

Shorts

Center United Methodist hosting concert on July 21

CENTER — Center United Methodist Church will be showing the live concert of the New Legacy Project at 7 p.m. on July 21. The band will be performing in Nashville.

Everyone is welcome to attend the free non-denominational event at the church, 387 S. Broadway, Center. There will be a free barbecue at 6 p.m. Organizers ask the people to bring lawn chairs.

For more information, call 719-588-3568.

It's almost carnival time

MONTE VISTA — The 101st Ski-Hi Stampede carnival opens on Wednesday, July 26, in Monte Vista. And once again Wright's Amusements will have a food drive for the Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank that evening.

Bring two cans of food and an all-you-can-ride band will cost only \$25. Look for the trailer at the entrance, drop off your cans, and you'll get a ticket to get your band. Offer good for Wednesday, July 26, only.

Organizers request that the canned food items be undamaged and not expired.

CPAC to elect a Potatoes USA Board Member

MONTE VISTA — The Colorado Potato Administrative Committee has the opportunity to elect one Potatoes USA Board Member this year. The vote on this position will be on Thursday, July 20, at CPAC's monthly meeting.

Anyone interested in this board member position, is asked to contact the CPAC office prior to the meeting on July 20 by calling 719-852-3322.

VALLEY PUBLISHING SEEKS REPORTER IMMEDIATELY

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RGH Keeping the Dream Alive to promote wellness in all forms

Event is set for Aug. 12 in Del Norte

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — Almost everyone has heard the saying, "Live, Laugh, Love." Add wellness to the end of that sentiment and it will equal the theme for Rio Grande Hospital's

annual fundraising event, Keeping the Dream Alive.

"We are promoting wellness in all forms. Laughter is good for the soul," said Rio Grande Hospital Communication Officer Eva Timberlake.

RGH has switched gears this year after dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic for almost three years. Now

that the winds of change have shifted, Rio Grande Hospital is moving forward with plans for a Wellness Center and broke ground on the project in May. The center is going to be a new kind of community facility, open to the public and offering several different opportunities that support the hospital's vision of health and wellness.

Rio Grande Hospital CEO Arlene Harms spoke about the plans for the Wellness Center during the groundbreaking ceremony stating that the hospital was working to promote health and wellness in the communities they serve throughout San Luis Valley and that the hospital would be working to move away

Please see DREAM on Page 2A

San Luis Valley counties, facing drought and thirsty neighbors

Move to block water exports

BY SHANNON MULLANE
Colorado Sun

ALAMOSA — County officials in the San Luis Valley are adamant: They want their water to stay in the valley so much they're actively building new roadblocks to shut down, or at least delay, attempts to sell it to the Front Range.

The San Luis Valley, home to about 46,000 people in southern Colorado, is at the center of a decades-old story in the West: a water-based tug of war between growing urban areas and rural, primarily agricultural regions. This month, six counties in the valley held public hearings, debated and, for some, approved an agreement to create a new regional oversight board

that adds an extra layer of vetting for projects that propose taking water out of the valley.

Locals say they don't have water to spare. Once water leaves a basin, it doesn't come back, and the idea of exporting water threatens their economies and way of life.

"We've seen attempts in the past to export the water from the valley out of the valley," said Vern Heersink, an Alamosa County commissioner. "We're all joined together, not only by the mountains, but the aquifer underneath us. So we should join together and try to protect that really vital asset."

The San Luis Valley is a flat expanse with long, straight roads stretching between the San Juan Mountains and the Sangre de Cristo mountains, which rise like teeth to the west and the east.

Please see DROUGHT on Page 6A



Photo by Dean Krakel, Special to The Colorado Sun

Fourth generation San Luis Valley farmer Tyler Neeley checks a pivot irrigation system on land his family farms along the Rio Grande near Del Norte, Colorado on July 19, 2022.

Access project updates on Rio Grande National Forest

Several significant projects are now or soon will be moving forward

CONTRIBUTED

DEL NORTE — The Rio Grande National Forest provided updates on several projects and high-interest issues. Some issues on the RGNF

have garnered significant community interest and the need to provide accurate information on these matters is high.

"With significant activity having already begun, timing is ripe to provide an update to our communities on these important projects," said Judi Perez, acting deputy forest supervisor for the Rio Grande National Forest. "We hope this up-to-date information will prove helpful with activity planning for our neighbors and visitors."

The following projects are the ones of highest interest to communities and visitors alike. The updates are accurate at the time of publishing. However, it is possible that changes in schedules will be required.

- Forest Service Road 250 Horca to Jasper — Conejos Peak Ranger District

The popular 250 road is seeing increased traffic and the surface seemingly deteriorates more quickly. The district encourages motorists to travel

slower to help reduce the development of potholes and washboards. The RGNF road crew and Conejos County plan to conduct normal blading of the road a couple more times this year. The Forest is also currently soliciting/developing two separate contracts for the 250 road. One for a full road maintenance application and the second for developing a long-term improvement plan for the road surface. The intent is to reduce

Please see ACCESS on Page 2A

Duncan Cabin offers primitive cabin rental experience

Historic cabin offers unique recreation experience on the National Forest

CONTRIBUTED

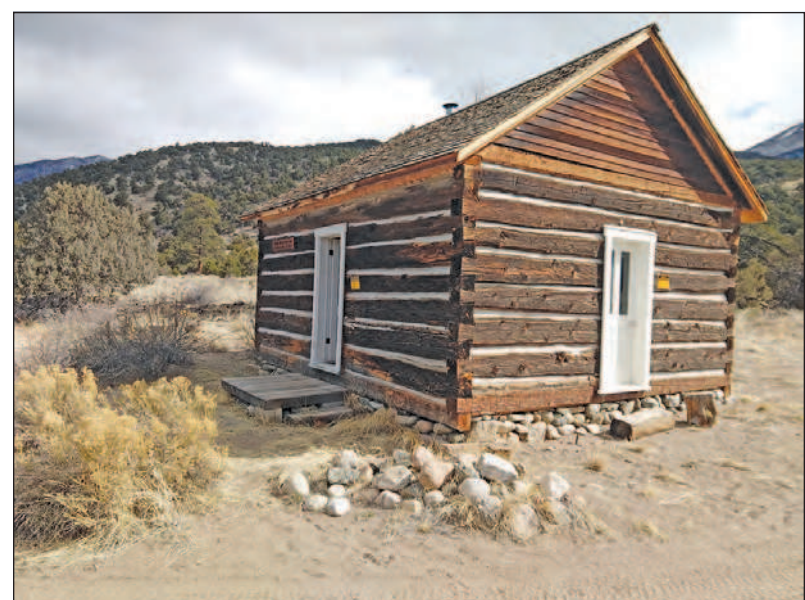
SAGUACHE — The Saguache Ranger District announced recently that the historic Duncan Cabin joined the District's Cabin Rental Program on June 24. The district's only primitive cabin offers a unique experience for the hearty cabin-goer with a four-mile hike in, no water, electricity, heat or cookstove, and plenty of remoteness.

"This new recreational opportunity comes after a significant preservation process," said Saguache District Ranger Tristram Post. "We are pleased to offer this unique cabin stay experience for the adventurous folks that prefer to stay in places off the beaten path." The cabin offers solitude and amazing views of the valley in a setting that is far from your typical 3-star hotel stay.

Please see CABIN on Page 2A

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

Courtesy photo



OBITUARY

Michael Lloyd Golder

Mike Golder left this world suddenly on July 4 at his home near Del Norte in the company of his two beloved dogs, Baylee and Hershey. He celebrated his 72nd birthday the previous night by indulging in chocolate cake and an assortment of ice cream.

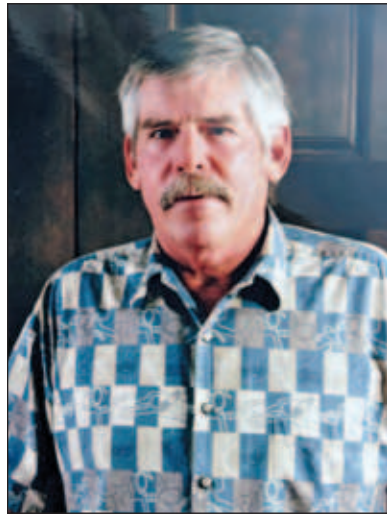
Born in Chicago in 1951, Mike grew up near Tucson on a cattle ranch with his parents, two older brothers and two younger sisters. He was a gifted athlete, an expert mechanic, a skilled homebuilder, a metal artist and a trusted friend.

A lifelong devotee of the internal combustion engine, he bought, sold, traded and restored scores of cars and trucks in addition to numerous motorcycles, dune buggies, ATVs, boats, jet skis and airplanes.

Running alongside his love of motorized craft was his deep love of animals, particularly dogs.

Mike split his time between rural areas in Colorado and Arizona and was a valued neighbor in both places, always willing to lend a hand. He was a talented athlete and excelled in wrestling, football, rugby, and baseball. He competed internationally as a member of the U.S. Waterskiing team.

For many years he ran a variety of successful Arizona businesses in home building, landscaping, sand and gravel excavation and adobe block



production.

Mike was preceded by his wife Diny and son Jesse. He is survived by sons Cord Smith, Clayton James and Russell James, brothers Donald and John, a sister Julie and sister Wendy, who was with him when he passed. He is also survived by numerous grandchildren, a great granddaughter, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mike powered through life with great energy and joy. He left us too soon but with vivid and lasting memories.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes, and words of comfort for Mike's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.



URGED discusses co-working space for entrepreneurs

By LYNSIE FERRELL

MONTE VISTA — On Tuesday, July 11, the Upper Rio Grande economic Development meeting opened with an update from Executive Director Andrea Oaks-Jaramillo who reported on the recent Entrepreneur Summit held at Adams State University in partnership with Downtown Colorado Inc.

The summit was focused on providing education and resources to upcoming and current entrepreneurs in the San Luis Valley and generated a conversation for potential co-workforce facilities throughout the Valley.

According to Oaks-Jaramillo, there is a co-working facility in Alamosa that has been successful, and she would like to see something similar on the western part of the Valley in possibly several locations throughout Rio Grande County.

"The summit really helped stir conversations about co-working spaces and helping our entrepreneurs and small businesses. They

were focusing on Center and San Luis at this point, but they were really good about including us in the upper Rio Grande so that we can really start to look at implementing some of these strategies," said Oaks-Jaramillo.

Oaks-Jaramillo continued to say that co-working spaces were beginning to take off in several places throughout the state and beyond. Rifle had an old department store building remodeled to offer office space for singular or group entrepreneurs that just needed a location to do business and to access resources and educational tools.

Oaks-Jaramillo used restaurant entrepreneurs as another example. These -co-working spaces could provide professional cooking kitchens to help start-up businesses in need of a place to cook for catering or other needs.

"We are talking about what a co-working space might look like and how it can benefit the business community," she said.

Though the concept is only in the beginning planning stages, Oaks-Jaramillo said that she is seeking funding avenues and looking to create a new job which would include management of the co-working facility.

"We are really talking about what this would look like in creating a co-working space and in terms of sustainability. Having a space where our entrepreneurs come in, have the resources and tools they need to succeed," she said.

Through discussions with the URGED board, Oaks-Jaramillo will pursue the project and more will be reported as it becomes available.

Mark Madic, director of Startup Colorado, was the keynote speaker during the July meeting for the Upper Rio Grande Economic Development board on Tuesday. Startup Colorado is a networking platform that provides resources and educational tools to rural entrepreneurs and startup businesses throughout Colorado.

ACCESS Continued from Page 1A

the needed annual maintenance and associated costs.

• **Stunner Bridge** — Conejos Peak Ranger District

The Stunner Bridge is expected to begin the replacement process in early September. The project will take up to a full year to complete, with access on Forest Road No. 250 over the Alamosa River being only minimally impacted. The old bridge will serve as the temporary access while the new bridge is constructed adjacent to it. This project will be the culmination of a

nearly 10-year long project of replacing several bridges in the Alamosa Canyon.

• **Embargo Creek Bridge** — Divide Ranger District

Access to this bridge has also been restricted for over a year. Forest road crews are scheduled to move directly from the Continental bridge project to the Embargo bridge where they will replace the deck. The road will also be closed during this repair, which may take as long as a week to conduct.

• **Continental Reservoir Bridge** — Divide Ranger District

Access to the bridge was restricted after a 2021 bridge inspection. The bridge has been closed to motorized traffic over 60 foot wide since June 28, 2022. Specialized heavy equipment has been ordered for this project and Forest road crews are scheduled to begin the repair of the bridge abutments on Aug. 1, 2023. Access to the reservoir from this location will be fully closed during the repair which will take up to approximately four weeks. See the closure notice on the RGNF's Alerts and Notices web page.

• **Forest Service Road 600 to Wheeler Geologic Area** — Divide Ranger District

FSR 600 was closed on Aug. 1, 2022, due to extremely wet and unstable conditions that were causing significant resource damage and multiple vehicles getting stuck. The road still has deep ruts, washouts and hidden voids below the road surface that can be very dangerous. Especially in the upper 4 miles. While timing remains undetermined, the Forest hopes to complete the needed repairs before the

access is restricted by snow this year.

• **Rito Hondo Reservoir** — Divide Ranger District

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is currently conducting repairs to the dam. The Divide Ranger District has closed this area to provide for public safety during the repair process. Work will be ongoing well into the fall. See the closure notice on the RGNF's Alerts and Notices web page.

• **Alberta Reservoir** — Divide Ranger District

access is restricted by snow this year.

CABIN Continued from Page 1A

added that, with a small corral on-site, horses would be the ideal mode of transportation into the cabin.

As with all rental cabins on the Rio Grande National Forest, the Duncan Cabin has unique features and rules. Cabin renters should bring their own cookstove and can get water to filter, or for their stock at the nearby Pole Creek. Learn more at www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/riogrande/recreation/camping-cabins/

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is currently conducting repairs to the dam. The Divide Ranger District has closed this area and FSR 391 at the end of the Wolf Creek Ski Area parking lot to provide for public safety during the repair process. See the closure notice on the RGNF's Alerts and Notices web page.

• **Million Reservoir** — Divide Ranger District

The RGNF has partnered with the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct improvements to the emergency

spillway this week. Water level was slowly lowered to accommodate the construction work. Access to the outlet side of the dam is now closed for public safety. There is still public access at the dam's southern side. Visitors to the reservoir will need to stay on the south side of the dam and be aware of heavy equipment working in the area. The project is planned to take approximately eight weeks to complete.

For information on the Rio Grande National Forest, call 719-850-2374.

recarea/?recid=84408&actid=101.

Restoration of the cabin was conducted by partners at HistoriCorps in 2011 with the goal of preserving site history and to eventually include on the Forest Service cabin rental program. In doing so, the cabin will be preserved, maintained, and enjoyed for future generations. Funds for the majority of restoration work were allocated as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Additional

restoration work will continue into the future. See the cabin preservation plan, including a brief history, on the cabin's web page above.

Reservations for the Duncan Cabin are available by calling 1 877-444-6777, or online at Recreation.gov and searching for the Duncan Cabin. Reservations can only be made up to 6 months in advance. The nightly fee is \$40. There is no minimum night stay, and a maximum of 14 nights are allowed.

DREAM Continued from Page 1A

from only treating the sick, and work toward treating the healthy communities they serve.

The Wellness Center will include several facilities that the communities will benefit from including a teaching kitchen so that families can come to learn how to cook healthy meals, a greenhouse and herb garden, an educational room, meditation room, access to the nearby trails and hiking and much more.

With the Wellness Center underway and plans for more growth, the hospital is grateful to the communities they serve and is looking forward to hosting them for this year's Keeping the Dream Alive fundraiser. The event will feature food provided by Mountainview Restaurant of Monte Vista and is

supported by several local sponsors including SLVREC, Ciello, Del Norte Fire Department, uchealth, San Luis Valley Bank, Del Norte Bank and many others.

The event will take place on Aug. 12 beginning at 530 p.m. in the Del Norte Fire Department's new headquarters located in the old Del Norte High School Gym or otherwise known to locals as the Field House.

"We are really looking forward to this year's event. It is our 15th year, and we have something special planned for our community. We will have some wonderful door prizes and great auction items which will be auctioned off by our wonderful auctioneer, Darrel Plane," said Timberlake. "It is going to be a lot of fun."

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.riograndehospital.org.



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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Please look up, the grocery merger is a threat to the San Luis Valley



By MARTIN T. GARCIA
UFCW Local 7

I was born and raised in the San Luis Valley, and I'm petrified over what the future holds for my community. If the Federal Trade Commission allows the two largest standalone grocery chains in the country to merge, the combined Kroger (City Market) and Albertsons (Safeway) will present a serious threat to our local economy. It reminds me of the apocalyptic satire, "Don't Look Up." In the film, Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Lawrence play astrologers trying to warn the public about a comet approaching Earth. But people are indifferent to the looming threat that will destroy them.

letting the public know this proposed merger will create clear winners and losers. With a \$4 billion payout to shareholders by Albertsons in special dividends, a lot of out of state investors will reap the rewards. But everyone else in the San Luis Valley will come out on the losing end of this deal. While our families are poised to suffer if the merger goes through, the company's top 10 executives could take home as much as \$146 million, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

dollar spent on groceries. Increased consolidation in the grocery market has only exacerbated this issue. And if Kroger and Albertsons are allowed to merge, the mega company will probably demand they sell their products for even less. It will cause many family farms to shut down, which in turn impacts hundreds of local food inspectors, warehouse workers and shippers in the agricultural supply chain.

When the mega company starts closing stores to consolidate resources and boost earnings, grocery workers will either lose their jobs or be forced to work for a divested non-union store. It wouldn't be long before their families lose access to good union wages, healthcare benefits and pensions. In a regulatory filing Kroger said divestitures could be as high as 650 stores. City Market and Safeway are some of the biggest employers in our area, and the ripple effect of these closures will be tremendous.

Low-income families will become the final victims of this merger. In an economically poor region — one of every four Valley residents is impoverished, nearly double the rate statewide. A lot of them don't have easy access to transportation, and have to walk to the grocery store. Store closings will create food deserts, denying communities access to nutritious and affordable food. According to an analysis by the Federal Trade Commission, grocery mergers and growing market concentration usually leads to a rise in food prices. And then we all pay the price, every time we go shopping.

Grocery workers who have retired stand to lose their pensions. If thousands of union grocery workers lose their jobs, they won't be able to pay into the pension fund. What happens to our senior citizens, if the fund is drastically reduced? Or worse, ceases to exist? A lot of retirees in the San Luis Valley told us, their only means of income is from their pension and social security.

Critics have called "Don't Look Up" a satire, about living in a society that ignores the threat of its own self-destruction, for rich people's short-term gain. But in this case, the Stop the Merger Coalition is sounding the alarm. It includes more than 100 labor, community and farmers groups like the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. We are urging people to look up, and see this merger for what it is: a way to enrich a select few, at the cost of our local communities. Please contact the Colorado Attorney General's Office and share your thoughts, and urge the FTC to stop this existential threat to our way of life.

Local farmers and ranchers will suffer as well. These two industries drive the economy in the San Luis Valley, accounting for \$340 million of sales each year while providing 18% of the region's jobs. More than 70 varieties of potatoes are grown here, making it one of the main crops in the region. The San Luis Valley is home to over 150 potato growing families who produce over two billion pounds of Colorado potatoes every year.

Martin T. Garcia is the Executive Assistant to the President of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7 Union and Monte Vista native and current resident of Alamosa.

Right now these farmers and ranchers only receive about 14 cents from every

Trixie's treasures

Another 4th of July passed us by this past week and Ol' Dutch let er' slip by without nary a mention, which is bad on all accounts. So late, but not forgotten, I have to give credit to all the founding fathers who gave their lives, property, and fortunes so we could be free.



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

We did have some great fireworks put on by the city and our friends came over for burgers and beans. So, it wasn't a wash for us for sure.

While we were conversing the subject of "good deals" came up and of course Miss Trixie, ever her mother's daughter, was able to share about the good deal on eggs she found with a local farmer. The mention of the price led to gasps of disbelief from our friends and of course, Ol' Dutch got to thinking — a dangerous activity for him according to Trixie. But if you bear with me, you will see the merit to my new idea and if you are smart, you will join in and get bargains galore like Miss Trixie.

messages about sales and deals. How else can she know that somebody's chickens shifted into overdrive and pooped out eggs at astronomical quantities? I smell a rat. Well at least chicken poop on the unwashed white ovals.

So, what I am thinking is that you can all join the Miss Trixie "Find me a bargain" club and in doing so go along for the ride that she can provide by finding deals that would break a Scotchman's heart. When her momma passed away, I had wondered if anyone could carry on the tradition of absolute unbelievable bargain finds but I think that Miss Trixie has surpassed her if only because she can use the Internet more effectively to find deals. Now Ol' Dutch has always been a wheeler-dealer of sorts himself, but I cannot hold a candle to what my partner can produce on so little money. And thankful I am, too.

How can she know that if I wait a few days for something I want it will be half of the sales price already on the item? It's uncanny and getting a tad spooky if you ask me. I am not sure where to go in the area for an exorcist or if maybe I just need a garlic necklace to cure such a phenomenon. But after some of the deals of late that Ol' Dutch has gotten due to her diligence and fast fingering her phone, I may just put up with spooky to get the goodies.

What you will need to do is simply notify Trixie of what you are looking for like soup or nuts or a car or a computer or about anything you can dream of and sooner or later it will flow into her hands as if by magic at some price that not even our father Abraham from the Bible could of found. Now you may think this is a somewhat crazy of an idea, but case in point. Sunday night, she found a laptop for a friend that will go on sale Tuesday at less than half price. Oh, you can go out there and get one today, of course, but not at the price she somehow knows is coming on another day shortly ahead.

One good thing that has happened due to her eggciting activities is she had many extras to share with our neighbor Larry. And we soon found out that he is a Master BBQ expert, and his luscious smoked brisket began to find its way to our fridge and into my belly. I am from Kansas and let me tell you we know good BBQ from the famous Kansas City Masters but Ol' Smokey himself, Mr. Larry, has to be the very best brisketizer I have ever eaten.

I know she is smart as a whip, but I am starting to believe that something either Divine or otherwise is sending her

So, join the Miss Trixie Club and not only enjoy the great deals on everything under the sun, but maybe you, too, can trade the excess from your larder for something fabulous to eat.

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.

LETTER

Appalled by the proposed Kroger-Albertson merger

Editor,
I am appalled by the proposed Kroger-Albertson merger and its impact on grocery workers in the San Luis Valley and throughout the state. Many will sink into poverty if stores are closed or divested, through no fault of their own. It's especially unfair to the grocery worker retirees.

companies, we retirees are going to suffer because as grocery workers lose their jobs en masse, there won't be enough workers to contribute to the retirement fund and it will either go away or be drastically reduced.

post-retirement. It's especially unfair for those retirees whose pension is their sole source of income, and the healthcare plan is their only medical coverage. They depend on it 100% and have worked their whole lives for it. And now it could disappear.

I was born and raised in Monte Vista and am proud to call the San Luis Valley my home. I am currently a paramedic in Monte Vista, but I retired from grocery work after over 30 years. I worked in the Monte Vista Safeway and in Alamosa for many years but eventually was sent all over the state because I was one of the top inventory control clerks. I enjoyed working with my fellow grocery workers across the state and helping people.

If the stores sell to non-union grocery companies, they will have to honor our collective bargaining agreement which includes pensions but only until that agreement ends after a few years. After that, those stores could potentially turn into non-union shops and tell the employees, take it or leave it. The employees would have to organize to be back in the union and start from zero, which could take years, if at all successful. Meanwhile, they will have lower wages and will not have health care or a pension fund to contribute to.

I want to let the people of the San Luis Valley know what is at stake for some of our older citizens, and what the impact of this merger will be on the economic stability, health and well-being of our community, including our local farmers and ranchers who will only lose in this deal. This newly combined company will pay them even less, pennies on the dollar even, for their fresh products that we all enjoy.

That is why this merger is personal to me. The impact on our retirement is going to be devastating. If these companies close hundreds of stores, and/or sell stores to other non-union

For the retirees, I don't think losing their pensions is fair because these grocery workers have planned and contributed to their pensions their entire careers to secure a way to survive

I urge my fellow citizens of the San Luis Valley to communicate to the Attorney General of Colorado and to the FTC to do the right thing by workers and retirees and stop the merger.

*Jon Montañón
Monte Vista*

CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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www.centerpostdispatch.com



Courtesy photo

The fundraiser board with South Fork Fire Rescue Chief Off.

SFFR serves record number of attendees at Catfish Fry

CONTRIBUTED
SOUTH FORK — South Fork Fire Rescue hosted its annual Catfish Fry fundraiser on July 3. Historically the event includes a silent auction, indoor seating and serves 1,000-1,200 attendees.

However, this year the event had some changes with the auction only being a live auction during the event. This change was successful, bringing in more donations than any silent auction in the past.

At the event, South Fork Fire Rescue began raising funds that will go toward the purchase of a new front-line fire engine that will serve the entire district.

This fundraiser is being done a little differently, with a board made up of 500 pieces and a photo of the engine “we’re working toward hidden behind the tiles.” Each piece can be bought for the number listed on the tile. Then the tile is removed, and the donor receives a token.

There are some prizes hidden on the board such as a smoker that donors could win. Once all the tiles are purchased, SFFR will be well on the way to purchasing the new fire engine. This fundraiser will be run all year at various events.

At the 2023 event, the menu included fried catfish, hushpuppies, beans, potato salad, coleslaw, a homemade chocolate chip cookie and iced tea.

“We are delighted to report that

a record number of 1,322 attendees enjoyed the freshly prepared meal. The event was an incredible success raising over \$43,889,” SFFR stated.

Following the fish fry South Fork Fire Rescue members participated in the South Fork town parade and promptly headed to standby at the rodeo and prepared for the annual fireworks show. The annual fireworks show went spectacularly, producing the best show yet.

“The members of South Fork Fire Rescue would like to say thank you to our event sponsors and each and every one of you who supported us at this event,” SFFR stated.

Lift Ticket training

On Sunday, July 9, air medical transport teams from Reach Air in Salida and Guardian Air from Alamosa flew to Mineral County to conduct Lift Ticket training for members of both Search and Rescue (SAR) and EMS organizations. Lift Ticket certification is required when either SAR or EMS personnel need to be air-lifted to a remote location in the county to assist in the care and or evacuation

of a lost, injured, or sick party. The training included discussions of landing zone preparations, ground safety, ingress to egress from helicopters in both hot and cold loading situations, and communications between ground personnel and the flight crews. Both organizations provided brief helicopter flights in the immediate vicinity of the airport to all attending SAR and EMS personnel.



Courtesy photos

The Guardian Air helicopter is guided into the pre-established landing zone (LZ) at the Mineral County airport by a Search and Rescue team member.



The flight crew from Reach Air instructs SAR and EMS personnel in the proper loading of both them and a potential patient into a waiting helicopter.

Class Reunion

Monte Vista High School Class of 1973

Saturday, July 29th Meet at Mona’s House
 (404 2nd Ave.) Bring your own lawn chairs.

Dinner at Dos Rios Resturant
1632 US Hwy 285, Monte Vista

An evening for 1973 Grads, Spouse or significant others (casual dress) 5:30 p.m. Cocktails (cash bar) 6:30 p.m. Buffet Dinner. Pay at the door \$20 per person for buffet includes tax, tip. Please RVSP to Jim Clare jim.clare55@gmail.com or by calling (719) 850-0072 or Nina Smarrt at blueskyfarms.slv@gmail.com by July 15 for dinner



Please spread the word to class mates you are still in touch with.

Restoration Anglican Church

Come Join Us as we joyfully celebrate the Gospel story Sunday after Sunday. We do this in our sung worship, through prayer and vibrant liturgy, and through the reading of God’s Word and preaching.

We also worship as we celebrate communion at His table.

Worship begins at 3:00 pm followed by dinner and Bible study.

705 2nd Avenue in Monte Vista, Colorado

www.restorationanglicanmission.org

719-649-0810

We are grateful to the members of First Presbyterian who so willingly share their church building with us.

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CENTER POST DISPATCH.com

Rito Hondo Reservoir to be treated ahead of native Rio Grande cutthroat trout restoration

CONTRIBUTED

CREEDE — Presented with a unique opportunity, Colorado Parks and Wildlife will undergo a project to establish a population of native Rio Grande cutthroat trout in Rito Hondo Reservoir west of Creede.

Rito Hondo Reservoir has been lowered for dam repair work. With the water level lowered, CPW will do a rotenone treatment on the reservoir to remove non-native brook trout with the objective of stocking native Rio Grande cutthroats in the summer of 2024. CPW aquatic biologist Estevan Vigil said the lake is highly productive and can grow large fish.

“The reservoir being drained for repairs gives us the opportunity to reclaim the lake itself and the stream above it without having to treat the whole lake,” Vigil said. “The coolest thing about this project is that it’s popping up out of nowhere and providing another lake that can grow really good trout.”

CPW aims to conduct the treatment project beginning the week of July 24. The lake will remain fishless through the winter. When dam repairs are complete, the lake will begin to refill following spring runoff in 2024. Then, it will be stocked with the native fish.

“We anticipate this being a great conservation success,” Vigil said. “We hope to establish this as a broodstock lake to get more Rio Grande cutthroat eggs for stocking out across the San Luis Valley.”

CPW is conducting this project in coordination with partners at the U.S. Forest Service and the San Luis Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. To provide for public safety during the construction process, the Divide Ranger District has closed the roads and area around the dam.

To establish native cutthroat trout habitat in suitable streams, removal of non-native trout is essential. Non-native trout compete, prey on and/or readily hybridize with cutthroat trout. Successfully establishing a Rio Grande cutthroat trout population requires removing all the non-native trout before Rio Grande cutthroats can be stocked.

The removal of non-native fish is done with the use of the EPA-registered piscicide rotenone, an



Photos courtesy of CPW

CPW aims to restore Rito Hondo Reservoir into a Rio Grande cutthroat broodstock lake in the coming years following a treatment project of the reservoir this summer.



organic chemical that comes from a tropical legume (pea family) root that has been used by indigenous peoples to capture fish and has been used throughout the world for fish management projects. Rotenone only affects gill breathing animals and invertebrates when used properly. CPW and other state fish and game agencies have used rotenone for over 80 years to remove fish in controlled and targeted reaches of lakes and streams.

Once the Rio Grande cutthroat trout is re-established, anglers will have the unique opportunity to catch this native fish. Vigil said it could take three to

five years for Rito Hondo to produce large, catchable fish that anglers are accustomed to reeling in on the lake.

The Rio Grande cutthroat is one of three native trout indigenous to Colorado. The Colorado River cutthroat is found on Colorado's Western Slope, and the Greenback cutthroat is found on the Front Range. CPW is also working on a variety of projects to restore those populations.

For more information on Rio Grande cutthroat trout, go to <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/ResearchRioGrandeCutthroatTrout.aspx>



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Mark Madic, director of Startup Colorado, was the keynote speaker during the July meeting for the Upper Rio Grande Economic Development board on Tuesday. Startup Colorado is a networking platform that provides resources and educational tools to rural entrepreneurs and startup businesses throughout Colorado.

Startup Colorado's Madic is keynote speaker at URGED meeting

BY LYNDISIE FERRELL

MONTE VISTA — Mark Madic, the new director for Startup Colorado, was the keynote speaker for the Upper Rio Grande Economic Development meeting on Tuesday at the Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista.

Madic made the trip to the San Luis Valley from Pueblo to speak on behalf of the Startup Colorado program and to offer its services to new business owners throughout the region.

Startup Colorado is a rural entrepreneur network that aids in providing funding resources, educational tools and networking to rural start-up businesses throughout the state of Colorado. Madic explained that the organization is now a non-profit that has helped thousands of business owners throughout Colorado and that they are looking to increase that number in the coming years.

According to the bio provided by Madic, “Startup Colorado was founded in 2011 by Phil Weiser and Brad Feld at the Silicon Flatirons Center at the University of Colorado Law School. The initiative initially focused on supporting startups on the Front Range, and the effort to support entrepreneurship across the entire state is the latest evolution of Startup Colorado. Since 2017, Startup Colorado shifted its mission to focus solely on the foundation and success of the State’s rural-based entrepreneurs.

“Colorado’s rural entrepreneurs are building some of the most exciting business opportunities across the state, from geographically isolated small towns to growing rural hubs. Whether they live inside populations of 60 or 60,000, they are dedicated to diversifying economies, creating new jobs, and fostering local talent. Their goals are mighty and their challenges many.

While some business resources are scarce, others are disconnected or hard to find, making it difficult for any entrepreneur to navigate.

“Startup Colorado solves this challenge with tactics that drive greater awareness and cohesion on

the playing field for entrepreneurs and the business support organizations who serve them. Through strategic networking, partnership development, and collaboration, we eliminate barriers, mitigate support gaps, and dismantle silos.”

Funding for the organization comes from several different sources including philanthropic donors, state grants and others which allows them to host educational seminars, conferences, and localized educational and technical assistance for rural communities throughout the state.

“We have ways of helping people get what they need whether it is fees to attend one of our conferences or bringing tech experts to them on a case-by-case basis,” explained Madic.

The program is open to anyone beginning a business even if it is at the first stages of development. For more information, visit www.startupcolorado.org.

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DROUGHT

It's bordered by New Mexico to the south, and to the north, Salida and the Arkansas River.

It's a high-elevation desert where agriculture is the primary economic force, one capable of providing better-paying jobs in the local economy, according to the 2023 Colorado Water Plan. It's even one of the top regions nationwide for growing potatoes, which need 14 to 17 inches of water per irrigation season, or about twice the annual rainfall there of 8 inches.

But its water supply has been threatened by overuse and a long-term drought, just like the water supply in the Colorado River Basin, which lies across the Continental Divide to the west.

Crops are fed by rivers and streams in the Rio Grande Basin or by underground aquifers. In dry years, the runoff from the winter snowpack can be eight times less than average, according to the state water plan, and the valley must comply with legal obligations to share water with New Mexico, according to the 1938 Rio Grande Compact.

Since 1977, water users have pumped so much groundwater that the Closed Basin aquifer dropped by 1.2 million acre-feet, according to the water plan. In 2002, one of the driest years on record for the Rio Grande Basin, engineers recorded a 400,000 acre-foot drop in the valley's aquifers. Water users in the region now face a 2031 deadline to repay the water debt, according to published reports.

"It's just a bad situation all around, and we just can't afford to lose more water. We need to police ourselves more than we have been," said Tom McCracken, a Saguache County commissioner.

Since the 1980s, some enterprising landowners — which some might call water barons — have come up with a few proposals to sell their water to Front Range counties in need. Locals are familiar with names like American Water Development Inc., Gary Boyce of Stockman's Water, and Sean Tonner of Renewable Water Resources.

The AWDI bought land in the San Luis Valley in the 1980s and unsuccessfully tried to export its water. It sold the land to Stockmans, whose efforts to export water were also stymied.

Valley residents quickly united against those efforts, McCracken said. "Everyone's against the water exports," he said.

In 2002, The Nature Conservancy bought a portion of the company's land, and it is now part of the Baca National Wildlife Refuge and Great Sand Dunes National Park. The remainder of Boyce's land, Rancho Rosado, was sold to Tonner, former deputy chief of staff for Colorado Gov. Bill Owens, who is an RWR principal.

In 2021, RWR unsuccessfully proposed selling its water to Douglas County, and this year, the company has contributed thousands of dollars to candidates for the Parker Water & Sanitation District Board, one of the largest water providers in Douglas County.

The proposal wasn't viable from the get-go, said Cleave Simpson, general manager of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, a San Luis Valley resident and a state legislator.

"I listened to them for two years. I watched them attack my character even though I didn't reciprocate," he

Continued from Page 1A

said. "Without batting an eye, (I) could demonstrate to the Douglas County commissioners, or anyone who wanted to listen, that the proposal was without merit and could not be done."

How the agreement works

Enter the joint planning agreement. It's not yet finalized, but the intent is clear: Residents want to increase local control over projects that would take water out of the valley. And since what happens in one county impacts others, the officials want an avenue for local governments to weigh in when water export projects are proposed to their neighbors.

If approved as written currently, the intergovernmental agreement would create the San Luis Valley Planning Board, which would include representatives from counties and local towns and cities.

These governments would also agree to create a joint planning area, which includes the six counties in the valley: Alamosa, Costilla, Conejo, Mineral, Saguache and Rio Grande.

If a member of the agreement, say Saguache County, gets a project proposal that aims to export water out of the valley, that triggers a joint planning board review. The extra layer of review does not apply to projects that occur entirely within the valley.

The planning board's job is to scrutinize whether the project meets all the appropriate permitting regulations, some of which are still being updated. After its analysis, the board will make a recommendation for approval or denial of the project and send it to the local government with permitting authority, like Saguache.

The local government makes the ultimate decision, but it must take the board's recommendation into consideration. This involves some tricky legal footwork because the board can't step on a local government's powers, but local officials wanted to give the board some teeth, said Heersink of Alamosa.

The idea is to make the approval process even more cumbersome to stall or delay water export projects.

"We hope it presents a roadblock to an applicant that they're like, 'This is too much to overcome. We don't even want to do it,'" Heersink said. "That's a hope."

The joint agreement becomes active as soon as all six counties in the valley sign on, but some counties are pointing out portions of the agreement that still need fine-tuning from legal teams.

County commissioners from Alamosa and Saguache signed the joint agreement after holding public hearings in early June. Conejos and Mineral counties plan to hold their public hearings in late June.

The county commissioners in Costilla and Rio Grande counties held public hearings on June 6 and June 14, respectively. Rio Grande commissioners decided to table their vote on the agreement after Dusty Hicks, a Rio Grande County landowner and local project manager for a controversial resort proposal on Wolf Creek Pass in Mineral County, pointed out a few provisions that either lacked clarity, specificity or could leave the planning board vulnerable to third-party lawsuits.

Costilla officials tabled their discussion over concerns about how difficult it would be to leave the agreement. Under the current

agreement, if a local government decided to split, they're bound by the terms of the agreement for five years after their withdrawal.

The finalization of the agreement could be delayed by a month or more while commissioners consider these local concerns. Once final, it could trigger a moratorium on new water projects in some counties while local officials update related regulations.

"This is a brand-new concept for counties to join together, form a joint planning area and a joint planning board," McCracken said. "We gotta do everything we can do, so innovative strategies are appropriate."

A new spin on water management

This level of regional collaboration is unique, said KC McFerson, a senior planner in the Community Development Office at the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

Intergovernmental planning boards are not commonly used around the state, but governments do use them to set up joint review processes for development proposals and to formalize coordination among jurisdictions.

As far as McFerson knows, Colorado does not have any active joint planning boards that deal with water issues at the scale of the San Luis Valley agreement, which could include up to 23 local governments.

"Water is an issue statewide. In different ways, but it is an issue. Thinking regionally and planning regionally ... has been on the top of people's minds more and more in my opinion," McFerson said based on her work at the Community Development Office. "Finding more regional frameworks to deal with shared problems is a huge need given the growing pressures from things like drought."

The San Luis Valley plan also relies on an act passed in the 1970s, House Bill 1041, commonly known as 1041s. The statutes allow local governments to designate areas and activities as matters of state interest and to create corresponding local rules and regulations to manage them.

Each county in the San Luis Valley is creating or updating its 1041 regulations as part of this process. For example, they're adding provisions to say that site selection and construction of new water systems, or extending existing water systems, are matters of state interest.

Other counties have used the 1041 statutes to co-regulate planning issues that go beyond one jurisdiction's borders, often related to oil and gas regulations, historical preservation efforts or natural hazards areas. Some counties have used the statutes on water-related issues, typically dealing with wastewater treatment, McFerson said.

"Using 1041 powers isn't new. Using IGAs isn't new. Doing regional thinking isn't new. But putting all that together to face this emerging and growing issue around how do we effectively meet needs with this limited and increasingly strained resource? That is a new spin," she said. "I'm going to be watching this on the edge of my seat. Because I want to know, what are the lessons learned? What pitfalls do they run into? How do they overcome them?"

An additional layer of regional control will help the San Luis Valley with its water export pressure, but it's not an end-all solution.

In Saguache County, McCracken has been advocating for other ideas, like investing in research into alternative crops, soil health programs that could help improve the water-retention of the soils, and even agro-tourism and dark-sky tourism along Highway 17. There, drivers see signs for the "cosmic highway" and "UFO, UFO, UFO" flash by as they drive north or south across the valley.

Securing the San Luis Valley's future is a joint effort and this intergovernmental planning board has reinvented that collaboration, he said.

"I think we can carry that unity onto other activities and areas of concern for the valley," McCracken said. "I think it's a real positive thing that way."



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If you would like to submit a bid offer for any available properties a bid packet and a list of properties is available on the Saguache County website at www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov or you can call the Land Use office at 719-655-2321 or by email request to landuse@saguachecounty-co.gov.

Bids must be submitted on a County bid form. Funds must accompany bids. NO CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED.

**You must enclose the completed bid form in a sealed envelope marked "County Owned Property Bid" and indicate on the envelope the block, lot or lots and parcel number, the bid is intended for. **

The Board reserves the right to refuse any bid submitted.

No. 1674 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, June 29 and July 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2023.

First-ever Alamosa Veterans Car and Motorcycle Show a success

BY KEN HAMRICK
ALAMOSA — Despite having to end early because of windy conditions, the first-ever Alamosa Veterans Memorial Park Car and Motorcycle Show went off without a hitch on Saturday.

“I think the show went well,” said Janey Yohn, vice-chair of the memorial committee. The plan is to have the event every year. “We made some mistakes, but the one thing I want to say about the monument is that it’s for Veterans and for their families. I’m very excited about it. I can’t say how many hours we put into it. We made a few errors, but I think it went off pretty good. My husband and his family are all car people and we thought the show was a pretty good idea.”

The show, which was the idea of Jamie Dominguez, benefitted the building of the Alamosa Veterans Memorial Park which will be built just south of the Alamosa County Complex.

“The monument is going to be right in front of the county annex,” Yohn said. “It’s on Airport Road and there’s an orange cone sitting right where it’s going to be. It will be visible from Highway 285.”

The Best in Show Award went to Yohn Brothers and the Emilio Lujan Memorial. Other awards saw Johnny Marlin/Clive

win the best Chevy, Jim and Linda Montoya win the best Ford and Ben Martinez win the best Mopar. Joe Aguilar won Ladies Choice, Pat Mascarenas won Veterans Choice, and Doug Hollar win Commissioners Choice.

The Top 15 cars in order went to Carlos Large, Brad Atencio, Orlando Archuleta, Moses Garcia, Lori Sharp, Ray Garcia, Lance O’Dowd, Sid and Charlie, Claudio Sanchez, Joe Griego,



A small replica of the statue that will be the centerpiece of the Alamosa Veterans Memorial Park was on display during the car and motorcycle show on Saturday.

Pat Mascarenas, Larry Richardson, Joe Aguilar, Richard Garcia, and Julian Espinoza.

The Top 3 motorcycles in order went to David Farley, Jeff Maestas and Doug Hollar.

There was also recognition of Veterans from around all six counties

in the San Luis Valley. The list included Robert Demick, an Army Veteran from Costilla County, Monte Collins, an Army Veteran from Alamosa County, Jim Van Ry, a Navy Veteran from Mineral County, Lyle Dye, a Marine Veteran from Rio Grande County, Steve Salazar, an Army

Veteran from Conejos County, and Alfred Weiss, an Army Veteran from Saguache County.

Demick served in Afghanistan and Iraq, and Collins, Van Rye, Dye, Salazar, and Weiss all in Vietnam.

The amount raised by the car and motorcycle show was not available.



Photos by Ken Hamrick

Several Veterans from across the San Luis Valley were honored at the conclusion of the first-ever Alamosa Veterans Memorial Park Car and Motorcycle Show. From Left, Alfred Weiss, an Army Veteran from Saguache County, Lyle Dye, a Marine Veteran from Rio Grande County, Monte Collins, an Army Veteran from Alamosa County, Steve Salazar, an Army Veteran from Conejos County, Jim Van Ry, a Navy Veteran from Mineral County, and Frank Muniz from Alamosa County who received a special award. Not pictured, Robert Demick, an Army Veteran from Costilla County.



The first-ever Alamosa Veterans Memorial Park Car and Motorcycle Show was held on Saturday. Classic cars and trucks and motorcycles competed for several awards.

2023 Ski Hi Stampede Parade Entry Form

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY FRIDAY JULY 15TH 10: Ski Hi Stampede Committee, P.O. Box 909 Monte Vista, CO 81144

Deadline to return forms is Friday July 15th. Forms returned after that date will be subject to a \$10 late fee.

Line up on parade day will begin at 8:00 AM.

There will be judging of parade entries. In order to be judged you have to be in the parade both days.

PARADE WILL TAKE PLACE JULY 28th-29th

ENTRY NAME _____ Firm, Organization, Sponsor, etc.
TELEPHONE # _____

FLOAT: Senior _____ or Youth (1-18) _____

DAY(S) YOU WILL BE PARTICATING IN THE PARADE Friday _____ Saturday _____

If Small children are riding on floats, please park your vehicle away from the floats and walk the children to the float to avoid traffic congestion. Afterwards, please walk to the end of the route to collect them. During parade it is important to continue moving to avoid gaps, please do not stop. DO NOT THROW CANDY FROM YOUR VEHICLES DURING PARADE.

ANTIQUÉ VEHICLE (Circle all that apply)

NUMBER OF PEOPLE

PER Vehicle _____ Bikes _____ 4 Wheelers & Motorcycles _____

Walking/Marching Group _____ Car Group _____

Other (Describe) _____

NUMBER OF HORSE RIDERS: Adult _____ Junior (13-18) _____ Juvenile (1-12) _____

Family/Group _____ Other (describe) _____

At the end of the parade, please ride your horse across the highway, then along the railroad track. For your safety do not ride them on the highway with the oncoming traffic.

PLEASE GIVE A FULL DESCRIPTION OF YOUR ENTRY TO AID OUR ANNOUNCER

PLEASE RETURN TO FINNER BLESSING

Be Broken for Jesus

There’s a story about a little boy who was very poor and needed shoes. He was standing in front of a shoe store, barefoot and shivering with cold. A woman approached him and asked him why he was standing there, looking through the window. He told her, “Well, ma’am, I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes.”

The woman took the boy into the store, washed his dirty, bare feet and put new socks and shoes on them. The boy was so touched by her compassion that he asked her, “Ma’am, are you God’s wife?” He assumed if she showed him that kind of love, she must be related to God.

This story is one of the best examples of what it means to walk in love. And our goal as believers in Christ is to show God’s love so people see Him shining through us.

It Starts with Communion

Matthew 26:26 (NIV) says, “While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’” It’s interesting to see here that Jesus blessed the bread, broke it, and then gave it to the disciples.

We usually refer to this scripture when we have communion to remind us of the sacrifice He made for us. And just as Jesus gave His life and was broken for us, we must be broken so we can live for Him.

We don’t like to think about God breaking us, but it’s really a wonderful thing. Because when we’re born again, the seed of God’s nature—all that He is—is planted in our spirits.

First Peter 1:23 says, “For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.” And 1 John 3:9 tells us that as believers, “God’s seed [His principle of life, the essence of His righteous character]

remains [permanently]” in us (AMP).

This means we have what it takes to be like Jesus and love others the way He loves us. We already have His love in us, but we all need God to do a work in our souls for us to be able to walk in love. We have to grow spiritually for our soul—mind, will and emotions—to be molded into the image of Christ.

We need to pray for Him to show us how to walk in love...for God to do whatever He needs to do in our lives so His love can flow through us to others. When we do, He will deal with whatever is in us that is standing in the way: pride, unforgiveness, selfishness, insecurity, fear or any other ungodly attitude or behavior.

The Beauty of Brokenness

Isaiah 64:8 says, “O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our Potter, and we all are the work of Your hand” (AMP). I know what it’s like to be broken and molded by God. I used to have so many problems; I was hard to get along with and harsh. There were a lot of things I didn’t understand because I had been mistreated, and I thought it was good to be hard and not let anyone push me around, because everyone else had a problem, not me.

I remember praying so diligently for God to change my husband, Dave, because if he would just be the way I wanted him to be, then I would be happy. But one day God spoke to my heart so strongly and said, “Dave is not the problem.” My response was, “Well, who is? It’s just me and him. What do You mean Dave is not the problem?”

It was devastating to realize I was really the problem, but it was also the beginning of a beautiful work God wanted to do in me.

Even though I was a mess, I really loved God and wanted to live for Him, but I had to give Him control so He could mold me into His image. I began to pray things like, “God, do whatever



Moving Up Higher
with
Joyce Meyer

You need to do in my life to change me. I’m the clay and You are the Potter. Romans 8:29 says you foreordained me to be molded into the image of Jesus, and I want to be everything You created me to be.”

The journey hasn’t been easy, but I can honestly say that the hardest times in my life have become blessings because God has used them to bring me close to Him so I can grow spiritually. That’s His plan for all of His children.

I want to encourage you to spend time with God and search out the promises He has for you in His Word. Trust His wisdom and do what He shows you to do. As you put your faith in God to break you, mold you and make you what He’s created you to be, the Potter will make you an amazing work of His hand!

*For more on this topic, order Joyce’s three-part teaching resource **What Is Love?** You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.*

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including **BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND** and **THE ANSWER TO ANXIETY** (FaithWords). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.



July 27-30, 2023

Monte Vista, Colorado



Carly Pearce
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July 27
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

July 8, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

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Jul 29, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. MDT

Sunday Matinee PRCA Rodeo
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Educator Highlight Award goes to Phyllis Vigil

BY ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — It's summer and school is out, but Phyllis Vigil can still be found in her classroom. The first-grade teacher at Sierra Grande in Fort Garland understands the important role she plays in the lives of her students and she'll do whatever it takes to make sure she's ready and they're ready for a new school year, including spending her summer in preparation.

"Being an educator to me means giving all of your heart," she says. It's that dedication and commitment to her teaching profession that earned her the monthly Educator Highlight Award presented by the Adams State School of Education Program Coordinator and Advisor Chrissy McKinney, M.Ed.; Sierra Grande Secondary Principal Brandon Mizokami; and Adams State School of Education Program Assistant Paul Clark.

Please see VIGIL on Page 2

Phyllis Vigil is the Adams State Educator Highlight Award recipient for June. Pictured, left to right, Sierra Grande School District Superintendent Kevin Jones; Sierra Grande Elementary Principal Travis Paine; Adams State School of Education Director Curtis Garcia, Ph.D.; June Educator Highlight recipient Phyllis Vigil, Sierra Grande elementary teacher; Adams State School of Education Program Coordinator and Advisor Chrissy McKinney, M.Ed.; Sierra Grande Secondary Principal Brandon Mizokami; and Adams State School of Education Program Assistant Paul Clark.

Courtesy photo



Community supports American Legion Post's fundraiser

BY DIANE DREKMANN

Community supports American Legion Post's fundraiser — The community turned out on July 1 to support the American Legion Post No. 142's fundraiser. Funds will be used to complete the inside renovations — adding a kitchen and bar.

Several raffles were offered — for bottles of wine or to win one of two firearms. Post 142 connected with Holy Cross Winery, a monastery in Canon City, and will start selling their wine.

Bruce Nagel, of the American Legion shares the first time they found the winery and described the different types of wine.

"We went camping a few years ago and discovered the winery. The people are friendly, the prices are reasonable, and it is the only wine we drink now."

There was wine tasting at the event with four bestsellers. People voted on their favorites from Apple Blossom, "a dessert, fruity wine,"

Please see LEGION on Page 3



Photo by Diane Drekmann

The community turned out on July 1 to support the American Legion Post No. 142's fundraiser.

Antonito teen vying for Miss Colorado Teen USA crown

CONTRIBUTED

ANTONITO — Miss Southern Colorado Amaya Garcia-White Buffalo of Antonito will be competing for the Miss Colorado Teen USA crown on July 16 in Greeley.

The competition, which will be held at the Union Colony Civic Center at 3 p.m., consists of three proportional segments: evening gown, active wear or swimwear and personality interview. Eligible young women must be between the ages of 14 and 28 and residents of Colorado.

One of the year's most anticipated events, the Miss Colorado USA and Miss Colorado Teen USA competitions slated for July 16 in Greeley, were announced recently by executive state co-director Denise Wallace of Future Productions, state pageant producers for The Miss USA Organization.



Amaya Garcia-White Buffalo

This year's state titleholders will each receive thousands of dollars in prizes and awards. Most importantly, the new Miss Colorado USA and Miss Colorado Teen USA will have the opportunity to compete for the national titles of Miss USA

Please see AMAYA on Page 3

Recreation plan for Lobatos Bridge in the works

BY THE GREAT OUTDOORS FUND

CONEJOS COUNTY — The Great Outdoors Fund (TGOF) recently announced a new partnership with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Colorado State Office which aims to expand equitable access and improve outdoor recreation opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds throughout Colorado.

"We are excited to enter into this creative new agreement with BLM's Colorado State Office," TGOF's Founder Lori McCullough said. "This partnership will leverage BLM funding to implement concrete, on the ground projects benefiting public lands users in a multitude of ways."

While forging our partnership, the BLM identified its highest priority project for TGOF

to initially focus on, which will benefit some of Colorado's most underserved communities.

"It's a remarkable project in the San Luis Valley that has been in the works for more than 40 years," McCullough said. "Suddenly, stars are aligning and working collaboratively with the community. We feel confident we're going to turn this vision into reality by the summer of 2024."

This inaugural undertaking, dubbed the Lobatos Bridge Recreation and Interpretive Education Project, is adjacent to the historic bridge in Conejos County. The project's primary purpose is to develop a nature-based classroom to interpret the rich cultural, historical, and natural heritage of the Rio Grande Natural Area.

Please see BRIDGE on Page 2

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Photo courtesy of The Great Outdoors Fund

The Lobatos Bridge in Conejos County.

BRIDGE

Continued from Page 1

Importantly, the project will also enhance public access and recreation opportunities, including formalizing motorized access to launch rafts and kayaks. All amenities installed will look naturally suited to the area, be built using durable materials, and be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

“Another shovel-ready project we’re working on is the enhance-

ment and expansion of Sand Gulch Campground adjacent to the world-renowned Shelf Road Recreation Area,” McCullough noted. “Now, we’re starting to collaborate with vested stakeholders and leverage our resources and network to fully fund these projects as public-private partnerships.”

Among other things, this partnership complements the Biden-Harris

Administration’s “America the Beautiful” Initiative, BLM’s Recreation Strategy “Connecting with Communities,” and BLM Colorado’s commitment to serving the American public through our “Backyard to Backcountry” Recreation Strategy.

For more information about The Great Outdoors Fund and its partnership with BLM Colorado, visit thegreatoutdoorsfund.org.

VIGIL

Continued from Page 1

State School of Education. She was recognized during a ceremony this week and is the fifth recipient of the honor established by the School of Education.

The Educator Highlight Award was established to recognize and highlight Adams State alumni, prominent local teachers, and other educators working within or hailing from the San Luis Valley.

Vigil was also named the Sierra Grande School District Teacher of the Year for the 2022-23 academic year.

“Ms. Vigil has all the attributes of an excellent teacher,” said Sierra Grande Superintendent Kevin Jones. “She loves her kids. She is always looking for ways to improve, she is willing to try new things, her caring relationship matters, and she lives at this school.”

Sierra Grande Schools is where Vigil has been the past 20 years, teaching at the elementary school level and now in her eighth year with first-graders.

“First grade is my favorite. I just like the age of the students and they’re just so eager to learn,” she says. “Whatever you teach them, they absorb it and they run with it. That’s what I love. You can see growth, even sometimes from one week to the next.”

She will be in her classroom at least once a week through June, July and into August ahead of the new school year. She’ll reflect on the previous year and what she can “tweak” to make the classroom even more welcoming to the students who are just beginning their school years.

“I always strive to make my teaching better,” she says.

And that’s why she is one of the San Luis Valley’s outstanding educators.

Adams State School of Education will make monthly award presentations through the summer months.

This monthly award recognizes Adams State University School of Education alumni, prominent local teachers, and other educators working within or hailing from the San Luis Valley. In so doing, Adams State University hopes to build familiarity with the community as a serious destination for future educators.

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Class Reunion

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M

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Dinner at Dos Rios Resturant
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An evening for 1973 Grads, Spouse or significant others (casual dress) 5:30 p.m. Cocktails (cash bar) 6:30 p.m. Buffet Dinner. Pay at the door \$20 per person for buffet includes tax, tip. Please RVSP to Jim Clare jim.clare55@gmail.com or by calling (719) 850-0072 or Nina Smarrt at blueskyfarms.slv@gmail.com by July 15 for dinner



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ASU doctorate students receive prestigious NBCC Fellowship

By Adams State University

ALAMOSA — Two Adams State University students in the counselor education and supervision program received the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) Minority Fellowship for Mental Health Counselors at the doctoral level. Lisa Ali is in her first year and Kendra Bircher is a third-year student of the doctoral program.

The doctoral students receive a \$20K fellowship, which Ali and Bircher will use to pay for tuition, research, and professional development needs. Bircher plans on joining additional professional organizations to lead and advocate for the profession as a whole; and to use the \$20,000 to present at conferences such as the Evidence Based School Counseling Conference. Ali will use the stipend to engage in conferences and aid in necessary research in the realm of multiracial adoptions and identity development.

Bircher demonstrated knowledge of and experience with underserved children and adolescents, black and brown youth, gender non-conforming youth, and minority communities in inner cities to fulfill one of the fellowship requirements.

Ali plans to finish her Ph.D. in 2026. She has a minority serving private practice in Denver which serves people who identify as BIPOC and within LGBTQIA+ and those who have experienced trauma and attachment-based disruptions.

"I work with individuals through a holistic healing lens and strive to offer a space where people feel safe to be vulnerable, and empowered as they grow into their authentic selves," Ali said.

AMAYA

Continued from Page 1

and Miss Teen USA. The new Miss Colorado USA will compete with 50 other state titleholders for the coveted title of Miss USA, live on national television next spring.

"We are overwhelmed by the response and caliber of all the participants from Colorado," Wallace said. "There is no better opportunity for ambitious young women out there today. The Miss Colorado USA and Miss Colorado Teen USA competitions offer area women a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to advance their personal and professional goals."

Garcia-White Buffalo is sponsored by Red Turtle Trading, Ruybal's Bail Bonds, Forever Finds, Elks Lodge of Alamosa, and Get Inked Tattoo Shop. She is also sponsored by White Buffalo, Ruybal Martinez and Shakespeare families as well as the communities who support her endeavors from the San Luis Valley.

LEGION

Continued from Page 1

American Riesling, a "dinner wine," Rose Table Wine, "which could be an appetizer or dinner wine" and Merlot, "also a dinner wine."

Aaron Hernandez was the deejay. Hamburgers and hotdogs were available.

Post 142 is now available for rent. Call Commander Wade Eppler at 719-298-8433, if interested in renting the facility. Eppler hopes to have dartboard and pool tournaments. He also plans to have movie nights in the field next to the post.

In the future, Post 142 will hold a fundraiser to fix the exterior of the building.

Ali's future goals include continuing to work with those in her chosen communities and to become an educator at a minority-serving University.

"This fellowship gives me hope that someday students, clients, researchers, and counselors alike will see those in the helping profession and in higher education who are representative of them, I want to be a part of this," she said.

Bircher anticipates finishing her doctorate in counselor education and supervision in 2025.

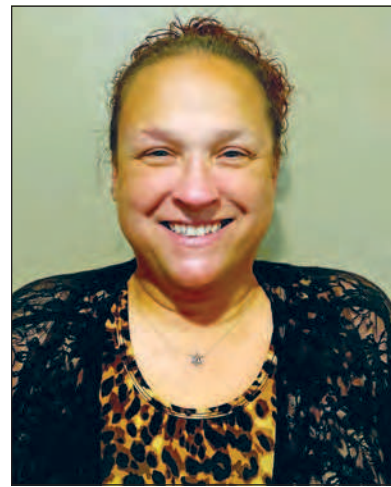
"I have worked in education all of my career, and find it necessary to create affirming spaces and counseling marginalized youth," Bircher said. "So, earning my Ph.D. will help me reach my future goal of becoming a guidance and counseling coordinator and school counselor educator. I have a passion for school counselor development, antiracist school counseling, and equitable school counseling practices."

Bircher was previously a middle school counselor in Title I Schools (Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act provides financial assistance to local educational schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards). She has also provided counseling to court mandated youth and adults.

Bircher volunteers for two organizations that support youth who are at-risk for exploitation, abuse, and neglect.

"Through my involvement in these organizations I have served as a behavioral specialist, provided training to stakeholders, and made referrals for those needing additional resources. I truly enjoy giving back to my community in this capacity," she said.

The NBCC Foundation administered up to 20 doctoral-level coun-



Lisa Ali

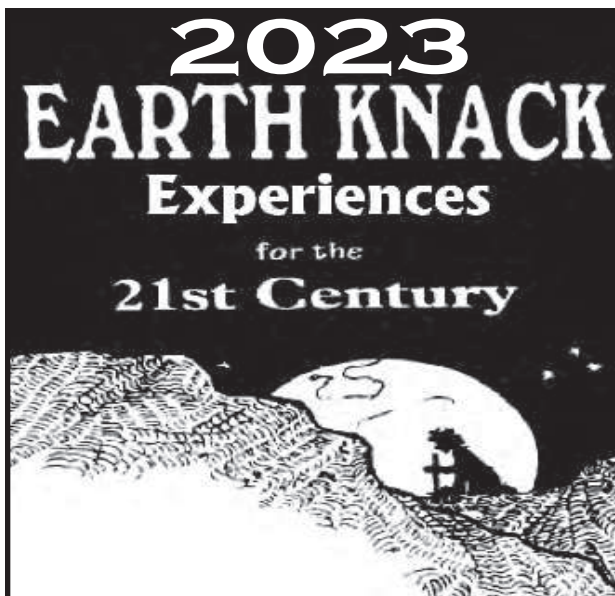


Kendra Bircher

seling fellowships of \$20,000, plus the travel expenses to participate in program-related trainings.

The NBCC MFP helps ensure that the behavioral health needs of all Americans are met, regardless of language or culture, thereby reducing health disparities and improving overall community health and well-being. Minorities include but are not

limited to racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender, sexual orientation, rural, or military groups. By strategically promoting and providing fellowships to doctoral counseling students, the NBCC MFP strengthens the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increases the number of professional counselors.



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05 Notices

2nd Annual South Fork Arts and Crafts Festival. Original works by artists from 6 states. Over 40 vendors. Wednesday, July 19, 2023, 9AM to 4PM South Fork Visitor Center, 28 Silverthread Lane 719-873-5512 &-12)

Attention: The Association of: St. Agnes Catholic Church is accepting bids for roof repair. Must be licensed and insured! Please Call John Vigil for more information (719) 221-1180

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

07 Help Wanted

***Principal * Secondary Language Arts * Pre -K Assistant * Elementary Teachers * Interventionist/Literacy Coach (working with the ELG) * School Counselor *Food Services (prep cook/dishwasher)** The above positions are available until they are filled. Applications and salary schedules are available for download on the district website at <http://mountainvalleyschool.org/>. Please include a

resume, cover letter, and 3 current letters of recommendation. Completed applications can be submitted to Mr. Stagner at stagnerb@valley.k12.co.us Mountain Valley School is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (7-26)

Saguache County Landfill is Hiring for a Full Time Attendant – starting at \$16.62/hour **REQUIREMENTS:** Applicant must fill out and submit an application, must be an experienced front end loader operator and possess a valid driver's license. Applicant should have a high school diploma or GED and six months or more of relevant experience. Final candidates applying with Saguache County will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screen and criminal background check. Landfill Attendant is a full time 40 hour per week position – starting at 8:00 A.M. each day Tuesday through Saturday (subject to change). Those applying must be an experienced front end loader operator, have the ability to do strenuous outdoor physical labor in extreme weather conditions and be able to lift and/or move 20 lbs. to 75 lbs. In addition to the hourly rate, the County Employee benefit package includes: vision, dental and health insurance coverage, paid time off, and a generous 401k retirement plan. Applications and a complete job description are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge/Landfill Office 305

3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 – 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website – saguache-county.colorado.gov under the Landfill Department tab. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge/Landfill Office – at the address listed above, sent by email to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov or faxed to: 719-655-2543. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Open until a qualified candidate is hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Case Manager - The Center Toward Self Reliance is seeking a person to deliver services and support to disabled individuals in the San Luis Valley from our Alamosa office. For more information, contact Bill at cfcd@ilcpueblo.org (7-19)

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

WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge is hiring for Operator I positions....starting at \$18.00/hour **NO CDL REQUIRED!** Or \$19.68/hour for those with a CDL License! **REQUIREMENTS:** Applicants must have a current and valid Drivers License. Applicants should have a

high school diploma or GED and six months or more of relevant experience. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County, please note that the chosen candidate will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening and criminal background check, prior to being hired. In addition to the increased hourly rate, the County Employee benefit package includes: vision, dental and health insurance coverage, paid time off, and a generous 401k retirement plan. Operator I is a full time position – applicants must be able to operate light and heavy equipment and perform manual labor in the maintenance, repair and minor construction of roads, streets, bridges, signs, markings and related facilities. Applicants must be physically capable of periods of sustained physical exertion and may be required to lift and move up to 75 lbs. to 150 lbs. Applications are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office 305 3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 – 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website – saguache-county.colorado.gov under the Road and Bridge Department tab.

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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

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		7/6	7/5	7/4	7/3	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
		Moravian 69	04/05	0.28	0.17	0.23	0.28	0.45	0.68	0.96
Moravian 69	05/05	0.30	0.17	0.23	0.28	0.47	0.70	0.98	1.21	1.70
Early Wheat	04/05	0.30	0.17	0.23	0.28	0.47	0.70	0.98	1.21	1.70
Early Wheat	05/05	0.30	0.17	0.23	0.28	0.47	0.70	0.98	1.21	1.70
White Wheat	04/05	0.30	0.17	0.23	0.28	0.47	0.70	0.98	1.21	1.70
White Wheat	05/05	0.30	0.17	0.23	0.28	0.47	0.70	0.98	1.21	1.70
WinterWheat	10/01	0.22	0.13	0.18	0.22	0.35	0.53	0.75	0.94	1.35
Potatoes										
Norkotah	05/05	0.31	0.18	0.24	0.29	0.49	0.73	1.03	1.27	1.78
Centennial	05/05	0.21	0.12	0.15	0.17	0.33	0.48	0.65	0.79	1.04
Nugget	05/05	0.22	0.12	0.16	0.18	0.34	0.50	0.68	0.83	1.11
Alfalfa	Est.	0.34	0.20	0.27	0.32	0.53	0.80	1.12	1.39	1.94
Lawngrass	Est.	0.28	0.16	0.22	0.27	0.45	0.67	0.93	1.16	1.61

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

Valley Wide Classifieds

Please fill out and submit the County Application. A complete job description is available at the Road and Bridge Office. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge – at the address listed above, sent by email to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov or faxed to: 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until qualified candidates are hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge is looking to hire a Shop Foreman... Starting at \$27.00/hr SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must possess a current Class-A CDL license with heavy semi-truck endorsement and a current medical certificate. Applicants should have a high school diploma or GED equivalent, along with extensive knowledge of vehicles, equipment and mechanical maintenance procedures. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County, please note that the chosen candidate will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening and criminal background check, prior to being hired. Shop Foreman is a full time salaried position – qualified candidates will be able to perform a variety of skilled and semi-skilled duties associated with the supervision of assigned road crew which include installing, repairing and maintaining Saguache County Road and Bridge's property within the Right-Of-Way. This position is expected to work during road emer-

gencies so you should be available to work nights, weekends and holidays when needed. In addition to the salaried rate, the County Employee benefit package includes: vision, dental and health insurance coverage, paid time off, and a generous 401k retirement plan. Applications and a complete job description are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office 305 3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 – 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website – saguachecounty.colorado.gov under the Road and Bridge Department tab. Please fill out and submit both applications: The Saguache County Application and the Drivers-Application. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge – at the address listed above, sent by email to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov or faxed to: 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until a qualified candidate is hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (8-2)

The BOE of Center Schools is now accepting application for 2- Preschool Teacher for the 2023-2024 School Year. Qualifications: AA in Early Childhood Education preferred or willing to obtain qualifications. Experience working with Preschool age children in an educational environment, or; such alternative to the above qualifications as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. All candidates must pass background checks. For information and application materials please call

(719) 754-3442 or visit the District Website <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities> or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE (7-12)

Center School District is now accepting applications for the positions of 2-Elementary Teacher, Elementary CLD Teacher, Elementary Physical Education Teacher and High School Science Teacher, for the 2023-2024 School Year. Center Consolidated School District 26It is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Qualifications; Must hold a valid State of Colorado Teacher's License or, such alternative as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Applications can be found on the District Website <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities> or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE

10 Apartments

Apt For Rent: Center CO 719-657-3221 \$1100/month no Pets \$500/Dep, 2 BDRM, 1 Bath, Great view (7-26)

12 Houses for Rent

3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Lower Alpine, South Fork, CO \$1,200 plus deposit. (719) 850-8680 (7-19)

13 Mobile Homes for Rent

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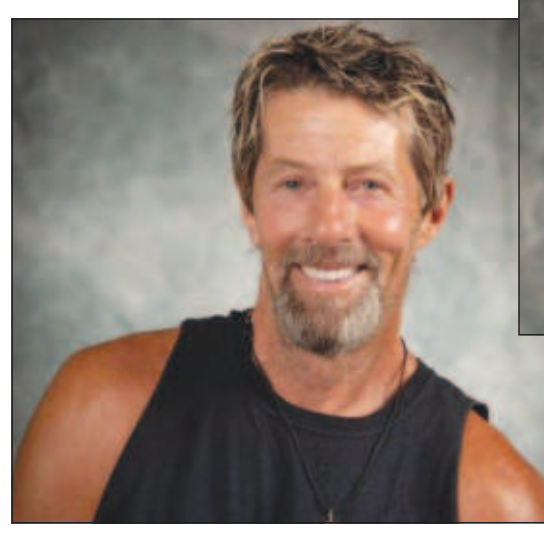
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16 Vacation

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17 Real Estate For Sale

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

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

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

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.

23 Lawn and Garden

Sprinkler repair. Done at reasonable

rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. TFN

24 Garage Sales

Chapter AE of PEO will be hosting a garage sale on Saturday, July 15, from 8am until 1pm at 105 La Veta Avenue, Alamosa. Proceeds will be used to provide educational opportunities to women through our PEO projects.

28 Household Goods

Kenmore gas dryer \$300. Antique lounge chair \$100. Large metal shelf \$50. Oak/glass coffee table \$50. Sears Craftsman router \$50. All in great shape 719-588-5679 (7-26)

32 Fuel & Heating

For Sale: Iron Wood, Stove/Chimney Pipe on top 8-inches wide Call 7195-88-2442

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

36 Miscellaneous

New 12x24 Mini Barn: Insulated and lined to be sold at 4-U-R consignment auction, July 22, 2023 at 26503 CR 6-LaJara (7-19)

Free- Box-Cameras 4x5 Camera, Zone VI, Need to get rid of, 719-496-6929 (7-19)

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

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Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Private party only) Call 719-852-3531 for details.

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All Classified Advertising must be pre-paid

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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



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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.

3D Virtual Tours • Prompt, Easy Communication
 Video Walkthroughs
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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



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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)



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



NEW

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



NEW

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Hubbards Trail
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48 Pets and Supplies
Bird cage complete with stand, some accessories for \$40 cash please. 719 480 2500, leave message. (7-26)

Patrice Lucas, 817-253-4346. Dog Sitter Needed in July in your home. 12 year old female standard Poodle (Molly) just wants to rest. Occasionally we have a 2 year old female Yorkie (Haylee) who only wants to play. Probably 1 time a week pay \$16.00 hour. Sitter age 13 to... (7-12)

51 Boats and Equipment
2007 Lowe 16-foot fishing boat.

50-hp Mercury 4-stroke with trailer. Pictures on request. \$8,500. 719-580-9463 (7-19)

64 Autos for Sale
For Sale: 1981 CJ-7 \$2000 OBO, needs work on clutch, have all the parts! 719-496-6929 (7-12)

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

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

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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.

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

SOLD



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

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

SOLD



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

Bernadette Gingrass •Steffens & CO. Realty
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719-850-1993
Bernadette Gingrass, Broker Associate
30635 US Hwy 160 • South Fork
www.bernadettegingrassrealestate.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
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PRICE REDUCED



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 shelves 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! \$975,000 MLS #794078
173 W Frontage Road • South Fork

Bernadette Gingrass •Steffens & CO. Realty
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SOLD

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

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

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


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CALL TODAY!
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Sandra Marquez — smarquez@valleypublishinginc.com
Brian Williams — bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com

PRICE REDUCED



Darling authentic 1,232 Sq. Ft. 2-bedroom 2 bath log cabin with upgrades galore! Located in Log Haven. Tucked along the mountain side backing up to national forest with beautiful views of the surrounding cliffs. Open living room, dining, kitchen area with new propane Vermont Casting stove to keep you cozy and warm all winter long. Kitchen is quaint and bright with custom granite countertops. This cabin has a covered front porch and wonderful back deck. The perfect place to enjoy the wildlife, peace and quiet and that first hot cup of morning coffee. Nice fence back yard with gate opening to the national forest. Hike for miles out your own back door. Downstairs has a master bedroom and a full bath. Upstairs additional bedroom, bathroom and nice size sitting nook, great space to enjoy that best-selling book or use for your office den. This cabin comes complete with one car garage, storage shed, central well and town sewer. Cabin can be used as a full-time residence, or home-away-from-home winter or summer get-a-way! Rentals are not allowed in this subdivision. Don't wait! Start your adventure today! Only a short 17-mile drive from Wolf Creek Ski area. The mighty South Fork and Rio Grande River, Beaver Mountain reservoir & Million reservoir are just moments away. Bring your fishing pole and enjoy hours of world class fishing. Ski Wolf Creek, go 4 wheeling, hike, camp, hunt, Enjoying everything outdoors! Let's get started call /text and schedule your showing today! \$325,000 MLS #800364
31517 Us Highway 160 • South Fork

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A summer school program to remember

Binational Teacher Exchange program brings cultural richness to education

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa School District Summer School Migrant Education Program came to a culturally rich and festive close on Thursday with a Family Night event held in the Alamosa High School cafeteria. The event was especially memorable as it included presentations and a dance performance by two dynamic, highly qualified teachers from Mexico who had spent the month instructing students as part of the Binational Teacher Exchange program.

With a large number of their students and their students' families in attendance, Ameyalitzin Reyna Corona — who lives in Tepic, Nayarit, where she teaches Special Education — and Atziri Jaime Franco — who lives in Guadalajara, Jalisco, where she teaches English — performed a visually stunning dance wearing traditional dresses followed by a video they produced chronicling their time in Alamosa. They were also presented with a bouquet of flowers by Andrea Malouff, principal of the Alamosa Elementary Summer School program, for their dedication and commitment to teaching students as part of the Binational Teacher Exchange.

The presentation was followed by a feast of homemade pozole and cake, compliments of Alamosa Public Schools and the Migrant Education Program, with special thanks to the volunteers who made it happen. Parents and students were then invited for a "gallery walk" that displayed the students' work and photos of the students and their teachers. Prizes were also raffled off with students taking home everything from large tote bags to games and activities that can be enjoyed at home.

The long-standing relationship between the Alamosa School District and Adams State University demonstrates the power in partnering for the benefits of students overall.

The summer school program is funded by the district to serve students in kindergarten through fifth grade. The Migrant Education Program, funded by Adams State University, is offered with the program to serve students whose families work seasonal jobs in agriculture.

Both programs operate under the supervision of Malouff.

Thanks to additional funding and support from ASU, Esmeralda Martinez, ASU's Migrant Education Program Director, was able to travel to Mexico last October where she interviewed teachers interested in participating in the Binational Teacher Exchange program.

Six teachers from Mexico were selected to come to Colorado — two for Greeley, two for Grand Junction, and two for Alamosa. Martinez said the two teachers selected for Alamosa were perfect choices to enrich students' educational experiences.

The teacher exchange program offers a myriad of benefits to all students in the summer school program as both programs are housed in the same building.

Students attending the Migrant Education Program benefit from the preservation of their language, culture, and knowledge of the history of Mexico; support that is crucial for students who, due to the occupation of their families, often live with a foot in two worlds. It

also helps to aid those students who frequently transition from education in the United States to education in Mexico, as often happens with kids whose families are seasonal workers.

Students in the migrant summer school program, also benefit from not only receiving instruction in reading and math but also from exposure to exemplary teachers coming from Mexico who share with them information about the language, culture, and history of a country that is different from their own.

According to Luis Murillo, ASD Assistant Superintendent, about 200 students enrolled in the program, overall, this summer. If students' and parents' reactions during Family Night were any indication, it was a summer school program to remember.

Ameyalitzin Reyna Corona (left) and Atziri Jaime Franco (right) close out a dynamic summer school program with a traditional dance. Both are teachers from Mexico, they participated in the Migrant Education Program as part of the Binational Teacher Exchange program.

Courier photo by John Waters



2nd Annual

4U CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

**Friday Tack 3:00 PM
Horses 3:30 PM**

Friday & Saturday, July 21 & 22, 2023

**Saturday - 9 AM
Tack, Machinery
Antiques, etc**

Directions: From Monte Vista, CO take Hwy 15 (Gun Barrel) South 13 1/2 miles to 26503 County Road 6, Lajara, CO 81140

Lawn & Garden, Furniture & Quilts, Tools

Horses
Pal: 6 yr. old quarter horse, broke to ride, lots of mountain miles pushing cows;
Shadow: registered 3 yr. old Friesian Cross Mare, broke to ride & drive; **Mighty Mite:** 32" yearling Gray Dapple Mini Stud, baby sitter, broke to drive; **8 yearling Friesian Cross colts:** **King:** 14 yr. old 45" Paint Pony Gelding, broke to ride & drive (school pony); **Rebel:** 12 yr. old 15HH Friesian Cross black Gelding, anybody can drive; **Cowboy:** 5 yr. old 14.2HH Crossbred Gelding, broke to ride, drive, and pack, grandma drives him; **Gabby:** 12 yr. old 46" Sorrell Molly Mule, broke to ride and pack; **Captain:** 20 yr. old 15HH Gray Morgan Gelding, broke to ride & drive, single and double, been there, done that; **Chico:** 4 yr. old Paint Pony Mare, broke to ride & drive; **Snickers:** Yearling Paint Percheron/Pony cross Filly; **Trigger:** 13 yr. old Paint Mini Gelding, broke to ride & drive (school pony)

Tack & Saddles
 Several Used saddles; Pack Saddle; New Snaps; Leads; Halters; Headstalls; Buckets; Whips; Breast Collars; Harness Hooks; Apple Pickers; Shovels; Reins; Saddle Pads; Stirrups; Mounting Blocks; Curbs; Girths; Iariats; Saddle racks; Horn Wraps; Bell Boots; Splint Boots; Tack Racks; Hay Nets; Dog Bowls; Wormer; Bits; Pony Wagon; NEW Bio Buggy Harness; NEW Tack Box, and more.

Antiques
 Cream Separator; Advertising Tins; Old Stroller & walker; Baby Cradle; Branding Irons; Forge Tools; Hand Crank Forge Blower; Child's Wooden Dovetail wagon; Wheat cradle; International Hit n Miss Engine; Nail Keg; Trunks; approx. 30" Tall Eagle Carving; Chicken Catcher; Ford & International Wrenches; Metal Coin Banks; TEXACO Cars; Wagner Ware Cast Iron; Carriage Lamps; Brass Spittoon; Electric Coke Slide Top Cooler; Old Soda Bottles; Granite Ware; Metal Wheels; Old Buggy Wheels; Cast Iron Kettle (flower pot); Scythes, Crocks & Jugs; Moonshine Jugs; Bucksaw; Sack Carts; Metal Signs; Weather Vanes; Wash Machine; Wood Runner Sled; Metal wash Tub; Sad Irons; OLD Eclipse Croquet Set in Wood Box; Cast Iron Implemnet Seats; Gum Ball Machines; 70lb, 150lb & 190 lb Anvils; Cast Iron Horse & Buggy, and much more.

Tools & Misc.
 Better Built JoBox; New Diamond Plate Truck Tool Box; Pet Taxis; Chains; Binders; Ratchet Straps; Truck Ladder Rack; 8', 10', 12', 14' Pipe Gates; Continuous Fence; 5500 lb. & 4200 lb. Pallet forks, 6' Wide Custom Quick Attach Hay Spears; De WALT & Rigid Tools, Air Hoses; Air Compressor; Jobsite Table Saw; Metal Roofing; Rough Sawn & Dimensional Lumber; Cellulose Insulation Blower; and more

Primitive Farm
 JD Horse Drawn Potato Digger (working condition); JD 224WS Baler; JD Manure Spreaders; Sickle Mowers; Dump Rake; International Cultivator; Wooden Wheel Box Wagon Gear; Case, Emerson, & Superior Wood Seed Box Grain Drills; 12' JD Grass Seeder Drill (working condition); Oliver Hillside/Dead Furrow Plow, and more.

Vehicles
 1966 Chevrolet Pickup with 350 Engine and lots of Custom work; 48' Fontaine Flatbed Semi Trailer with Piggy Back Hook-up; Headache Rack for Semi-Tractor; 18' Texas Bragg Flatbed Trailer; StarCraft Pop Up Camper; 5 Yard Dump Trailer; Dodge Dually Truck Bed, Wooden Model Semi "Toy"

THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL LISTING. WE WILL BE ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS UNTIL FRIDAY NOON, JULY 21. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT ELECTRONICS, GLASSWARE, TIRES, BOX LOTS, AND JUNK. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY ITEMS. WE WILL BE SELLING IN MULTIPLE RINGS .

For More Info Contact
 Phil Eicher 719-849-8261
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Auctioneers include
 Mel Yoder-MO, Morris Yoder-KS, Calvin Raber-IN, Jess Raber-IN
 Les Longenecker - PA, Nathaniel Longenecker - CO

Vendor Booths are welcome **No Buyers Premium**

Lunch & Bake Sale by Amish School **RV's Are Welcome**

USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office

Rocky Mountain Region receiving \$2.597M in U.S. Forest Service grants

CONTRIBUTED LAKEWOOD

The U. S. Department of Agriculture recently announced that the Forest Service will invest more than \$43 million in the 2023 Wood Innovations Grant and 2023 Community Wood Grant programs.

The Rocky Mountain Region will receive a total of \$2,597,500. The funds were made available by the Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act. They enable the Forest Service and grant awardees to expand the use of wood products and strengthen wood energy markets that support sustainable forest management, especially in areas of high wildfire risk.

“Healthy forests depend on a healthy forest products economy, and these investments within the Rocky Mountain Region support local economies. In addition, they will help improve forest health while lowering wildfire risks to communities,” said Regional Forester Frank Beum. The Wood Innovations Grant Pro-

gram, officially named the Wood Innovations Funding Opportunity Program, is investing in proposals that expand traditional wood utilization projects, promote using wood as a construction material, and expand wood energy markets. Below are the proposals within the Rocky Mountain Region that are funded through the Wood Innovations Grants Program:



- Colorado**
- Mountain Pine Manufacturing Wood Strand Waste - Wood System Grant — \$160,000
 - Rocky Mountain Timber Products Rocky Mountain Timber Products Sawmill Optimization and Expansion — \$212,500
 - Gates Family Foundation Colorado Mass Timber Coalition — \$300,000
 - Colorado Timber Resources Colorado Timber Resources LLC Sawmill Expansion — \$175,000
 - Cetna Energy LLC Cetna Energy Walsenburg, CO, Cottage Grove, OR Biomass to Energy Project — \$300,000
 - United States Endowment for Forestry and Communities Embodied Carbon and Displacement Factor Tools — \$300,000
 - PHX LLC Sustainable Southwest Colorado Woody Biomass Management — \$200,000

- Eagle Valley Clean Energy, LLC Eagle Valley Clean Energy, LLC — \$300,000
 - Juno Residential Circular Mass Timber Components — \$200,000
- Community Wood Grants, officially titled the Community Wood

Energy and Wood Innovation Program, award funding to shovel-ready projects designed to install a community wood energy system or build an innovative wood product facility. Healthy forests depend on a healthy forest products economy, and

these projects directly support forest health and stimulate local economies by expanding renewable wood energy and innovative wood products manufacturing capacity. None of the 2023 projects are located within the Rocky Mountain Region.

Del Norte hosts Music in the park, brings back Mercado Market

BY LYNDIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — Summer has made an appearance and the Del Norte Chamber of Commerce recently announced that Music in the Park and Mercado Del Norte are back and better than ever. This summer partnership with the Town of Del Norte brings the farmer’s market together with great music throughout July.

Local and visiting bands create a unique and family-friendly opportunity Thursday night in River Front Park, just north of the railroad track in Del Norte. The stage is set, and the lineup is as follows, on June 22 the program kicked off with the reviews were amazing. This week, on June 29,

come listen to UZ out of Taos, N.M., for a flavorful musical experience. July 13 will feature local band The Riffers out of Alamosa and July 20 come listen to Float Like a Buffalo of Denver.

To close out the summer and in partnership with the South Fork Music Association and the Town of Del Norte to kick off Rhythms on the Rio music festival, the community is invited to a performance of Dane Arnold & The Soup from Tulsa, Okla.

Thursday evenings in downtown Del Norte will also include Mercado Del Norte Farmer’s Market which features fresh produce provided through Sol Mountain Farm, vendors with unique, homemade wares, food vendors and more.

2023 Ski Hi Stampede Parade Entry Form

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY FRIDAY JULY 15TH TO: Ski Hi Stampede Committee, P.O. Box 909 Monte Vista, CO 81144

Deadline to return forms is Friday July 15th. Forms returned after that date will be subject to a \$10 late fee.

Line up on parade day will begin at 8:00 AM.

There will be judging of parade entries. In order to be judged you have to be in the parade both days.

PARADE WILL TAKE PLACE JULY 28th-29th

ENTRY NAME _____ Firm, Organization, Sponsor, etc.
TELEPHONE # _____

FLOAT: Senior _____ or Youth (1-18) _____

DAY(S) YOU WILL BE PARTICATING IN THE PARADE Friday _____ Saturday _____

If Small children are riding on floats, please park your vehicle away from the floats and walk the children to the float to avoid traffic congestion. Afterwards, please walk to the end of the route to collect them. During parade it is important to continue moving to avoid gaps, please do not stop. **DO NOT THROW CANDY FROM YOUR VEHICLES DURING PARADE.**

ANTIQUÉ VEHICLE (Circle all that apply)

NUMBER OF PEOPLE

PER Vehicle _____ Bikes _____ 4 Wheelers & Motorcycles _____

Walking/Marching Group _____ Car Group _____

Other (Describe) _____

NUMBER OF HORSE RIDERS: Adult _____ Junior (13-18) _____ Juvenile (1-12) _____

Family/Group _____ Other (describe) _____

At the end of the parade, please ride your horse across the highway, then along the railroad track. For your safety do not ride them on the highway with the oncoming traffic.

PLEASE GIVE A FULL DESCRIPTION OF YOUR ENTRY TO AID OUR ANNOUNCER

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

Visit Our Facebook Page

Do you have some extra time on your hands and love in your heart? Then come volunteer with us and spend time with some dogs who need some extra attention!

April is a Belgian Shepherd who’s about 10 years old, who was recently surrendered to us after owner health concerns. This is her 2nd time here and we’re hoping it’s her last. April has hip dysplasia but no medications so far prescribed for her, and she’s still full of energy. Come meet her today!

Spot is a Lab Pit mix who turns 6 in October. He’s people friendly, and quite sad right now. Spot’s owner recently passed away so we’re still learning about his preferences, but he’s super sweet and looking for love. Come meet him today!

HEY EVERYONE! We’re running low on puppy food, laundry supplies and treats! Any and all donations are appreciated!

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.



Emma Gilmore

Emma Gilmore is an outstanding graduate of ASU

BY ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY ALAMOSA — Adams State University has many outstanding students throughout all disciplines. Just before commencement, the Office of Public Relations reaches out to school directors for names of exceptional students about to receive their diploma.

The School of STEM recognizes Emma Gilmore, an Alamosa High School alumna, as outstanding. She graduated Cum Laude during the Spring 2023 Commencement Ceremony on May 13. Gilmore earned a Bachelor of Arts in chemistry-allied health; a Bachelor of Science in biology-cellular and molecular; and minored in Spanish.

An Adams State legacy student, Gilmore is a third-generation graduate. Family members include Grandparents: John T. (Tom) Gilmore, Ph.D., emeritus professor of business, Class of 1967 and 1968; Pat Gilmore, Class of 1968; and Parents: Paula Parker, Class of 1997 and 2010; and Jeff Gilmore, Class of 1994.

"I am confident I would not have received the same knowledge and one-on-one time with professors if I attended a different university. My family also has a long history with Adams State, and so it has been nice to continue on in my parents and grandparents' footsteps."

Gilmore will take a gap year and work in a chemistry laboratory, before applying to physician assistant school.

"The best part of Adams State is the ability to connect with and create such lasting relationships with professors," Gilmore said. "I have yet to meet a faculty member in Porter Hall that does not go above and beyond for their students. Not only have they given me the skills and knowledge to excel in my future endeavors as a scientist, but they have also been a shoulder to cry on or a reservoir of great advice."

Gilmore received the Porter Scholarship in Science and Mathematics all four years, as well as a number of other scholarships. She graduates in four years with honors, no student loan debt, and with two majors and a minor.

Gilmore's work-study jobs include general chemistry teaching assistant, microbiology and biochemistry laboratory assistant and STEM peer mentor. Off campus, she worked for San Luis Valley Health as an emergency room-acute care unit certified nursing assistant and volunteered with the local domestic violence shelter, Tu Casa, as a 24-hour hotline volunteer since 2020.

"I'm grateful for all of the connections I have made outside of academics, because each one has given me insight on different aspects of life beyond the walls of Porter Hall. I have gained a collection of different professional skills from these individuals that I will carry with me long after I graduate," she said.

Gilmore is definitely not the same shy and timid freshman that started college.

"Personally, and academically, I have grown to be confident in my ability to serve people as a competent professional in the future," Gilmore said. "I owe this growth entirely to the experiences I have had within my community and at Adams State during the last four years."

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HVCC's summer program halfway through

CONTRIBUTED

DEL NORTE — Hi, community members! Happy Independence Day! High Valley Community Center can't believe our summer program is already halfway over.

The past four weeks have been full of science experiments, crafting, tie-dying, playing outside, swimming, fishing, business projects, and on and on! The older kiddos participated in an HVCC Mock Career Fair and learned all about careers through the Forest Service, BLM, REC, Public Health, River Valley Rehab and Healthcare Center, National Guard, Rio Grande Public Library, and the Rotary Club.

We want to thank our local partners that volunteered to spend some time with the kiddos. It makes an impact on them to build relationships with members of the community.

Baseball season is behind us, and now we are looking forward to our

fall sports! Registrations for third-fourth and fifth-sixth grade volleyball are available on our website, www.TheHVCC.org, until Aug. 1. Flag football will be divided into first-second grades and potentially third-fourth grades depending on our number of registrations. Tackle football for ages third-sixth is available through Rise Above Football. Contact Rise Above Football for more information. Stay tuned for more sports updates as August approaches.

We will be closed the entire week from July 4-6. We will return on Tuesday, July 11, for regular programming. The kids can look forward to a field trip to Zapata Falls on July 12 as well as making pottery with Mr. Andy, water games,

and an escape trailer to name a few. We're looking forward to having the kids back!

We hope you all have a wonderful week!



Photos courtesy of HVCC

There is more to the High Valley Community Center's summer program than meets the eye. Sometimes it's running and having fun with friends, playing sports and participating in activities.



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1				3	2		4	
5			6				8	
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7			1				3	
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							9	
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Here's How It Works:
 Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Solution to last week's puzzle

R	U	E	R			M	S	T			R	A	T				
O	X	B	O	W		A	K	A			R	A	B	I			
M	O	L	T	O		N	I	L			A	G	E	E			
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T	R	A	N	S	L	U	C	E	N	T							
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S	E	I	S			Z	E	E			R	A	B	B	I		
A	R	C				E	R	R			R	E	E	D			

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Photos courtesy of CRT

The Creede Repertory Theatre (CRT) opened the production of 'Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella' on June 30 and audiences have been magically captivated by this Broadway adaptation of the classic fairytale ever since.

CRT shines and tells a fairytale with pizzazz

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

CREEDE — Fairytales are an important part of any childhood. Takes as old as time shaped the fortunes of many and continue to do so for years to come. One such fairytale — “Rogers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella” — hit center stage at the Creede Repertory Theatre this past week and nothing short of magic happened.

This play featured a 13-actor principal with returning cast members from other notable plays from previous years. Music by Richard Rodgers with Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II and based on the new book by Douglas Carter Beane that adds a twist to the original book by Oscar Hammerstein II and Directed by Brittini Shambaugh Addison, “This 2013 Broadway adaptation of the classic story crackles with sweetness and freshness and features new characters, a hilarious libretto by Tony-award winning playwright Douglas Carter Beane, exciting twists, and the classic score by Rodgers and Hammerstein featuring unforgettable songs such as ‘In My Own Little Corner,’ ‘Impossible/It’s Possible’ and ‘Ten Minutes Ago.’

The stage props greet guests and create a fairytale atmosphere that catches the eye and keeps the play moving throughout the performance. Intricate flowers weave their way up curving stairs that bring the play to life as 13 actors dance, sing and meander across the stage captivating audiences along the way.

The storyline is just unique enough to tell the tale of this beloved fairytale in a whole new way while

keeping true to the original story. Heidi Carann Snider once again brings her devotion to the stage in her character Ella and her bright disposition shines throughout the entire play.

Alongside Carann Snider, Tony King, who played Prince Topher, Ella’s counterpart, brought a sense of masculinity to the stage that could not be matched with a side of humor and audiences immediately fell in love. King and Carann Snider made for the perfect stage couple, star-crossed lovers and fairytales come true throughout the production.

The entire cast of the performance were the perfect combination of humor, life-lessons and endearing creatures which made “Hammerstein’s Cinderella” one that cannot be missed for theatre goes this year. Each character played by cast members from CRT brought the stage to life and helped to create the perfect fairytale production of the beloved story.

The musical staff with Andy Hudson on piano, Megan Rayl on Cello and Dawson Horey masterfully playing reed instruments was almost as enchanting to watch as the play itself. Each band member brought with them a theatrical presence that made the production of “Hammerstein’s Cinderella” even more enchanting and imaginative, taking it to the top of the must-see productions so far this year.

For a full schedule of “Cinderella” along with other events and performances for the 2023 season, visit www.creederep.org.

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If you or anyone you know is interested in filling the remainder of the current term through 2024, contact Michelle Trujillo at 719-852-3538.

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