.”

USDA’s commitment to equity across the Department and steps it has taken under Secretary Vilsack’s direction to improve equity and access, eliminate barriers to its programs for underserved individuals and communities, and build a workforce more representative of America. Earlier in the year,

the USDA Equity Commission, which is comprised of independent members from diverse backgrounds, released its interim recommendations to remove barriers to inclusion and access at USDA, including by strengthening research, extension, and teaching in the food and agricultural sciences at

all minority-serving institutions.

“Adams State University is very excited at the opportunities the USDA Next Gen grant will provide through experiential learning opportunities for high school and college students helping them explore and pursue agriculturally related careers,” said

Adams State Acting Vice President of Academic Affairs Margaret Doell. “The scholarship opportunities provided by this grant will also reduce or eliminate the financial burden of a college education for many of the participants making college an option for all.”

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# Mosca-Hooper Volunteer Fire Department holds fundraiser barbecue

By **MARIE MCCOLM**

**MOSCA** — The Mosca-Hooper Volunteer Fire Department held a community barbecue for the public on Saturday, July 22. There was no charge for the barbecue, but donations were accepted.

The volunteer fire department served beans, roasted pork, coleslaw, mashed potatoes, and a slice of bread with the dinner. There were several beverages to choose from including ice water and lemonade.

At least 150 people attended the community barbecue.

Volunteer firefighters served plates of food to the public. Many of the children who attended the barbecue rode on a fire truck that was honking and flashing its lights as they went down the road.

Volunteer firefighter Tuck Slane spoke about being a part of the department and how he felt about the barbecue.

“I have been with the department now for about 3 years,” Slane said.

“We aren’t super busy, but we do have quite a few calls and we are first responders as well. We have a department here and we also have another station in Hooper. There are 24 volunteer firefighters in total, and others waiting in line to be firefighters. The firefighters and station have been here since 1948. I really enjoyed the barbecue tonight. We do this for the community. We have had lots of people show up tonight and we didn’t run out of food so that’s a good thing. Every year, we try to have this, and it’s usually the weekend before Stampede.”

Slane said that his favorite part of being a firefighter is being helping the community.

“When something happens, something goes wrong you hope somebody comes. I enjoy helping people,” Slane said. “We had an older lady call one time, in the winter, for help. It’s hard to wait and have someone come out from Alamosa or another town. It’s nice



Photo by Marie Mccolm

**Children take a ride on the fire engine at the Mosca-Hooper Volunteer Fire Department community barbecue on Saturday, July 22.**

to be local and be able to help the community like that.”

Resident Ricky Dean was at the barbecue with his wife and daughter and stated they he really enjoyed it.

“It’s a nice meal that they give to the community. I think everyone likes to come out and support the fire department. We come every year,” he said.

Jay Young of the Colorado Gator Farm was also at the barbecue and stated, “It was an excellent barbecue. The department is just excellent, they are heroes. We had a fire a few months ago at the Gator Farm and they came out and helped us so much. They got out there, they put out the fire, saved some buildings and saved a bunch

of animals. We really appreciate everything they do. They are not just a fire department they are first responders, too, and they are a very important part of the community, and we appreciate them so much.”

For more information on the Mosca-Hooper Volunteer Fire Department, call 719-378-2339.



Photo by Marie Mccolm

**The Mosca-Hooper Volunteer Fire Department held a community barbecue for the public on Saturday, July 22.**

## Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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### CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between south and southeast
4. Celebrations
9. Pulpits
14. Pin
15. Rare laughing
16. Parts of the circulatory system
17. Financial term
18. Pearl Jam frontman
20. Cores of vascular plants
22. Strong sharp smell or taste
23. City in S. Korea
24. One from Damascus
28. Short message at the end of an email
29. It cools your home
30. Towards the mouth or oral region
31. Intestinal pouches
33. Boys and men
37. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
38. Former CIA
39. A way to arrange
41. Body cavity
42. The Great Lake State
43. A type of seal
44. Stop for a moment
46. Ancient kingdom
49. Of I
50. White clerical vestment
51. Songs to a lover
55. Prices
58. Sun-dried brick
59. Where to park a boat
60. One who values reason and knowledge

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14			15					16				
17			18				19					
20		21				22						
23					24	25					26	27
		28			29			30				
31	32				33	34	35	36			37	
38				39	40					41		
42			43					44	45			
46		47	48			49		50				
51				52	53	54			55		56	57
		58						59				
60	61					62	63				64	
65						66					67	
68						69					70	

64. Partner to feather
65. Sailboats
66. Actress Zellweger
67. Type of screen
68. Country singer Haggard
69. Puts together in time
70. When you hope to arrive

24. Tree resin
25. The academic world
26. Khoikhoi peoples
27. Infer from data
31. Arrives
32. Apart
34. Takes on cargo
35. Beloved Hollywood alien
36. Takes apart
40. Dorm official
41. Secondary or explanatory descriptor
45. Relating to wings
47. Speaker
48. Situated in the middle
52. Loop with a running knot
53. Alaska nursing group (abbr.)
54. Beloveds
56. Establish by law or with authority
57. Border river between India and Nepal
59. Millisecond
60. Revolutions per minute
61. They \_\_\_
62. ESPN broadcaster Bob
63. A place to stay

### CLUES DOWN

1. An involuntary muscular contraction
2. PA transit system
3. Leaves a place
4. Sweet greenish fruit
5. Lends support to
6. Chap
7. Singer Di Franco
8. Water at boiling temperature diffused in the atmosphere
9. Asserts to be the case
10. Doctor (Spanish)
11. Auction attendee
12. Characterized by unity
13. Soviet Socialist Republic
19. Way to analyze video (abbr.)
21. Nonclerical

### Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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# El Pomar Foundation awards \$62,500 to SLV organizations

**CONTRIBUTED**  
**COLORADO SPRINGS** — El Pomar Trustees approved \$62,500 allocated to 11 nonprofit organizations and government entities in the San Luis Valley at the Foundation's May Trustees meeting. Through the Foundation's grant making process, the following entities were awarded grants:

- Care and Share, Inc. (Colorado Springs) — \$7,000 for San Luis Valley general operating support; Trustee regional merit
- Center for Restorative Programs (Alamosa) — \$5,000 in general operating support; regional merit
- City of Alamosa — \$20,000 for the soup kitchen and emergency shelter; competitive
- Creede Musical Arts Collective, Inc. — \$2,500 in general operating support; regional merit
- Creede Repertory Theatre, Inc. — \$2,500 for technology upgrades at Ruth Humphreys Brown Theatre; regional merit
- Equal Representation of Media Advocacy Corporation (Alamosa) — \$2,500 in general operating support; competitive
- San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society (Alamosa) — \$3,000 in general operating support; Trustee regional merit
- San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center (Alamosa) — \$5,000 in general operating support; regional merit
- The HadaNou Collective (Denver) — \$10,000 for Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center support in Alamosa; regional merit
- Upper Rio Grande Animal Society (Monte Vista) — \$2,500 in general operating support; regional merit
- Valley Citizens Foundation for Health Care, Inc. (Del Norte) — \$2,500 in general operating support; regional merit

Founded by Spencer and Julie Penrose in 1937, El Pomar Foundation has an established legacy of general purpose grant making. The competitive process remains the Foundation's primary vehicle for organizations to receive funding. Additionally, over the last 85 years, El Pomar has either developed or been entrusted with the stewardship of a number of other funds, as well as presenting merit grants in each region recommended by Trustees and regional council members. Competitive applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

In an effort to increase impact and establish connections across the entire state, the Regional Partnerships program was established in 2003. Each of the Foundation's eleven regional councils advises El Pomar Trustees and recommends grants to help support its communities. The San Luis Valley Regional Council recommends grants in Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache Counties.

## CDOT crews to pave a short section of CO 142

**SOUTH VALLEY** — Beginning July 24, motorists can expect full stops and up to 20-minute delays while the Colorado Department of Transportation paves Colorado Highway 142 near the Rio Grande. Operations will continue through late August and take place approximately 10 miles east of Manassa (Mile Points 13-15). Motorists are encouraged to plan for lengthy delays, Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

CDOT crews will work as swiftly as possible to complete the surface treatment, however, resurfacing operations are weather dependent.

Council members are regional leaders in the business, nonprofit, and public sectors and provide first-hand information about current needs in their own communities. To view a full listing of El Pomar's funds and grant making areas, visit our line [www.elpomar.org/grant-making/](http://www.elpomar.org/grant-making/).

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# Agriculture mural on the Fassett Building complete

By MARIE MCCOLM

**MONTE VISTA** — The agricultural mural on the back side of the Fassett Building is finally complete. Owner of the Fassett Building, Carol Riggenbach, agreed to allow the mural to be done and Monte Vista City Manager Gigi Dennis helped with support and sponsors.

The sponsors for the mural included Molson Coors, Xcel Energy, and the Monte Vista Coop, who provided the paint.

The mural was originally started by Jamie Brodie, but he did not finish it, said Bernadette Hagendorf, who designed the mural and oversaw the projection to completion. She did not provide details on why he did not return, only that he was paid in full to finish it and did not.

Cheryl Morris, a recently retired Monte Vista School District art teacher, volunteered to help complete the mural.

Her talent and time were appreciated by everyone involved, and the mural was officially completed, according to Bernadette Hagendorf, Bill Hagendorf and Colton Hagendorf also gave their time to the mural, spraying it down



Courtesy photo

The agricultural mural on the back side of the Fassett Building is finally complete.

with mural shield, a compound that will keep the mural's colors bright and vibrant for many years to come.

The idea behind the mural was to spotlight the San Luis Valley Central Steam Locomotive No.1. Service on this locomotive originally started in January 1914. The locomotive was named "Little Nell," but was also commonly referred to as the "Pea Vine."

The mural features a large grey black locomotive prominently with white steam billowing from its

stack and from under the wheels. There are fields of rich potatoes growing, the signature crop of the Valley, and brown barley, along with picturesque grain silos, yellow hay bales, a water canal, a well-

structured barn, and some cattle grazing in a large green field. All of it is backdropped by a mountain range and clouds, with a bright orange sun in the corner.

Bernadette Hagendorf thanked

everyone involved in the completion of the mural. She said this is an excellent addition to the town.

The Fassett Building is located at 102 Adams St. in Downtown Monte Vista.

## Trujillo Family Reunion set for Aug. 4-6 in Center

CONTRIBUTED

**CENTER** — The descendants of Maximiliano/Henry and Felina Trujillo from Center will have a "Trujillo Family Reunion" in Center the weekend of Friday, Aug. 4 through Sunday, Aug. 6.

Felina Segura was originally from Garcia and married Maximiliano Trujillo. In this marriage, they had four daughters, Aunt Mabel Alvarado, Colorado Springs, Maxine (Martin) Sanchez, Las Cruces, N.M., Eurcelia (Max) DeHerrera of Center, and Marie (Andy) Barela, Center. Also, they had two sons, Arthur (Gertrude) Trujillo and Mike/Adonis (Cora) Trujillo of Center. Tragically, Maximiliano was killed in an auto accident.

Felina then married Henry Trujillo, who was Maximiliano's brother. From this marriage, came Charlotte (Joe) Salazar, Colorado Springs, Betty (Art) Madrid, Colorado Springs, Edna (Gene) Velasquez of Monte Vista, Lorretta (Leo) Manzanares of 7-Mile Plaza and Orlando (Janice) Trujillo of Denver.

From these 11 families, 69 first cousins were born.

In addition to these 11 families being represented at the reunion, the families of Anselmo (Celia) Trujillo of Center and Crisostomo Trujillo of Montrose will be attending.

On Friday, Aug. 4, there will be a Block Party in Center. This will give the attendees a chance to "meet and greet" long lost cousins.

Saturday, Aug. 5, the families will convene at the Center Community Park to join in festivities such as volleyball, softball, basketball, lawn games and of course, there will be a barbecue. This event is from 10



Courtesy photo

Descendants of Maximiliano/Henry and Felina Trujillo will have a family reunion Aug. 4-6 in Center.

a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday evening, there will be a dance at the Monte Vista Elks Lodge for the families to put on their "blue suede shoes" and dance the night away.

The final weekend event will be in Center on Sunday morning as the families will gather one last time for breakfast burritos, juice, coffee, and donuts.

Thus far, there are close to 200 family members who have RSVP'd, and more are expected to join in on the festivities over the weekend.

This Trujillo Family Reunion is being organized by Lawrence Trujillo of Center, JoAnn Trujillo, and Freida Trujillo of Alamosa, Peggy Manzanares of 7-Mile Plaza, Zach Manzanares of Denver and Anthony Trujillo of Denver.



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# Dark sky celebration to coincide with Perseid showers

By JOHN WATERS

CRESTONE — The 2023 Crestone Dark Sky Celebration will be held at the Crestone Charter School on the evening of Saturday, Aug. 12. The gathering will dovetail with the peak of the Perseid Meteor Showers.

According to NASA, the Perseid shower, which peaks in mid-August, is considered the best meteor shower of the year. With swift and bright meteors, Perseids frequently leave long “wakes” of light and color behind them as they streak through Earth’s atmosphere. The Perseids are one of the most abundant meteor showers with about 50 to 100 meteors seen per hour. NASA has called the Perseids the “fireball champion” of annual meteor showers for its record-breaking frequency of super-bright meteors, known as fireballs.

Meteors come from leftover comet particles and bits from broken asteroids. When comets travel around the Sun, they leave a dusty trail behind them. Every year Earth passes through these debris trails, which allows the bits to collide with our atmosphere and disintegrate to create fiery and colorful streaks in the sky. The meteors can travel at speeds of up to 37 miles per second.

The fragments of space debris that interact with our atmosphere to create the Perseids originate from comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle. This comet takes about 130 years to orbit the Sun once. Comet Swift-Tuttle was discovered in 1862 by Lewis Swift and Horace Tuttle. Swift-Tuttle is a large comet: its nucleus is 16 miles across.

In addition to the Perseid showers, both the Alpha Capricornids (known for bright fireballs) and the Southern Delta Aquariids are active from mid-August through mid-September, and a few extra



Photo courtesy Scott Stevens

At the 2021 Crestone Dark Sky Festival participants gather before dark.

meteors will also appear in the night sky. The charter school is nestled at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. This year, the festival will be led by Crestone astronomer Scott Stevens who, as a former professional meteorologist, has spent a lifetime thinking and working with the atmosphere.

Stevens has been using instruments to measure the darkness of the skies near Crestone and will kick off the evening by sharing his findings.

“I will review my observations, what contributes to our dark skies, what seasons are better, how clouds affect dark skies, how clear skies do, the Milky Way, and how the population in the Valley as it continues to grow,” Stevens said. “I’ll talk about amateur astronomy, and what can you do on a particular budget. There has truly been a revolution in the last 20-30 years in the night sky [viewing] because of technology.”

The evening will include a discussion about astrophotography and Stevens will offer suggestions on the gear available.

This year the festival will focus more on astronomy than entertainment says Stevens. The presentations will begin inside the school at 7 p.m., lasting about 90 minutes, and then move outside for celestial observations and all the Perseids can offer.

“We can bring our lawn chairs, blankets, binoculars, and watch the meteors,” says Stevens.

In 2021, the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) designated the Town of Crestone as an International Dark Sky Community. The town became the 31st designated as such worldwide, and the fourth in Colorado.

This fall, Stevens says he plans on having two other dark sky events near Crestone on the Baca Grande.

The Valley Courier will have news of those celestial gatherings and more on the Dark Sky Celebration as they become available.

The Crestone Charter School is located at 330 East Lime Ave. For more information, visit [www.Darkskycrestone.com](http://www.Darkskycrestone.com).

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~ Sarah S., Google reviews

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