

## Shorts



### Bouet is new Haskin Elementary principal

CENTER — Krystal Rael Bouet is the new Haskin Elementary principal, the Center Consolidated School District recently announced. She was Haskin Elementary's assistant principal for the past two years.



**Krystal Rael Bouet**

She started her teaching career in Del Norte as a first-grade teacher. Over the years, she has taught second and fourth grades, reading-math interventions and was a CLD Teacher at Sangre de Cristo before coming to CCSD in 2021.

Bouet received her undergrad degree in elementary education from Adams State University. She also graduated with her master's in culturally and linguistically diverse education from ASU. Bouet has her master's in educational administration from Grand Canyon University as well.

She said she looks forward to being the Haskin Elementary principal and is excited to welcome back students and teachers for the 2023-2024 school year.

### López is new Center Elementary assistant principal

CENTER — JoAnn López is the new assistant principal for Center Elementary, the Center Consolidated School District recently announced.



**JoAnn López**

She is a graduate of Adams State University with a bachelor's in education and a master's in culturally and linguistically diverse education.

López is a San Luis Valley native who has worked for CCSD for over 20 years. She taught kindergarten for 12 years and spent the last 10 years working with multilingual learners.

## ScSEED celebrates San Luis Valley at New Moon and Scenic Film Festival

Event was held in Center at the Frontier Drive-Inn

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — On Aug. 12, at the Frontier Drive-Inn the New Moon Celebration featuring the Wild and Scenic Film Festival was held by the Saguache County Sustainable Environment and Economic Development Organization

Please see FESTIVAL on Page 2A

The New Moon Celebration and the Wild and Scenic Film Festival was held in person this year after being done virtually that previous two years.

Photo by Marie Mccolm



## Saguache photo contest underway, open to entire Valley

By MARIE MCCOLM

SAGUACHE — Sara Fernandez is proud to announce her photo competition is back and has gained Valley recognition. Fernandez has held the competition for 9 years now, and entries from all over the Valley have come in and are still welcome.

Fernandez started the free competition when she was a volunteer for the Saguache County Museum. The museum was trying to bring more people into the museum around the time of the Fall Festival which is usually held in September.

Fernandez came up with the idea. Please see PHOTO on Page 6A



Courtesy photos

2022 Grand Champion photo titled 'Majestic' by Jennifer Kemery



2022 Technical Award and Teacher's Choice photo titled 'Frost' by Jennifer Kemery

## Saguache gallery to offer Gary Wilfong 'Westerns'

SAGUACHE — The opening of Gary Wilfong's exhibition "Westerns" is set for 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 18, at The Range.

Wilfong was born in Perry, Iowa, and carried East in a picnic basket by his mother on a train. He lived on his grandfather's farm, where he learned about life with horses, until his family moved to Stow, Maine. His love of the West began there, in front of a television set beaming "Hopalong Cassidy" into his living room. As he grew up, he



Image courtesy of The Range

Please see WESTERNS on Page 6A Gary Wilfong, Cowboy Sitting with Horse, 2023.

## Community shows support for SLV Fair

Grand Champion Beef sells for \$18,500

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — The San Luis Valley Fair kicked off its week-long event on Saturday, Aug. 5 with set up, dairy goat check-in and a free barbecue courtesy of the Rio Grande County Farm Bureau.

Sunday, Aug. 6, began with the 4-H Dog Show. Sunday had many events, including the Breeding Beef Show, the Meat Goat Show, and the Breeding Swine and Swine Showmanship shows.

Kids and young adults walked excitedly into the arenas to show their animals during the shows.

Many children and young adults also entered other competitions aside from the animals, including, crafting, baking, cake making, pie baking, woodworking, leather art,

Please see FAIR on Page 2A

Burke Temple showed the Grand Champion Market Beef of the San Luis Valley Fair on Thursday, Aug. 10. It was purchased by MV Coop at the Junior Livestock Auction for \$18,500.

Courtesy photo



# FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1A

(ScSEED), complete with vendors, wine, and movies.

Approximately 25 to 30 people attended the festival. Six vendors were spread out near the front of the movie screen. Music was played and people danced to the music and sipped drinks. Food was prepared for attendees with a VIP Pass. Two food trucks were on site.

The vendors said that the day was going well, and that the weather was nice for the festival.

Melinda Myers, of ScSEED spoke about the event, ScSEED, and the reason for the festival. Saguache County Sustainable Environment and Economic Development is a nonprofit organization that was started in 1999.

“There were a lot of stakeholders in Saguache County, and this was a grassroots organization that came together and said, what we can we do to help preserve our way of life here,” Myers said. “They didn’t want to change the Valley, and make it look like somewhere else. They wanted to improve the opportunities for citizens to learn and grow and prosper, while protecting the natural world and our water.”

Over the years, ScSEED has grown and done a lot of different projects, Myers said.

“We did a super fun cleanup site for the town of Bonanza. That’s one of the environmental things that ScSEED has done over the years,” Myers said.

A lot of what ScSEED does now is they are the fiscal sponsor for a lot of the small community organizations in Saguache County, Myers said. Some examples, she said, are the Crestone Energy Fair, the Community Gardens, the Saguache Seniors, the Crestone Artists, the San Luis Valley Seed Exchange.

“When organizations form and they need a tax-exempt status,” Myers said. “Well, to get a 501C3 is really a huge amount of hoops to jump through. As a non-profit organization we are the umbrella for these groups. They can go on and just concentrate on their mission. We take 5% of any other income and we do the reporting and their bookkeeping for them. This is the gap we are filling for a lot of organizations.”

Myers explained that the group has



Photos by Marie McColm

**The Frontier Drive-Inn was the venue for the New Moon Celebration and the Wild and Scenic Film Festival on Aug. 12 and organized by the Saguache County Sustainable Environment and Economic Development Organization (ScSEED).**



**The New Moon Celebration and the Wild and Scenic Film Festival had vendors and food trucks spread out in front of the movie screen at the Frontier Drive-Inn.**

two things that they do every year for fundraising.

“This is part of it, but we have expanded it to the New Moon Celebration,” Myers said. “We have been doing this film festival for the past two years virtually because of COVID. Now that we are able to, we decided that we should all just get together and celebrate the Valley. We have many sponsors, too.”

The Frontier Drive-Inn donated this venue for free, making it free for everyone to attend, Myers said.

“This celebration, we are here to talk about what’s working in the Valley and to celebrate why these little organizations are working hard here and everywhere,” Myers said.

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners gave grants for the event, Myers said.

The SLV Local Foods Coalition also

chipped in.

“One of our partners is SLV Local Foods Coalition, centering around our food accessibility and food sovereignty,” Myers said. “Questions we can answer with them, what can we do around here to create opportunities for our small local producers. All these kinds of issues, what do we need here in the Valley to keep things going, how can we do a little more around here to not export so much. We are in that agricultural place, but many spots are a food desert because of the exporting. We want to help educate people on how to keep more here.”

Myers said that she hoped more people would come celebrate and enjoy the films shown that night. The films were a tribute to wild and beautiful things and ways of life around the world.

For more information on ScSEED, visit their website at [scseedco.org](http://scseedco.org).

# FAIR

Continued from Page 1A

and much more. Each person was also interviewed regarding their project, and they were judged and received ribbons and placement holders in the fair.

This year’s fair marked 122 years of the San Luis Valley Fair. Annually, at each fair more than 350 youth participate in the events.

Youth use animals that they have raised or purchased and raised. They keep records of their project including feed or anything else the animals may need; they also invest a lot of time in the animals. The return comes when the animal is sold at the Junior Livestock Auction.

This year’s fair also featured food trucks set up outside and a few dozen vendors set up inside of the Outcall Event and Conference at SLV Ski Hi

Complex.

On Monday, Aug. 7, was the Market Swine Show, followed on Tuesday, Aug. 8, with the Market Goat Show, on Wednesday, Aug. 9, with the Market Sheep Show, and on Thursday, Aug. 10 with the Market Beef Show. All these shows were held in the evenings this year, which gave parents, friends, and family members the chance to see more.

Winners of the shows included Grand Champion Supreme Breeding Heifer: Burke Temple, Reserve Champion Supreme Breeding Heifer: Colton Reynolds; Champion Breeding Ewe: Emily Seger, Reserve Champion Breeding Ewe: Tynnley Buhr; Grand Champion Breeding Ram: Emily Seger, Reserve Champion Breeding Ram: Tynnley

Buhr; Grand Champion Market Swine: Elaina Consaul, Reserve Champion Market Swine: Aubrey Naranjo; Grand Champion Market Goat: Jessilyn Malouff, Reserve Champion Market Goat: Reese Anderson; Grand Champion Market Sheep: Emily Seger, Reserve Champion Market Sheep: Coulter Myers; and Grand Champion Market Beef: Burke Temple, Reserve Champion Market Beef: Kaysen Johnson.

On Friday, Aug. 11, the Junior Livestock Auction, and barbecue took place. There were approximately 500 people in attendance at the auction and barbecue, with many people standing as all the seats were taken. Monte Vista Coop paid \$18,500 for Temple’s Grand Champion Market Beef.

# OBITUARY

## Franklin Earl Rogers

Franklin Earl Rogers, of Centennial, Colo., passed away on Aug. 3, 2023. He was 79 years old.

Frank, as he was known by friends and family, was born to Jesse and Jessie Rogers on Jan. 30, 1944, in Culver City, Calif. His family moved to Del Norte, Colo., in 1946, where he grew up enjoying the outdoors with his parents, younger brother Steve, and younger sisters, Dianne and Pam.

A naturally gifted athlete, Frank was a four-sport star in high school, setting school records in football, baseball, basketball, and track. He also played the tuba in the marching band, and worked part-time at the local pharmacy, Adams Drug. It was his talent for football and baseball that led to Frank’s opportunity to attend the University of Colorado in 1962.

While attending college, Frank excelled on the football field as well as in the School of Pharmacy. Under coach Eddie Crowder, Frank played kicker, wide receiver, and defensive back. He was named Co-MVP of the team at the conclusion of the 1965 season. Shortly thereafter, he was drafted by the Denver Broncos in 1966. After spending one season with the team, Frank decided to return to school to finish his degree.

Frank was hired as a pharmacist by Walgreens in 1968, where he spent his entire working career (45 years) with the company. Frank retired in 2013.

His passion for sports never waned, however, coaching his children’s little league teams, playing golf, and enjoying hiking and distance running throughout his adult life. Frank always treasured his Colorado roots, as well as his time spent with family and friends.

Frank is survived by his three children, Mark, Chris, and Megan, his six grandchildren, and his siblings.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jesse and Jessie.

Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.



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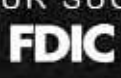
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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## BYOB

As soon as you read BYOB, I bet you thought Ol' Dutch had fallen off the wagon and was suggesting that you "Bring Your Own Booze" to some pending future social event. And that is what the acronym has meant probably since Jesus turned the water into wine as He only did that once leaving future weddings on the dry side unless someone snuck in a fifth.

These days with all the focus on "green consumerism," BYOB has taken on a whole new meaning. Now, wherever we seem to go there is a big ole sign up there making sure you B (bring) Y (your) O (own) B (bag.) The first time Ol' Dutch recalls having to have my own bag was at the grocery chain, Aldi's. They had long been a kind of wholesale grocery and would leave boxes laying around the store for a person to use packing groceries purchased to the car.

They do offer bags for 10 cents apiece but if you have learned anything about Miss Trixie, there is no way in hell she is going to pay a dime for a bag, so we take our own.

With the recent carryout bag law, we are on the path of "no bags" all in the name of being good stewards of the land but looking at stores' track records on environmental sins, I have a feeling they really don't care about adding bags to the landfill. As more stores opt out of providing bags at checkout, Ol' Dutch just cannot seem to get used to the idea so unless Miss Trixie remembers to bring bags in for me when I visit a store, I end up taking the cart all the way to the Jeep with my stuff.

Now I don't want it to seem like Ol' Dutch does not care about the environment because I do, but it's the hypocrisy that the whole going green movement embraces that just galls me. Recently Miss Trixie and I were in The Big Box store and Ol' Dutch was wandering around the aisles just looking at random stuff. The one thing I began to notice was that every item in that store was made of plastic of some kind.

I was walking past the toy section and the only way there could be more plastic in a section is if there were no aisles. Every package was not only wrapped in plastic but the toys inside were plastic, too. So I began to try and find something not made from or with plastic parts and to tell you the truth I really could not find much. Even a steel tool had a plastic handle.



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

Moving past all the household things I soon realized that pillows and plastic cups, mattresses and refrigerators, crock-pots and spoons and food containers and soap dispensers all are derived from our number one important commodity, oil. And from oil comes plastics. Even the food had to have oil to be produced so it seems like there is not one thing I can think of that does not require the black gold in some form or another.

I was able to focus long enough to get the things I needed including wiper blades, two quarts of oil (oil in an oil-based container) a camo shirt, two shirts for grand-daughters and a few other things. As I stood there in line with the "BRING YOUR OWN BAG" sign glaring at me in the face, I looked around to the other shoppers' carts to see just what exactly they had. And yes, every item was created from or wrapped in plastic.

The absolute insanity of it all really struck home for some reason and I was reminded of the new fad of paper straws to eliminate the plastic one from going to the landfill. Of course, that same paper straw is in a plastic wrapper so what did we actually save?

But regardless of the seemingly ridiculous effort to eliminate plastics by removing flimsy bags from our daily life, we are hooked on every form of plastic imaginable. So don't forget your reusable bag, made from plastic of course, when you go to your local stores as they just can't let you carry home plastic in their plastic.

*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.*

## 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](mailto: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.

## A campfire story

We decided to take a hike up a ridge to an unnamed peak last weekend. It was a great idea considering that we were prepared with water and snacks. A few hours hike would be great for the soul, not to mention our fitness. Just a short drive from our camp we found a pull-off that would surely allow access to the ridge we had chosen the evening before. As we lathered up with sunscreen at the truck, we could feel the mid-morning sun heating our backs with its insistent reminder that it was going to be hot that day, even for 11,000 feet in elevation. The first 300 feet of vertical was steep and a bit slower going but, once we reached the top of the ridge, the steepness drastically reduced to a pleasant uphill hike for most of the way. Stunning views, cooler temperatures and mountain solitude were our rewards for the two-hour hike up.

We had been camping for a few days near the lower Crystal Lake but, because it was hot, we decided to run to South Fork to get more water for the last day and a half of this adventure. It was there I learned about the Quartz Ridge Fire currently burning in the South San Juan Wilderness Area on the San Juan National Forest. As we climbed back up the mountain, we could see the smoke from the fire behind the ridge above the road up to Poage Lake.

Smoke columns from wildfires can be deceiving when you can't see the base of the fire. If I had not known the fire was 10 to 15 miles away, I might have gotten a bit nervous wondering how close it actually was and whether it was a threat to my family's adventure or not. Nevertheless, we returned to camp, cooked our dinner over our campfire, and retired after a pleasant and peacefully quite evening

watching the mesmerizing flames dance in the dark. Sure, I put the fire out before I went to sleep. I ALWAYS do. Goes without saying.

Some folks may be wondering now why I even HAD a campfire. It's a pretty simple answer. I know that the Rio Grande National Forest wasn't in any fire restrictions at the time because I work for them. But, because I was considering having my adventure on the other side of Wolf Creek Pass, I did check the San Juan National Forest and found that they were currently in some type of fire restriction. Armed with the knowledge that professional fire managers are comfortable with us forest users having campfires, I embarked on my outing on the Rio Grande side of the divide. The camp area had much green vegetation in and around it, but you could tell that it was rapidly drying out. You don't need to be a pro to understand that two weeks of hot, dry, and windy weather will dry out our landscape, slowly increasing the fire danger.

Again, I always do my best to ensure any fire that I have is a safe one. A cleaned-out fire ring served to concentrate the heat and burn more efficiently. No overhanging vegetation was at risk of slowly drying and eventually catching fire from my constant heat source below it. Finally, I kept my shovel and water close by and was prepared to use it to suppress any fire caused by a random spark that secretly rose from my campfire just to land on a receptive fuel bed and eventually ignite. This is so ingrained in me that I can hardly imagine anyone doing anything differently.

Since Smokey Bear's birthday was just a couple of days ago (Aug. 9), I feel obligated to talk about putting campfires out. Drown, stir



**Land Water and People**  
By Gregg Goodland

and feel. It's the only way. Drown your fire with water. Stir the water deep into the coals. If you don't, there is risk of the heat below slowly drying the wet coals at the top and reigniting the fire. Finally, slowly try to touch the doused coals with your bare hand. "If it's too hot to touch, it is too hot to leave." You're welcome, Smokey.

With numerous lightning fires occurring in our area and drier neighboring forests, we are heading into wildfire season. A slight change in weather is expected to bring chances for the weak monsoon to bring us a little moisture, but it may not be enough to stop the drying trend. Please check the local, state and federal jurisdictions of the areas you plan to recreate in to see if they have current fire restrictions. It is much easier to plan your trip armed with that vital information.

*Gregg Goodland is the Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest. An avid outdoor enthusiast, he promotes the responsible and safe use of our public lands.*

## LETTER

### Recognition of Farmworker Appreciation Picnic is appreciated

Editor,  
I recently read the article on the SLV Ag Coalition's annual Farmworker Appreciation Picnic. The exposure and recognition of this event is appreciated.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the following individuals and agencies: Edgar Martinez, MEP (Migrant Education Program), RMSER- Renae Chavez, Farm Fresh

Direct- Mayra McKibbon, Otero College- Migrant Seasonal Head Start- Teresa Felix, Connect for Health- Maria Adams, Lisa Lucero, Matias Francisco, SLV AHCC- Mi Salud y Mi Familia, Rio Grande Public Health, Rio Grande Hospital and Clinics, Southern CO Farms, Los Promotores del Valle de San Luis, Colorado Workforce Center (Monte Vista), Brenda Almeida-

CDPHE, Carol Gurule- CSU extension office, Early Childhood Council, Center Fire Department, Aldo Parra- CDPHE, VWHS (Valley Wide Health Systems), CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program) at ASU.

*Thank you.  
Augusto Basterrechea  
Chair of SLV Ag Coalition*

# CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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# Rains dampen the Quartz Ridge Fire

By JOHN WATERS

**SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST** — As of Monday, the Quartz Ridge Fire continued to smolder with pockets of active torching, mostly on the southeast side.

The 105 firefighters on site have been aided by wetting rains, cooler temperatures, and higher humidity that continue to slow the growth of the fire. The National Weather Service forecast for the region predicts a 30% to 70% chance of showers through Wednesday evening. A warming trend through the week is expected.

The lightning-ignited fire began on Aug. 5 and has burned over 1,440 acres. It is located 13 miles northeast of Pagosa Springs on the San Juan National Forest.

Three spot fires on the northeast side of Quartz Creek have diminished and the east side of the fire is holding at the creek. The fire is in an aspen grove on the north side and is not growing. The wildfire is burning in steep terrain in the South San Juan Wilderness. Hazardous conditions also limit access to crews from engaging in the spot fires that are now established on the east side of the creek. Firefighters are focusing on developing containment and contingency plans.

Over the last few days, crews have continued to evaluate terrain and potential areas for containment outside of wilderness boundaries. Firefighters hiked into Quartz Creek to evaluate

fire behavior and scout for strategic areas for control. Communication specialists installed a new repeater for enhanced ground-to-air and air-to-air communications.

On Monday, firefighters planned to achieve the following: Continue with suppression tactic reviews, and contain the fire south of East Fork Trail. Identify additional values at risk toward Elwood Pass and scout viable control features and contingency lines, particularly on the East Fork Road to the north of the fire and to the east. Firefighters continue to identify lookout locations to track fire progress.

Good air quality is expected across the area today due to recent rains that have led to fewer active fires and limited smoke production. The weather forecast predicts more rain showers today and tomorrow, which will continue to provide good air quality in the near term and relief from smoke in the area. Air quality data from the fire recorded in Monte Vista was a high of 31 parts per million (ppm) on August 10 and has continued downward to 8 ppm recorded at noon on Monday, Aug. 14.

In other regional fire news, the Carson National Forest near Taos, N.M., lifted fire restrictions on Monday due to, "The onset of the more traditional monsoonal weather pattern; fire danger has significantly decreased with the increased moisture, cloud cover, and higher humidity."



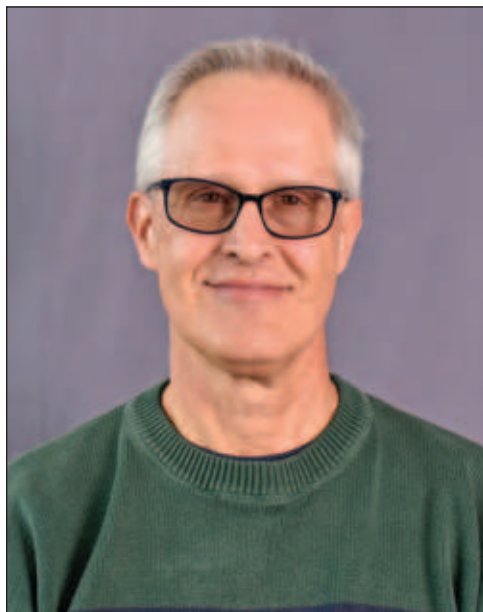
Photo courtesy National Wildfire Coordinating Group

The Quartz Ridge Fire on the San Juan National Forest. Recent rains have slowed the growth of the fire, yet containment of the blaze remains at zero percent due to inaccessible terrain.

# Adams State Board of Trustees chair is Duane Bussey



LeRoy Salazar



Duane Bussey

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

**ALAMOSA** — The Adams State University Board of Trustees (BOT) unanimously selected Duane Bussey, Class of 1982, as chair at its August meeting. He assumed responsibilities during the session.

San Luis Valley native LeRoy Salazar was elected vice chair for the board. His duties also began Aug. 11.

Michele Lueck completed her service as BOT chair but will remain with the Board through Dec. 31, when her term ends.

"Adams State is fortunate to have so many dedicated professionals serve on our Board of Trustees," President David Tandberg said. "Chair Bussey and Vice Chair Salazar continue to dedicate their expertise for the university, and we are all extremely grateful for their commitment."

Bussey worked at San Luis Valley Federal Bank for 39 years, retiring in 2021 as

president-CEO. He has been involved with Adams State in a variety of ways over the years. He served as president of the Alumni Association, the Grizzly Club Board, and the Adams State Foundation. He resigned his position on the Foundation after 20-plus years of service upon his appointment as a trustee.

A fifth-generation farmer, Salazar currently manages the family farm which raises seed potatoes, barley, and other crops. This is his third term on the board of trustees. He served from 2003 for three years and again from 2010 until 2016. Salazar received his bachelor's and master's in agricultural engineering from Colorado State University. He co-founded and served as president and CEO of Agro Engineering, Inc., from 1982 to 2000.

For complete bios on Bussey and Salazar, visit [adams.edu/trustees](http://adams.edu/trustees).

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719-378-2321 [sangreschools.org](http://sangreschools.org)**

# Crestone Needle rescue ends well

By JOHN WATERS

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — On Aug. 12, Custer County Search and Rescue responded to climbers who were cliffed-out at 13,800 feet on the Crestone Needle in the Sangre de Cristo mountain range.

Cliffed-out is a climbing term for the untenable, and sometimes fatal quandary of being unable to ascend or descend a mountain.

The Crestone Needle is considered to be one of Colorado's most dangerous peaks, especially near the 14,197-foot summit.

The two climbers rescued on Saturday were safely extracted by Custer County SAR with the assistance of the Colorado Search and Rescue Association, Saguache County Search and Rescue, and Canon Helitack.

According to Custer County SAR, the climbers were prepared to spend over six hours at high elevations with proper food, water, clothing, and communication devices

that aided in their survival.

A 2021 analysis by the Rocky Mountain Field Institute of climbing incidents found that between 2015 and 2020, seven people died in the Crestone Group consisting of the Crestone Needle, Crestone Peak, Kit Carson Mountain, Challenger Point, and Humboldt Peak. The study also concluded that of the 19 search and rescue missions Custer County SAR responded to during the study period, 46.3% were on Crestone Needle.

That study included building a story map, Rescue Patterns in the Crestones, that continues to assist in rescue operations.

**Custer County SAR crews during a rescue mission on the Crestone Needle.**

Photo courtesy of Custer County Search and Rescue



## District Judge Hopkins named new chief judge in the 12th District

*Appointment is effective immediately*

### STAFF REPORT

**DENVER** — In a Monday press release, it was announced that District Judge Amanda Hopkins was appointed by Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Brian D. Boatright to serve as chief judge for the 12th Judicial District.

Hopkins will replace District Judge Michael Gonzales who surprised many with his resignation as chief judge on July 14 after serving in that position for three years.

Judge Hopkins' appointment is effective immediately. Judge Gonzales

will continue to serve as a district and water court judge.

"I would like to thank Judge Gonzales for his service to the combined courts," Chief Justice Boatright said. "I look forward to working with Judge Hopkins and am committed to providing any support she needs during and after this transition."

Judge Hopkins was appointed to the district court bench on July 10, 2018. Prior to her judicial appointment, she began her legal career in 2007 as a deputy public defender with the Alamosa Office of the Colorado State Public Defender. She represented juvenile and adult clients.

In December 2011, she was named managing deputy public defender of

the Alamosa office. In that capacity she divided her time between court administrative matters and representation of indigent clients accused of felony crimes. Hopkins earned her bachelor's from the University

of Puget Sound in 2001 and her J.D. from Seattle University School of Law in 2006.

As chief judge, she will serve as the administrative head of the district, responsible for appointing the court

executive, chief probation officer, and clerk of court, assisting in personnel, financial and case-management duties, and seeing that the business of the courts is conducted efficiently and effectively.



File photo

Then-Chief District Judge Pattie Swift swears in Amanda Hopkins as District Judge in 2018.

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# Birdsong performing at Music in the Park

CREEDE — The Creede Arts Council is hosting eclectic musician, Brandon Birdsong for its Music in the Park concert from 2 to 4 p.m. at Basham Park on Aug. 20.

Brandon is a multifaceted artist who seamlessly blends the heartfelt storytelling of acoustic folk with a dynamic range of influences. As a singer, songwriter, and cover artist, Birdsong's performances are a

journey through the rich tapestry of music history.

Drawing inspiration from legends like Tom Petty and Bob Dylan, as well as contemporary favorites like Mumford and Sons, Tyler Childers, and Justin Timberlake, his repertoire spans across genres, ensuring that every listener finds a familiar tune to connect with. His acoustic folk sound serves as

a versatile canvas, allowing him to capture the essence of each song he takes on.

With an infectious passion for music, Birdsong's performance style leaves a lasting impression, inviting people to sing along, tap their feet, and get lost in the music.

Birdsong's extensive song list is a testament to his dedication to delivering an unforgettable experience.

# WESTERNS

Continued from Page 1A

became a builder and began to travel west on vacations.

As life unfolded, he learned about his great-great-grandmother Sarah Jane Fox, a member of the Fox Tribe in Iowa. He learned the story of his great-grandmother Mary Alice Fox Hesser who was killed in a cyclone in 1907 and buried in Hastings, Okla. He had children, and then grandchildren, members of the Quapaw Tribe through his daughter-in-law. His study of Native American histories and cultures deepened.

In 1996, Gary and his wife Joan were introduced to the San Luis Valley through Ed Wiseman, owner of Tonedo Outfitters in Moffat. Wiseman hired Gary and Joan to work for him

in the backcountry of the San Juan Mountains packing and guiding for elk hunters.

The job got them hooked on the Rocky Mountains, and they were determined to find a way to make the Valley their home. They walked into a feed store on main street in Saguache (now The Range) and found a cowboy art gallery and its proprietor, cowboy artist Wade Collins (1959-2020). One conversation led to another and by the time they had to head back to Maine, they were in contract on bare Valley land.

Gary built houses all around the area until his health no longer allowed it. In 2019, he was falling apart, but couldn't

just sit. He began carving and drawing and painting. He admired artists that signed their work with a small glyph and chose a peace pipe for his mark. He taught himself, buoyed by his memories of his mother Pinkie Wilfong, a natural artist who had always encouraged him to keep drawing. He kept it up and found he could spend hours upon hours so focused on painting he scarcely can pull himself away. In three years, he has created enough art to completely fill The Range.

The Range is located at 307 4th St. in Saguache. Wilfong's Westerns will be on view until Sept. 10. Ring the bell or call 646-734-1373, to visit the exhibition.

# PHOTO

Continued from Page 1A

for a photo competition. It was initially rejected, but Fernandez got a call from the museum 10 days before the festival, saying that the museum wanted to go ahead with the competition. Fernandez said that she put the first competition together in less than 10 days.

"It was a small competition with not very many categories," she said. "I put it together so fast. I didn't have that many categories, so really it started small. The next year though, the Methodist Church invited me to come to their Fellowship Hall and wanted me to host it there. I have been there ever since. It has been 9 years now and every year it continues to grow."

The rules for the competition are simple. The main rule is all pictures submitted need to have been taken in the San Luis Valley. Fernandez allows people to submit up to two pictures per category, and all pictures must be framed or matted. No repeat photos from previous years are accepted.

There are different categories available for submission including: Historic Buildings, Local (people or activities), Best Buddies (two or more animals, children, adults, or mix of each), Landscapes, Skyscapes (sunrise, sunsets, rainbows, storm clouds, lightning), Wildlife, Miscellaneous (still life, or any topic not fitting into the other categories), Miscellaneous-Organics (floral, trees, vegetables, plant life), Action (working cowboys, rodeo, rafting, sporting events, for example), Pets (domestic animals

such as dogs, cats, horses, chickens, cows, for example), Series (2 to 4 related photos), Black and White (any subject), Professional Category (any subject).

Some categories may be grouped together if the total number of entries are low, Fernandez said.

There will be a ribbon given for places 1-6 in each category as well as an Overall Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion, and Teacher's Choice award. All awards are by popular vote.

Entries are due Friday, Sept. 8, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church at 6th and Christy streets in Saguache.

If you cannot submit during these times, call Fernandez at 719-239-0366 to make arrangements.

Public voting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 14, and Friday, Sept. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days.

The photos will be on display with their awards on Saturday, Sept. 16, at 9 a.m. at the Fellowship Hall. Entries must be picked up between 3:30 and 4 p.m. Fernandez will not be responsible for unclaimed photos.

Entry forms may be filled out the day photos are submitted. There is no entry fee to enter the contest.

Fernandez said that each year she has received anywhere from 40 to 50 pictures.

"A lot of people enter. The public votes, it is a popular vote. The photo with the

most votes receives overall Grand Champion. What is so rewarding about this contest is I have people that enter every year, and every year their pictures just get better and better," Fernandez said. "It's so rewarding to see the people grow. I have also seen people walk out of there with a fourth or fifth place ribbon and they are just smiling ear to ear. This makes me feel like I am doing something right."

For more information, contact Fernandez at 719-239-0366.

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# More Wellness Center details provided at Keeping the Dream Alive

**Rio Grande Hospital held its annual event on Aug. 12**

By **MARIE MCCOLM**

**DEL NORTE** — Rio Grande Hospital hosted its 15<sup>th</sup> annual Keeping the Dream Alive event on Aug. 12 in Del Norte that benefited the hospital's new Wellness Center.

Construction of the Wellness Center is underway next to the hospital. Hospital Chief Executive Officer Arlene Harms talked about the importance of the center that will serve more than just its patients and staff.

The Wellness Center is going to be a large community building that is centered around some things called blue zones, Harms said. Blue zones are five places in the world that people live, and they live healthfully. According to Bluezones.com, blue zones are areas in the world where people live the longest, consistently reaching age 100.

"We have been studying these things for quite a few years. So, we are going to base this wellness center on how to live longer and how to be less sick and healthier," Harms said.

The center will have a big community meeting room "so our community can use it for anything and everything they may need. We will have another smaller meeting room, one where there will be games in there, you can listen to music in there, computers, that will be open to anybody that wants to come in," Harms added.

There will also be an exercise room where people can experience things like Yoga or learn where to go for Yoga, Harms said.

Approximately 150 people attended the event. Members of the Keeping the Dream Alive team were dressed in matching light blue T-shirts.

There were long tables set out for people to sit and eat dinner. The beef brisket and pulled pork dinner with or without green chili, potato salad, ranchero baked beans, and a tortilla was prepared by the Mountain View Restaurant. On every table, there were also plates of cookies

and brownies made by the Rio Grande Hospital, that attendees could eat.

Mountain View owners Ronnie and Glenda Martinez were thanked and honored with a gift and flowers from Harms.

The center will have small houses for staff and other people needing to stay close to the hospital, Harms said.

"We will use these for people who must have some kind of treatment that they need daily such as hyperbaric, but they have a hard time driving every day, so they can just stay there. We will use them for people who are not quite ready to go into hospice or the hospital. We can use the houses for this for a short time," she said.

Harms explained that the houses would also be built on wellness, so they would be solar. The windows would be architecturally built for maximum light, explaining that maximum light is extremely healthy. Harms explained that each home would also be equipped with a ramp in case it is needed. She also stated that all homes would be lit at night but not super bright, but enough to see.

Harms said there will be a greenhouse, where food could be grown, and walking paths.

The Wellness Center will have teaching rooms, and a commercial kitchen where people will teach about nutrition and diabetic dieting. The community room could be used for family reunions, "you just need to ask. This is all about the community and being well," Harms said.

For staff there will be massage chairs, a place to just get away.

"We didn't have all of that for COVID and I think this is really important, to have a place to just get away. A room for meditation. We have seen that people live longer when they can de-stress and think more clearly," Harms said. "It's just been our desire to do something for the community."

Harms said the facility will be about 7,800 square feet. Harms stated that although they have done wellness things before, this will be a totally different concept.

"We want to move from treating sickness to teaching health. We want to keep people out of the hospitals. It's the



Photos by Marie Mccolm

**Approximately 150 people attended the Keeping the Dream Alive event put on by Rio Grande Hospital on Aug. 12 in Del Norte.**

right thing to do to transition and help people stay learn to stay healthy," she said.

Harms said to date they have raised about \$2.6 million. Harms said it was probably going to take about \$7 million to complete the building.

"We were right on track for the build-

ing, but COVID set us back a little bit. COVID was not good for us, not going out, not being able to socialize, those things were not good for our health. This will get us all back on track from that too," Harms said.

Harms said that whatever donations

were collected at the dinner the Rio Grande Hospital board was going to match those donations.

The Wellness Center's projected date of completion will be in 2024. For more information or to donate, contact the Rio Grande Hospital at 719-657-3266.





## 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 (compactable)/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

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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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.**

## Create Great Relationships in Your everyday Life

Do you get along well with people? It's an important question because, let's face it, people are everywhere. People are in your family...on your job...in your neighborhood. You can't get away from them!

And the people in your life are not always the way you would like them to be.

Your ability to get along with people greatly impacts the quality of your life. That's why it's important to know how to relate to all kinds of people—not just the ones who are like you.

Personally, I have had to learn how to work with all kinds of people because I literally have hundreds of people working for me. When you are in that situation, you learn that you have to talk to some differently than others. You have to understand them in different ways. You can't expect the exact same thing out of every single person.

I've also learned that people respond to correction or constructive criticism in different ways. Some need a little more attention than others. Some need you to pat them on the back at least twice a month or else they feel rejected... while others are fine if you don't pay any attention to them.


Here's a common reason why our relationships get messed up: We all have a tendency to try to give other people what we need, instead of giving them what they need.

What "Makes Them Tick"?

One of the biggest mistakes we make in relationships is not studying people to discover their individual needs. If you will closely observe people, they'll let you know what "makes them tick."

Many people are stuck in self-centered mindsets. For example, some opinionated people don't understand that everybody doesn't want their opinion.

Maybe someone who thinks they're always right doesn't "get it" that somebody else would like to be right once in a while. Maybe somebody



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who is a big talker doesn't understand that other people would like to talk occasionally.

To have better relationships, start thinking more about others and noticing their needs. For instance, if I want to be a good wife and a blessing to my husband, Dave, then it requires me to pay attention to what he likes. I need to stop and listen when he talks about his dreams, preferences, and things he likes to do.

And then—and this is the important part—I need to follow through with what I find out!

**Taking Practical Steps**

This is where your love walk comes into play. Are you including others in your daily thoughts and actions? As I mentioned, walking in love includes drawing out information about others... not just getting people in a corner and talking their head off. Because real relationships work both ways—there's give and take for each person involved.

I am so hungry to see people who are enthusiastic about walking in love—people who want to do what Jesus did. Acts 10:38 (AMP) says that "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with great power; and He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, because God was with Him."

It's really simple when you think about it. Here's a personal example: "Doing good" for my husband can be something as simple as talking to him about golf—a game he loves!—and truly listening while he's sharing his thoughts with me.

There are so many ways we can do good. A common one is our attitude and behavior when we are out in public. How do you treat the server when you eat at a restaurant or the clerk who is checking you out at the grocery store? Are you rude? Or do you take the time to consider how demanding their job is?

Instead of complaining, give them a

kind word. Take interest in them, and when you're being waited on, give the person a generous tip.

That's what people who walk in love do, because they know that's God's way.

We have to be intentional about focusing on others and doing what we can to meet their needs or make their lives better. When we do, the blessings of God will chase us down and overtake us.

God wants to help you be enthusiastic about loving other people every single day of your life as you do kind and caring things for them. The truth is if you will simply take the time to start studying other people, notice what their needs are, and then put that knowledge into action through your love walk, it will dramatically improve your relationships in every area of your life!

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.



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# Self-rescued survivors recovering after house fire in Creede

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

**CREEDE** — According to reports from Mineral County Sheriff Terry Wetherill, a home was lost in a fire on Friday, Aug. 11, in the early morning hours before dawn. Though the house was a complete loss, the residents inside were able to get to safety and are recovering in medical facilities in Denver.

At approximately 3:26 a.m. on Aug. 11, 911 dispatch received a report of a house fire on the northern end of Creede. Sheriff Wetherill stated that he and Mineral County Sheriff Deputy Shane Bridsey arrived on scene and immediately started looking for people.

"You could see the glow from the sky. When we arrived, there were three people standing outside but none of them could confirm if the house was occupied. I couldn't approach from the front, so I went around the hill to the rear and started yelling into the window, but it was so hot I couldn't

get close. Then the neighbors on the other side of the road yelled to me," said Wetherill.

At that point, the neighbors informed the sheriff that the two occupants of the residence were with them across the street.

"We were very lucky that they were able to self-rescue. The fire trucks showed up and we fought the fire after that until it was out. The cause of the fire is still under investigation at this time," Wetherill said.

In addition to the sheriff's office, the Mineral County Fire Department, and Mineral County Ambulance Service responded to the fire.

In the aftermath of the fire, the Creede community is providing several locations where donations can be made, including through the Creede Elks Lodge and other organizations around town. For more information on how to donate to the family in need, contact the Creede Elks Lodge at 719-658-2661.



The Mineral County Fire Department, Mineral County Sheriff's Office and Mineral County Ambulance responded to a house fire on Friday, Aug. 11.



Courtesy photos  
An early morning fire destroyed a home located in northern Creede on Friday, Aug. 11.

Left: The residents of a home that was destroyed by fire in northern Creede were able to self-rescue and are recovering in medical facilities in Denver, according to Mineral County Sheriff Terry Wetherill.

## Stampede says thanks!

To the Monte Vista Community, and the entire San Luis Valley: With the 101st Ski Hi Stampede celebration in the books, the Ski Hi Stampede Committee would like to extend a huge "THANK YOU" to all the people who attended and made it such a special event. The Concert was a tremendous success, the Parade was awesome, the Rodeos were packed with excitement and the Carnival never disappoints.

We could not pull this off without the scores of sponsors!

The committee puts in countless hours during the year to bring this to the valley, but also knows that this event does not happen without the help of the many people who volunteer their time. Too many to mention by name, but please know your hard work did not go unnoticed.

The new building and facilities are amazing and help make the experience even that much better.

The committee looks forward to the next 100 years and planning for next year begins today. See you next year for the 102nd Ski Hi Stampede.

You Are Appreciated.

As the Ski-Hi Stampede Committee we have made the decision to move our event to the second weekend in July in 2024. Our goal is to continue to improve the entertainment we bring to the community. The Stampede has historically been on the final weekend of July. That weekend is a busy one with many other rodeos scheduled across the state.

*Sincerely, 2023 Ski Hi Stampede Committee*

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## 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.

*Please see TRIP on Page 2*



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

Courtesy photos

## Forum Theater delivers messages for all ages

By DIANE DREKMANN

**SAN LUIS** — The actors of the American Indian Academy with Casa Milagro Youth Solutions and students from the Move Mountains Youth Project enjoyed a delicious local favorite, posole with biscochitos for dessert at the Painted Sage in San Luis on Aug. 3.

The actors then got ready for a unique performance — the Forum Theater of the Oppressed, an interactive, audience participation theater. The ninth- and tenth-grade actors were originally with the American Indian Academy, which closed due to lack of funding.

Millie Duran, executive director of Casa Milagro Youth Solutions in Denver, had done work with the academy in the past. She heard the students were being split up and sent to different schools.

Duran was determined to keep the acting troupe together. The theater presents topics relevant to youth today. The group continues to perform at various venues. The event in San Luis on Aug. 3 called "Texting for Life" dealt with teenage texting and consequences of sending inappropriate pictures over the Internet. The American Indian Academy and Casa Milagro Youth Solutions will return to San Luis in October to address overdosing in "A Better Life."

Shirley Romero, executive director of the Move Mountains Youth Project, brought her 20 students to the program. Move Mountains Youth Project has been empowering the youth of San Luis Valley for 10 years, giving the youth a voice by teaching traditional values, instilling pride in their heritage by learning about their culture, and connecting with elders and the land.

The students spent two weeks in Alamosa taking an anti-oppression class at Adams State University, learning about social injustice and oppression — many of the same topics addressed in the theater.

The youth leaders come from Centennial School. Since March, the students have helped clean the acequias "ditches" and learned to grow native food like bolita beans. Romero had heard of Duran. Duran and Tony Garcia ran the only Chicano theater in Colorado — Su Teatro.

*Please see THEATER on Page 3*

## 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

*Please see FIRES on Page 8*



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.

## Changes to Colorado's Move Over law takes effect

CONTRIBUTED

Starting Monday, Aug. 7, Colorado is enhancing its Move Over law to provide greater protection for people and their vehicles on the side of the road. This change goes beyond just safeguarding police and emergency responders; it now requires drivers to also move over when passing disabled vehicles on the side of the road.

Earlier this year, Gov. Jared Polis signed into law HB23-1123, requiring drivers to move over a lane whenever they encounter any stationary vehicle on a highway with its hazards flashing — and if they cannot move over, they must slow down to at least 20 mph below the posted speed limit. The new protections come as

2022 marked the deadliest year on Colorado roads on record.

Gov. Polis has also proclaimed Monday, Aug. 7 as "Slow Down, Move Over Day" in the State of Colorado.

On July 31, the Colorado Department of Transportation, Colorado State Patrol, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and AAA held a press conference announcing the changes that take effect statewide on Monday, Aug. 7.

"With the updated Move Over Law, we are taking a significant stride toward our goal of zero deaths on Colorado roads," said Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "Slowing down for disabled vehicles shows respect for every road user, and together, we can cre-

ate a safer driving environment for everyone."

While all states have a Move Over law to protect emergency responders, Colorado joins nineteen other states that provide protections to all disabled vehicles. With this change, Colorado's Move Over laws are now among the nation's strongest.

The penalty for failing to move over or slow down for a disabled vehicle includes a Class 2 misdemeanor traffic offense, with a possible fine of \$150 and a 3-point license violation.

"People dealing with an issue on the side of the road are in a dangerous position, especially our first responders and others who regularly are near live traffic," said Shoshana Lew, executive director of CDOT. "It

is up to all of us, in every situation, to make the road as safe as possible when we see a vehicle pulled over on a shoulder. Move over and slow down for everyone, every time."

So far this year seven CDOT safety patrol trucks have been hit by passing motorists resulting in one serious injury. In addition, four CDOT attenuators trucks have been hit in Denver.

"Please think about the hundreds of law enforcement officers, fire, EMS, maintenance and tow operators when you're driving down the road or highway," said Gina Espinosa-Salcedo, the Region 8 regional administrator for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. "We

*Please see MOVE on Page 8*

# Labor Day Classic softball tourney set for Antonito

By DIANE DREKMANN

ANTONITO — The first-ever Labor Day Classic fundraising softball tournament is Sept. 1-3 and is part of the Antonito Labor Day celebration. Robert Pacheco, owner of the Pacheco Station Pay at the Pump gas station in Antonito, wanted to do something for the community. The event benefits the Little League baseball team in Antonito and the booster club in the South Conejos School in Antonito. “Historically,” Pacheco explains, “Antonito always had a Little League. Maria and Leo Smits and their son Chris ran the Little League for about

15 years. After Leo passed away, the baseball field was used for different things for about 6 or 7 years. Francine Martinez has been the president of the Little League for the past three years.” Martinez talked to the president of the booster club and asked to use the baseball field for Youth Baseball Summer League. He agreed. Pacheco has praise for Martinez. “She is excellent at coordinating with different groups, so all groups get practice time...from the pee wee 5- and 6-year-olds, to ponytail league and T-ball. She coordinates the rules, practice fields...and gets the coaches

together.” Pacheco is also a strong supporter of the booster club. “The booster club supports the school sport teams by fundraisers... they level the playing field by providing warm-ups and shoes, giving every child a chance to play sports, community support for the kid,” Pacheco said. Having enjoyed baseball in high school, Pacheco was eager to support bringing Little League back to the Antonito community. Pacheco, who is originally from San Luis, fondly remembered, “the Rico Seco gold mine used to provide

uniforms for Little League — blue with gold trim. It doesn't take much to contribute. A little bit goes a long way.” He learned those lessons while working for Phil Long's car dealership in Colorado Springs. “He supported the little things even though he's rich. It's the little things that matter,” Pacheco said. The Dutch Mill restaurant is a big supporter and sponsor. The Labor Day Classic softball tournament will have three divisions: Men, Women, and Co-ed. Each team should have 8 or 9 players. The only requirement is

to be at least 15 years old. “No exclusion,” Pacheco said, “Parents and kids can put together a team. Games are played with ASA modified rules, with unlimited home runs.” The cost for each team is \$200. The grand prize is \$1,000 and second prize is baseball gear. Some play will be on Friday, but most games are on Saturday. Sunday is the championship. “If a person could donate supplies or ref games,” Pacheco said, adding any help would be appreciated. For more information, call Pacheco at 907-390-7001.

## TRIP

Continued from Page 1

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.” Headed that this is a “trip of a lifetime, and our scouts have worked diligently on their skills and preparation.”



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

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.”

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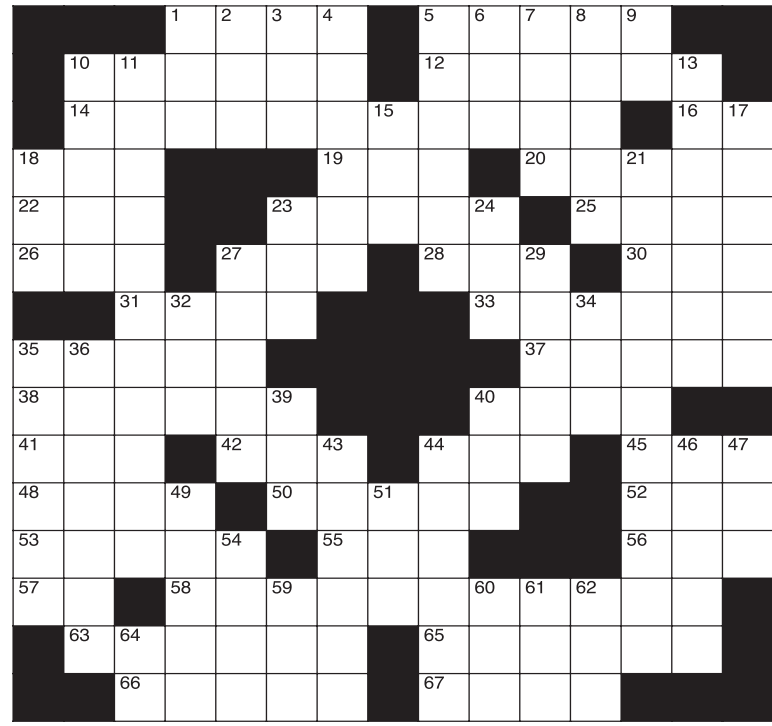
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### CLUES ACROSS

1. Amounts of time
5. A ship's place at a wharf
- 10 Point a finger at
- 12 Large, burrowing rodent
14. Raises the stakes
16. Measure of illumination
18. Cast out
19. One who is staid
20. A word used for emphasis
22. Military missions
23. Wet with rain
25. Selling at specially reduced prices
26. Word element meaning ear
27. \_\_\_ student,
28. Blood relation
30. Make into leather
31. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
33. Containing salt
35. A seat
37. A type of fine pottery
38. You're caught red-\_\_\_!
40. "Heat" director Michael
41. Expression of creative skill
42. Title of respect
44. Crony
45. Payroll experts
48. Actress Remini
50. Famed consumer advocate
52. Indigenous Thai person
53. Fitzgerald and Baker are two
55. Cooking tool
56. Decorate a cake with frosting



57. The seventh note of a major scale
58. Transfer from private to state ownership
63. A set of five
65. Removes
66. Foolish persons
67. Lower parts of a wall
21. Explain through logic
23. Having ten
24. Criticize
27. Arms of the sea
29. Belonging to a bottom layer
32. \_\_\_ Caesar, comedian
34. Licensed health care pro (abbr.)
35. Swiss cottage
36. Cleft lip
39. Loud, unpleasant noise
40. Disfigure
43. Kayakers traverse them
44. Authored
46. Small freshwater fishes
47. Macabre poet
49. Carthaginian statesman
51. Principle underlying the universe
54. Common Japanese surname
59. The bill in a restaurant
60. Small constellation
61. Chap
62. Equal
64. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)

### CLUES DOWN

1. Old EU money
2. Some put it on steak
3. Sign language
4. Sowed on the ground
5. Tags
6. Everyone has one
7. Arguments
8. N. African capital
9. Midgame (abbr.)
10. Change as needed
11. Functioning as a consonant
13. An island in the north Atlantic
15. Carpenter's tool
17. Small football player
18. Ghosts say it

### Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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# THEATER

Continued from Page 1

The event at the Painted Sage started with a couple of trust-building games. Javon Herrera played "Joker." He directed the conversation of the play and asked the audience questions throughout the performance.

First people had to face each other and "mirror" each other's movements. In the second game, one person was behind their partner, who had their eyes closed, and they had to "drive" their partner around by tapping them on the shoulder — and trusting not to run into each other.

Joker then asked the audience, "What does oppressed mean?"

One audience member said, "People feel left out."

Then, with a couple of chairs and not much else, the performance began. There was a basic skit. Madi Duran played "Shilea," a teenage girl who was texting her boyfriend "Jason" constantly. Shilea's mother asked her to help with the laundry. She ignored her mother and kept texting. Her boyfriend texted an angry message because she did not respond immediately. He wanted to know what she was doing every second. Shilea broke up with Jason via texting.

The next day at school, Jason had put a revealing photo on Instagram and threatened to post the picture all over social media. He also started texting another girl "Angie" played by actress Wichani Lee. Jason spoke to Shilea in a threatening manner, then physically grabbed her arm. An altercation was imminent.

Shilea and Jason went to the principal's office with their mothers. Jason's mother said she would take away Jason's phone. Does this scenario sound like something that might happen? Joker explained that the skit is only 20 minutes long, with a beginning and middle and no end. The audience makes the ending. There were also no props, so the audience had to use their imagination. The skit was then repeated, with the audience playing roles and the actors switching roles, showing various outcomes, trying to have the most positive one.

Diego Franco, in the audience from Centennial, came forth. When asked what he would do, he said, "The situation is already heated. Calm down or walk away."

Franco asked Jason why he shared private information...and that he went too far?

An audience member thought violence was the only solution. Duran challenged. "Is violence the worst type of communication?" "Yes," he agreed but could not see other solutions. Jimmy hung up the phone and left.

Other people said the parents should be stricter. Joker asked if the parents were oppressed? Duran

stated, "Parents are responsible for their children under 18. They can be charged...They don't know anything about it...The kids are being very disrespectful."

Romero felt Shilea should never have taken that picture. "The parents have no clue...you have to look at their phone. Don't be their friend. Mom needs to put her foot down. Be firm. And the children will listen," Romero said.

Another audience member felt "all were oppressed in their own way."

Romero made an impassioned plea to her students and audience, "There is power in the word, the truth what kids tell us...you're not rehearsing for the play...you're rehearsing for life."

Romero shared about growing up in San Luis Valley as a Chicana woman and as a mother of several daughters, she knows, "how difficult it is to raise your voice." As an educator for 32 years, she has

seen times change. She urged the youth, "to prepare the tools in your toolbox. Small rural communities don't have street smarts...when they leave the comfort of home they will have to deal with racism. Women, especially women of color are the most oppressed."

Romero added, "Knowledge is power! Arm yourself...Stay away from drugs. It will kill you...Respect each other...Don't let anyone ever let you feel less than what you are, who you are, where you came from...learn your history and strength from your elders."

The actors felt the theater presentation showed, "decisions are up to us. We can decide for and be true to ourselves. And love."

Diego Franco, a senior at Centennial, was interested in joining the acting troupe and may do so in the future.

To learn more about the Forum Theater, call Duran at 720-202-0692.

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| <b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b><br>01 TICKETS<br>02 CARD OF THANKS<br>03 MEMORIALS<br>04 LOST & FOUND<br>05 NOTICES/BAZAARS<br>06 PERSONALS<br><b>EMPLOYMENT</b><br>07 HELP WANTED<br>08 WORK WANTED<br>09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES<br><b>FOR RENT</b><br>10 APARTMENTS<br>11 ROOMS<br>12 HOUSES<br>13 MOBILE HOMES<br>14 BUSINESS PROPERTY<br>15 WANTED TO RENT<br>16 VACATION<br><b>REAL ESTATE</b><br>17 REAL ESTATE<br>18 LOTS & ACREAGE<br>19 FARM & FARMLAND<br>20 BUSINESS PROPERTY<br>21 MOBILE HOMES<br>22 PROPERTY WANTED | <b>MERCHANDISE</b><br>23 LAWN & GARDEN<br>24 GARAGE SALES<br>25 AUCTIONS<br>26 ANTIQUES<br>27 APPLIANCES<br>28 HOUSEHOLD GOODS<br>29 MUSICAL ITEMS<br>30 ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS<br>31 HEALTH<br>32 FUEL & HEATING<br>33 BUILDING MATERIALS<br>34 OFFICE EQUIPMENT<br>35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT<br>36 MISCELLANEOUS<br>37 WANTED<br>38 MACHINERY, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT<br>39 SPORTING GOODS<br>40 AUTO PARTS<br><b>FARMER MARKET</b><br>41 FARM EQUIPMENT<br>42 FEED & SEED<br>43 FARM PRODUCTS<br>44 FARM SERVICES | <b>ANIMALS</b><br>45 ANIMAL BREEDING<br>46 PASTURE FOR RENT<br>47 HORSES & CATTLE<br>48 PETS & SUPPLIES<br>49 ANIMAL CARE<br>50 LIVESTOCK<br><b>RECREATIONAL</b><br>51 BOATS & EQUIPMENT<br>52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT<br>53 TRAILERS<br>54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S<br>55 R.V.'S/CAMPERS<br><b>FINANCIAL</b><br>56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY<br>57 INVESTMENTS<br><b>TRANSPORTATION</b><br>58 MOTORCYCLES<br>59 VEHICLES WANTED<br>60 CLASSIC CARS<br>61 4X4'S<br>62 VANS<br>63 TRUCKS<br>64 AUTOS FOR SALE<br><b>SERVICES</b><br>65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES<br>66 CHILD CARE |
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### 05 Notices

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### 07 Help Wanted

**Colorado State University is hiring an Extension Area Specialist, Agriculture Production Systems**, for the SLV Area Extension team. This position has been created specifically to serve the needs of the SLV farming and ranching community which is striving to maintain economically viable agriculture production while drastically reducing consumptive irrigation water use. This is a full-time, twelve (12) month, non-tenure track Extension faculty position. For the job announcement, required qualifications, salary range, and application instructions, go to <https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/131235> Application deadline is September 10, 2023. We are committed to increasing the diversity of our staff and providing culturally responsive programs and services. Therefore, we encourage responses from people of all backgrounds and abilities. We invite you to review Colorado State University's Principles of Community that guide our mission and vision of access, teaching, service, and engagement. CSU is an EO/EA/AA employer and conducts background checks on all final candidates. For more information, call Larry Brown at 719-852-7381 (9-6)

**The Upper Rio Grande School District has received a grant for a full time Jr./Sr. High School Counselor** - for the next 3 years, starting in the 2023-2024 school year. Applicants must have a Master's Degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain an appropriate Colorado school counselor license. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, Del Norte Jr./Sr. High Principal at [ahardy@urtigers.co](mailto:ahardy@urtigers.co) or contact Mrs. Hardy at 719-657-4020. Applications for certified staff positions can be picked up at the District Office or online at [www.urtigers.co](http://www.urtigers.co). (8-30)

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## 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) (inches)				
		8/10	8/9	8/8	8/7	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
Moravian 69	04/05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05
Moravian 69	05/05	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.21	0.36	0.54	0.74	0.99	1.45
Early Wheat	04/05	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.06	0.00	0.05	0.10	0.18	0.34
Early Wheat	05/05	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.24	0.42	0.63	0.87	1.15	1.69
White Wheat	04/05	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.14	0.24	0.36	0.49	0.66	0.98
White Wheat	05/05	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.27	0.49	0.73	1.00	1.31	1.87
WinterWheat	10/01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Potatoes</b>										
Norkotah	05/05	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.25	0.44	0.66	0.92	1.22	1.78
Centennial	05/05	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.27	0.51	0.75	1.02	1.33	1.89
Nugget	05/05	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.26	0.48	0.72	0.97	1.27	1.80
Alfalfa	Est.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.30	0.57	0.85	1.15	1.50	2.14

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)

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# Valley Wide Classifieds

## PART-TIME SALES

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

**Heavy Equipment Mechanic wanted in Blanca, CO.** \$25-\$45/hr depending on experience. Benefits available. Call 719-379-4066 or visit [JTTimber.com](http://JTTimber.com) to apply. (8-30)

**Now hiring. Log truck drivers.**

**Class A CDL.** Starting at \$23/hr. Benefits available. Call 719-379-4066 or visit [JTTimber.com](http://JTTimber.com) to apply. (8-30)

**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 & Re-**

**Order 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)

## 12 Houses for Rent

**House for Rent: Monte Vista** 3-bedroom 2-bathroom \$1200.00 month. 719-580-5799 (9-6)

**Two separate quaint remodeled 1 bedroom, 1 bath units** available in a four-plex in Del Norte. No pets. \$650/month and \$750/month, inclusive of water and sewer. Credit report required. Call 719-850-0750.

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

## PRICE REDUCED

**Stately 2,818 Sq Ft. Mountain Home with Stunning Natural Light** on 3.19 acres. This beautiful 3 bed 4 bath home is your perfect retreat. Open Split floor plan with beautiful cathedral ceiling and fireplace, large windows taking in the breath-taking outdoor sunlight and mountain views. Complete with beautiful furnishing, accessories and decor. The kitchen with eat in counter, gorgeous custom cabinetry, granite countertops and butler pantry is your dream kitchen for entertaining your family and friends. Separate office space off the dining area with patio door leads out to the great outdoors. There are two guest rooms one with private bath could be considered a separate master bedroom. Large master bedroom with large walk-in closet, fireplace gorgeous walk-in shower and access to deck with hot tub. Take in the stunning views from the main floor outdoor balcony. Your perfect place for that hot morning cup of coffee or relaxing evening glass of wine. This is a luxurious home located with private access to the national forest in The Timbers subdivision of South Fork Ranches. All this, just moments from Rio Grande Golf Club, Rio Grande River gold medal fishing and world class skiing at Wolf Creek Ski area. Don't wait call and schedule your private showing today! **\$1,150,000** MLS #798101  
497 Timberline Drive • South Fork  
**Bernadette Gingrass •Steffens & CO. Realty**  
(719)850-1993 • [bernadette@steffenscorealty.com](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 floor consists of an open area with beautiful carved mantel stone fireplace, custom stained glass ceiling. Stunning entrance to behold! Custom designed designer backsplash 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 Rinnai on-demand water tanks. Light Touch lighting system and electrical in the floor. Master bedroom is on the main floor with sitting area with luscious mountain views. Master bath with beautiful large tiled walk-in shower. Guest bedroom and bath on main floor with elegant soaking antique tub. Upstairs spacious loft with two electronic skylights with rain sensors that will close automatically with additional sleeping 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**  
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**SOLD**



## SOLD

**You Found It! Home Sweet Home, Finely Crafted, Ranch Style 2,109 square foot 3 bed 2 bath split floor plan home with detached 4 car garage** for all your outdoor tools and toys! Large master bedroom bath with jacuzzi tub. Beautiful open kitchen, dining area with eat in counter, living area with cathedral wood beam ceiling, custom cabinets and wood burning stove. This home has large windows that brings in lots of natural light. Patio doors leading out to your back and front deck with 360 views of the beautiful Colorado mountains. Perfect place to enjoy your morning hot cup of coffee. You have year-round access in Highland Meadows, South Fork, CO, with paved roads, your own well and South Fork water and sanitation. This home is situated on a beautiful 1.1-acre lot with room for your RV, gardens and so much more. Additional heating sources on demand water heater and radiant floor heat to keep you nice and warm all winter long and indoor laundry area. This could be your permanent residence, your home away from home or your perfect vacation home. Moments from skiing at Wolf Creek, A stone throw away from public access to gold medal fishing on the Mighty Rio Grande River. Enjoy nearby hiking, golfing, hunting and 4-wheeling. Start Your Adventure - Won't last long. Call and Schedule your personal showing today!  
**\$489,900** MLS #801796  
74 Highland Court • South Fork  
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(719)850-1993 • [bernadette@steffenscorealty.com](mailto:bernadette@steffenscorealty.com)



## PRICE REDUCED

Check out this small diverse farm. The home is a 2bed/2bath, 1703.2 sq foot, historic adobe that has been fully and beautifully restored. Enjoy Colorado from the large (768 sq ft) open porch. This home sits on 126.06 deeded acres of land situated in the bottoms of the old Culebra River Drainage. The soil is sandy and loamy and has been used for vegetable crop production in the past w/o the use of pesticides or herbicides. It is watered by the San Acacia acequia with an early decree for 1.62 CFS. There is a domestic house well permit number 284703. The property also has a holding pond for irrigation water. The owner is installing a new side roll sprinkler, which will irrigate up to 80+ acres M/L. The new side roll irrigation system will be installed before closing and will increase production. There are several outbuildings useful for storage and/or animals. The farm is located in Costilla County, Colorado just north of the New Mexico state line. It is about one hour to Taos. The Rio Grande River is about 12 miles away. Red River Ski area and Rio Grande del Norte National Monument are near Questa, New Mexico about 40 minutes away. The Sand Dunes National Park is about 45 minutes north. **\$550,000** MLS #797313  
12272 County Road R5 • San Luis  
**Bernadette Gingrass •Steffens & CO. Realty**  
(719)850-1993 • [bernadette@steffenscorealty.com](mailto:bernadette@steffenscorealty.com)



## SOLD

**Majestic Custom-Built Log Home!** Fabulous 7 bed, 5 bath 4,619 Sq. Ft. Home with attached garage on 9.04 acres in Beautiful gated Bear Creek. This Home has several outdoor entertainment areas with wrap around decks 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)



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30635 US Hwy 160 • South Fork  
[bernadette@steffenscorealty.com](mailto:bernadette@steffenscorealty.com)

**IMPROVED PRICE** Look Reduced Price!! \$875,000 Owner Willing to Owner Finance for Qualified Buyer! Must See Custom-Built 5,350 sq. ft. Commercial Property in Fabulous South Fork, CO, Great Highway 160 exposure! This building is extremely well built. The building was built for retail with many amenities. The environment is warm and welcoming. The 3,000 sq. ft. main floor consist of large receiving office, full kitchen and bath and several large open spaces and two additional design show rooms and large 1,000 sq. ft. heated warehouse with plenty of shelving for storage and 12-foot overhead door. Lovely concrete outdoor patio with new vinyl fencing wired for low voltage lights this property sits on two lots with wiring running outside for lighting off outside signage. 1,350 sq. ft. Spacious upstairs with large open space, several large storage closets two additional offices. New ¾ custom tile bathroom and large storage over warehouse. This well-built property has radiant floor heating downstairs and upstairs baseboard hot water heat. Property is wired for Cat 5 telephone jack in all offices, design rooms, kitchen bar, receiving office - etc. Cable tv jack, upstairs big room. There are 3 gas fireplaces, 2 wall thermostats with remote control. Wired for speakers though out the building for music. Swamp cooler and wired for electric dryer, set up for washer and has a Propane fired boiler and propane hot water heater. This property is a blank canvas with so much POTENTIAL for the right builder or person. Because there is no existing business at the present time, this makes this building available for a variety of Business opportunities: Professional Work Environment for Professionals, Restaurant, Brew Pub, Events Center, Lodge or Cottage hotel, Retail etc. Come Paint your Canvas and start Your Business Adventure. Call and schedule your personal showing today! **MLS#802191** Improved Price \$925,000! **\$875,000** MLS #802191  
173 W Frontage • South Fork  
**Bernadette Gingrass •Steffens & CO. Realty**  
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## NEW

Amazing Riverfront property located in beautiful well established Deer Park subdivision in South Fork, Colorado. This property is complete with paved streets, with sewer and water tap available. Flat building site overlooking the Mighty Rio Grande River with mature evergreen trees. Bring your fishing pole this property extends to the middle of the river. Located only a stone throw away from National Forest and public river access. Start your adventure call and schedule your showing today! **\$175,000** MLS #804121  
63 Doe Circle • South Fork  
**Bernadette Gingrass •Steffens & CO. Realty**  
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## 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  
**Bernadette Gingrass •Steffens & CO. Realty**  
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**Brian Williams — [bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com](mailto:bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com)**

# Valley Wide Classifieds

## 13 Mobile Homes for Rent

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 Norte. Approximately 800 square feet with an open entry area, separate office or bedroom, kitchen area, and 3/4 bath. \$875/month, inclusive of water and sewer. 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.

## 17 Real Estate For Sale

Hermit Lakes Bare Share. Building site included. \$52,000. Call 407-310-8651

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.

## 31 Health

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## 32 Fuel & Heating

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

## 36 Miscellaneous

For sale: New 4,000lb car-lift, matching fridge & stove, chest-freezer, & a new base board trim. 719-937-1274 Moses (8-30)

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 Open Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sat. & Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m.  
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*We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.*

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# LOST & FOUND



Found together on 8/4 at 5th and Miles in Center

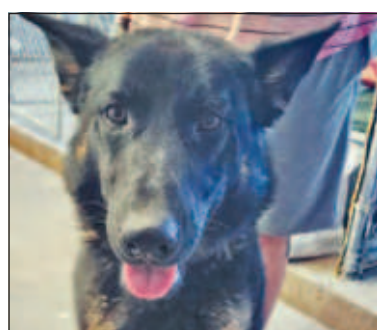
**All adoptions over 8 months old are half-off until Labor Day!**

*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.*



Found on 8/11 at 6th and Mills St in Center



Found on 8/7 out near Rim Rock Circle in Monte Vista

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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



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

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



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



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**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.

All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.



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

682 Bear Creek Circle South Fork This luxurious mountain home has 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms and sits on 15.6 acres in the gated community of Bear Creek in South Fork. Perfect for horses! MLS#806411 \$1,425,000



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

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



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

# Valley Wide Classifieds

**Belt Messenger \$49.00.** Electric Fireplace Stove \$39.00. Slide Projector with carousel \$48.00 each. Entertainment Center \$95.00. 2 Large speakers \$26.00 each. 719-376-5639 (8-30)

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

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**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.

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 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.

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# MOVE

Continued from Page 1

need your cooperation and compliance. Please give space to emergency personnel, because it isn't just a courtesy — it's the Law."

The roadside's inherent dangers are why, according to research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, motor vehicle towing is one of the country's deadliest lines of work — with a death rate 15 times more than that of every other private industry combined. In 2022, across the country, 51 emergency responders who were working at the roadway were struck and killed, including 17 law enforcement officers, 18 tow truck operators, 4 mobile mechanics, and 11 firefighters and EMS personnel. Each year, nearly 350 people are struck and killed while outside a disabled vehicle, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"As Coloradans, we look out for one another," said Skyler McKinley, regional director of public affairs for

AAA - The Auto Club Group. "This strengthened Slow Down, Move Over law takes that spirit to the roadside with a straightforward message: If you see any vehicle on the side of the road with its hazards on, slow down and move over. It's always been the right thing to do, and now it's the law, too."

Despite the existence of a Move Over law in all states, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that nearly a quarter of people (23%) are unaware of the law in the state where they live - even though 51% of Coloradans, for example, report having been stuck in a disabled vehicle on the side of the road. To help ensure widespread awareness of Colorado's updated Move Over law, AAA, in partnership with CDOT and the Colorado State Patrol, has launched a campaign to educate drivers about these changes and their role in keeping our roads safe for everyone.

# FIRES

Continued from Page 1

(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. UPPFD 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."



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