

Shorts

Del Norte Rotary Golf Tourney set for July 7

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Rotary Golf Tournament is set for July 7 at the Rio Grande Club and Resort in South Fork.

The format is 4-person scramble, low foursome score. The cost is \$125 per person and includes lunch. Shotgun start at 11 a.m.

To register or for more information, contact Julia York at 719-657-4546.

Alamosa fireworks at the fairgrounds

ALAMOSA — In cooperation with the City of Alamosa, San Luis Valley Federal Bank recently announce its 25th annual fireworks show will be on July 4, at the Alamosa Fairgrounds at 9:30 p.m. The show is free to the public.

In the event of bad weather or dry conditions, the show will be moved to a later date.

San Luis Valley Federal Bank will regularly post updates and notices regarding the event. Visit www.slvfed.bank, for more information.

Karissa Rodriguez makes spring 2023 Dean's List

TOPEKA, KAN. — Washburn University has announced its spring 2023 Dean's List honorees. To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled in 12 hours of graded credits and earn a semester grade point average of 3.4 to 3.99. Karissa Rodriguez from Romeo is a spring 2023 Dean's List honoree.

Shepherd performing in Creede on July 2

CREEDE — Darrell Shepherd will be performing from 2-4 p.m. on July 2 at Basham Park in Creede as part of the Creede Arts Council's summer concert series.

Shepherd is an Americana singer-songwriter, who was born and raised in Alaska. He is currently residing in the mountains of Colorado. He wants nothing more than to write and perform songs that tell stories and make you want to sing along.

Shepherd also owns and operates the Shepherd Music Experience, a music school centered on the innate creative abilities that exist within all his students — children and adults alike.

For more information, contact Creede Arts Council at creedearts@outlook.com. To view CAC's entire summer lineup, visit online www.creedeartscouncil.com/music-in-the-park.

Climbers rescued on Crestone Needle descent

BY CUSTER COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE

SAGUACHE COUNTY — On the morning of June 19, a request for mutual aid was received from Saguache County for Custer County SAR (CCSAR) to respond to a party of four who had trouble on the descent from Crestone Needle.

Two members of the party were able to descend to their camp at South Colony Lakes while the other two were separated from each other on the standard route and became stranded. One of the stranded climbers was able to activate his Garmin inReach which enabled communication and an accurate location. At 4 a.m. CCSAR fielded a team to hike and climb to the climber's position and to help locate the second stranded climber. At 7:30 a.m. the party of two reunited and



Photo courtesy Custer County Search and Rescue

Please see RESCUE on Page 2A Custer County Search and Rescue responds to stranded climbers on June 19.

Two killed in two-vehicle accident on Highway 285

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

CENTER — An accident involving a "near head-on collision" between a 2018 Chevrolet Cruze and a pick-up truck on Highway 285 claimed the lives of two people on Monday afternoon.

The accident occurred at mile post 66.5 on Highway 285, just a few miles north of where 285 intersects with Highway 112.

According to Capt. Nathan Lyons with the Colorado State Patrol, at 3:49 p.m. on Monday afternoon, a 37-year-old woman was travelling with four passengers in a Chevrolet Cruze headed northbound on Highway 285 when she traveled into the southbound lane, colliding with

See ACCIDENT on Page 2A

SLV Commissioners discuss regional issues



Courier photo by John Waters

San Luis Valley County Commissioners Association meeting in Alamosa on June 26.

DA says Colorado Bureau of Investigation to staff new Alamosa office

BY JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA — Commissioners from throughout the Valley met in Alamosa on June 26 for the quarterly meeting of the San Luis Valley County Commissioners Association meeting.

During public comment, Darius Allen and Larry Crowder both spoke in favor of the agenda item for future commissioners' meetings to include an invocation. Later in the meeting, commissioners unanimously voted in favor of the item.

Please see ISSUES on Page 6A

CPW provides tip for keeping you and your pets safe from rattlesnakes

CONTRIBUTED

DENVER — Colorado Parks and Wildlife is sharing important information to keep you, your family and your pets safe from rattlesnakes. Recently, an 11-year-old boy was bitten by a rattlesnake while biking near Golden. He survived thanks to his father's quick action.

Why are people bitten and what is the result?

Rattlesnakes have an elaborate defensive strategy, seeking to avoid the need for a venomous bite

Please see SNAKES on Page 5A

It is common for rattlesnakes to bask in the sun on roads or trails to warm their bodies. Use caution when biking or hiking in areas with rattlesnakes.

Photo courtesy of Wayne D. Lewis/CPW



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Teenager arrested in connection to stabbings at Cole Park

Occurred on the 2nd night of Carnival by the Rio

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — In a heavily redacted police report obtained by the Valley Courier from the Alamosa Police Department (APD), officers with the APD report that, between 11 and 11:30 p.m. on the night of Friday, June 9 — the second night of “Carnival by the Rio” — an incident occurred resulting with a juvenile suspect being taken into custody after allegedly stabbing three adults. The incident took place in Cole Park where the carnival was held.

The suspect’s name and date of birth are not being released due to his juvenile status, but statements included in the report suggest he is about 15 years old.

Following the alleged assault, Steven Mattfeldt, 57, Chris Fowler, 56, and Santiago Ramos, 20, were transported to a local hospital. Mattfeldt and Fowler were treated for their injuries — and later released. Ramos, who suffered multiple stab wounds to the back, was transported to a hospital in Denver with his condition, at that time, listed as critical.

The juvenile suspect has been charged with two counts of assault in the first degree — a class three felony, one count of assault in the second degree — a class four felony, disorderly conduct, and tampering with evidence.

According to statements made in an interview with an APD officer by Mattfeldt, the carnival owner, a “group of younger people” had been at the carnival the night before and had allegedly stolen some of the stuffed animals. The “same group,” he says, returned the next night and, after the carnival had closed for the evening, were in an altercation with each other and standing on the owner’s tables.

In his statement, Fowler, one of Mattfeldt’s employees, said he had approached the group and told them to leave but, Fowler said, “they

wanted to pick a fight.”

Mattfeldt then confronted the group. “Words were exchanged”, and a fight broke out. Fowler, Santiago Ramos — a newer employee who came to help — and Mattfeldt were all stabbed during the altercation.

Initially, three juveniles were thought to be involved. Two of the three were leaving the scene when APD arrived after on the scene on a report of a stabbing. The two juveniles were quickly apprehended by officers.

The third juvenile suspect was found on the ground where he was being held by several of the other carnival employees. According to the report, he still held a knife in his hand and both hands were covered in blood.

All three juveniles were transported to APD. After their guardians came to the station and they were interviewed by police, two of the three were released.

When the mother of the juvenile suspect arrived, both were advised of their rights followed by an interview of the suspect by an APD officer. The juvenile suspect said he

would be in the 10th grade next year and understood why he was there. When asked what happened, the juvenile suspect held up his hands and said, “I did what I did.” He repeated that same phrase several times during the interview.

The teenager’s responses to the officers’ questions suggested that he leads a somewhat solitary life. Although his mother has custody, he lives with his grandmother and has no close relationships with his parents, siblings or friends. When asked who was the person he was closest to, the teenager said himself.

He also told the officer several times that he “didn’t care” about what happened to the victims. But, later in the interview, the officer basically called him on that behavior.

“I told (him) it seemed like he cares more than he’s saying he does,” the officer wrote. “He advised he does, but it is what it is. He said he’s going to go to PYC and get good behavior and hopefully be out in 6 years. I asked if that is where he wanted to end up and he said no, but that is where he is

going. He again said he was going to do six years because he tried to kill somebody, with no intent, but did stab someone. He said he never wanted it to go this way, but he did what he did, and they know what they did.”

In several places, the officer also noted that the teenager was crying in his report.

After the interview was concluded and the juvenile suspect was medically cleared, he was transported to Pueblo Youth Corrections, awaiting further judicial proceedings.

Whether Santiago Ramos remains in critical condition 10 days after the stabbing is not known at this time.

OBITUARY

Martha Ann ‘Marty’ (Adams) Steward

Martha Ann “Marty” (Adams) Steward, 90, was welcomed into the arms of Jesus on June 18, 2023. She lived a full life and touched many hearts on her earthly journey.

Marty was born to Dorothy (Fuchs) and John “Smiles” Adams on July 14, 1932, in Del Norte, Colo. She lived her early life in Del Norte and frequently visited her grandparents’ ranch outside of town where she fished the Rio Grande and rode horses. She graduated from Del Norte High School and went onto get her Bachelor’s degree from Adams State College.

She married Jack Steward in 1953 and raised three children, Doug, Dave and Deb. She was devoted to her children and Jack often commented that she was the biggest kid of all. Marty spent the majority of her teaching career in Sterling, Colo., where she was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and served as a youth group leader for several years passing along her passion for God to future generations. She and Jack bought property in Creede in the 50’s, thus planting family roots deep in the Creede region. They spent several summer breaks living in the one-room cabins, making lifelong memories, and passing along their love of all things “Creede” to their family.

After retirement she couldn’t give up her passion for teaching, so returned to her childhood hobby of skiing by becoming a ski instructor at Wolf Creek Ski Area. Marty also served the Creede community as an EMT on the ambulance service. She loved her golden retrievers, walking, fishing, spending time with family, playing games, laughing, playing the



guitar and studying and worshipping her Heavenly Father.

Family that went to Jesus prior to Marty are her parents, John and Dorothy Adams of Del Norte, Colo., sister, Colleen Pughe from Del Norte, Colo., her husband Jack Steward, Creede, Colo., and her son, Doug Steward of Monte Vista, Colo.

Marty’s bright smile and laugh will be missed by her brother John Adams of Laurel, Mont., son David (Carol) Steward of Greeley, Colo., Daughter Deb Haverfield (Gary) from Monte Vista, Colo., six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews and friends.

Celebration of Life will be held Aug. 12 at 11 a.m. at the Creede Baptist Church (600 La Garita St., Creede, Colo.) with a light lunch to follow. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to: Creede Baptist Church Youth Group, POB 151, Creede, CO 81130, or to the Mineral County Ambulance, POB 381, Creede, CO 81130.

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



Photo by John Waters

The Carnival by the Rio held in Cole Park, Alamosa, was the site of a stabbing that injured three.

ACCIDENT

Continued from Page 1A

a pick-up truck being driven by a 72-year-old man from Saguache. The pick-up truck was hauling a gooseneck trailer.

Lyons says the car “didn’t quite hit the truck head on, it was more of a sideswipe.” The collision resulted in the deaths of two of the five people in the Cruze. All five people were wearing their seat belts.

Following the accident, the driver of the Cruze, identified as Becky Thompson, 37, of Phoenix, Ariz., was transported to Rio Grande Hospital where she was pronounced deceased. A 15-year-old boy, who was sitting in the back seat behind Thompson, was pronounced

deceased at the scene. His identity is not being released.

The remaining three passengers — including Thompson’s fiancé and two other children — were also transported to the local hospital where it was determined that Thompson’s fiancé sustained serious injuries while the two remaining children did not.

The driver of the pick-up truck, identified as Timothy Steadberg, was uninjured in the collision.

Alcohol or drugs were not a factor in the accident, and it was believed that the Cruze driver drifted off to sleep. Lyons says the five people in the Cruze were traveling to Denver to visit the children’s grandmother.

“The Colorado State Patrol wants to express our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the two people who died in this accident,” Lyons told the Valley Courier. “It’s also important to note that all the occupants were seat belted. As tragic as this accident was, it could have been so much worse if people had not been wearing their seatbelts.”

Lyons further emphasized that driving while feeling tired is truly as dangerous as driving while intoxicated or under the influence of drugs.

“If you’re feeling sleepy, no matter what time of day it is, you need to pull over and rest until you feel refreshed and ready to drive,” Lyons says.

RESCUE

Continued from Page 1A

continued to descend safely where they met up with the CCSAR team.

The Crestone Needle is a difficult Class 4 Climb accessed from the South Colony Lake Trail starting at an elevation of 9,900 feet. The summit is 14,196 feet. It is considered one of the most difficult Colorado 14ers to climb.

According to Custer County Search and Rescue, “When ascending and descending different routes,

it is imperative that both routes are researched thoroughly. If you are having trouble descending in the dark, we recommend staying together as a group and waiting until first light to continue moving.

“Currently, the conditions on Broken Hand Pass require mountaineering equipment including ice axes, helmets, and traction devices such as crampons (preferred)

or micro-spikes. Temperatures and weather conditions are still spring-like, and hypothermia can become a real risk even at this time of year. Carrying portable battery chargers, two-way communication devices like the Garmin inReach headlamps with extra batteries, appropriate equipment for your activity, and extra food/water/layers is highly recommended.”

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

John Patterson

John Patterson Memorial Celebration: Saturday, July 1, at 11 a.m. at the Ski-Hi Complex. Live music, cash bar, some food. Everyone is welcome. Bring your favorite Farm Art and or photo to display.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

No good deed



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

I am sure that most of you have heard the old phrase, "No good deed goes unpunished."

You also know by now that Ol' Dutch likes to include some background of the origin of such phrases here so that you, my readers, will have some intellectual-sounding fodder to bring up at the next social meeting you attend. So, I went to the source for everything, aka The Internet, and there seems to be some schism about who came up with such wisdom.

One source swears up and down it was first attributed to old Walter Map's 12th-century De nugis curialium where a character is said to have, "left no good deed unpunished, no bad one unrewarded". But another search engine attests the phrase to one Oscar Wilde, a famous Irish poet and playwright born way back in 1854. Miss Trixie upon hearing his birthdate thought it pertinent to ask Ol' Dutch if he knew old Oscar since she thinks I may be older than dirt after my last birthday.

Moving on, O.W. did say "no good deed goes unpunished" in its purest form so we will chalk one up for the Irish and let him have the credit this time.

What it means is whenever a person does a good deed for someone just out of the abundance of their heart let us say, somehow the doer many times gets the short end of the deal. Take for instance one of your friends gets stranded in a broken-down car. You put on your Good Samaritan shirt and shoes, rush out there, spend all day helping them tow them to town. And that is all well and good but what can happen is while you are out there a truck goes by and dumps a whole passel of nails on the road and you end up ruining four tires.

Now this does not mean you should curtail your good deeds as they may help you get in the Pearly Gates, if you are short on good conduct credits.

So, Ol' Dutch found himself in the perfect spot - so I thought - to help some poor soul along life's highway last Sunday. Having shuttled some fishermen up the river, I decided that it was time for me to wet a line and went up to an area lake to fly fish the stream coming into it. I was doing good just minding my own business - which I should have kept doing - when two young boys began trying to fly fish beside me. It was a pathetic display of whipping and pounding the water and Ol' Dutch

decided to teach them a few things about casting a fly.

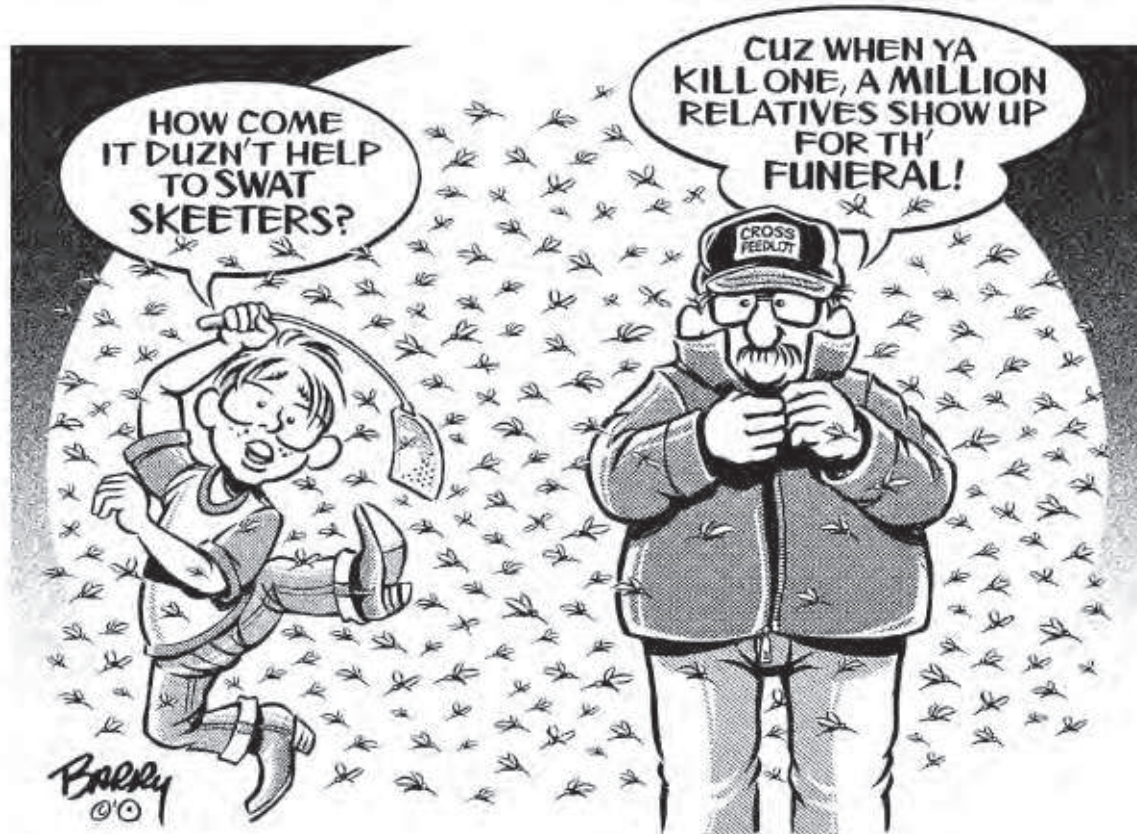
They were overjoyed to learn how to throw and soon I had them tossing loop after loop across the stream. And Ol' Dutch was feeling prouder than a peacock in Spring until I stepped back and fell into a hidden beaver den. Down I went sloshing and thrashing into the cold morass and looking to the boys for a hand up, but all I saw were four eyes staring back at this old man in total disbelief at what they were seeing. I did finally extract myself from the watery grave but not before filling both boots, all my pockets and my wallet with ice cold rocky mountain spring water.

I do have to admit I laughed all the way back to the truck at the sight I must have been as I went down like a trap door had been pulled out from underneath me. It was the first time I have fallen in probably in 10 years, so I still feel pretty good about that, albeit a tad soggy.

Last week was not all bad, as I was able to assist in the rescue of a woman from the river as my good deed and that deed had no bad payback. So, I guess I will keep trying to help others.

My mother always told us that when you do a good turn for someone that God will repay you and so far, she has been right. And when you take that attitude then you never have to feel as though you got shorted in any situation. So, get out there this week and help a friend, neighbor, and if you are Godly enough, help an enemy. God keeps score, you can bet on that and who better to reward you for your deeds than Him.

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.



Restoring the land can feel a lot like fun

By Rick Knight

Driving back to Colorado State University with a van full of students after a day of working to heal some beat-up land north of Fort Collins, I wondered: Could ecological restoration be a new form of outdoor recreation?

We'd spent the day building a saw-buck fence around a spring. From the spring, gravity would carry the water through a pipe to a stock tank in the middle of the pasture.

On this land protected by a conservation easement, cows would no longer drink, pee and poop while trampling the spring's vegetation. The spring could recover while the cattle drank clean water elsewhere.

My students had spent the day outdoors in the company of their classmates doing challenging physical work. At the moment, though, the young people were trying not to fall asleep as we neared town.

Yet all day I'd seen the light in their eyes, and I could tell they felt pride in learning and exercising skills they hadn't had before. They also clearly liked the idea of giving something back to land that would never be developed.

This kind of volunteer work - The Nature Conservancy got us involved - addresses many problems today that we've come to call crises: species extinction, climate change, soil loss, and the decline of both water quantity and quality. Fortunately, many nonprofit groups, along with some owners of private lands that are protected by conservation easements, offer people an opportunity to improve damaged lands.

In my home watershed of northern Colorado, we often work with the nonprofit Wildlands Restoration Vol-

unteers, a statewide grassroots group established in 1999. To date, it has completed over 1,000 projects on public lands assisted by more than 40,000 volunteers, who have contributed over \$10 million in time and expertise.

Wildlands Restoration Volunteers includes people from both cities and rural areas who agree with what Wendell Berry wrote: "The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope."

At the end of the 20th century, scientists from around the world got together to measure our planet's health. Shockingly, they reported that three out of every four acres of the Earth's surface were in a degraded state.

The urgent global need to restore our damaged lands and waters has also caused the United Nations to name this the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (www.decadeonrestoration.org). It's clear that we have yet to locate the sweet spot of a sustainable relationship with our world.

For humans to have a future on Earth, we need to reverse the erosion of soils, pollution of air and water, and weakening of the natural ecosystems that support us. Ecological restoration can attack those problems while also playing a critical role in the drawdown of atmospheric carbon dioxide, sending it back into the plants and soils where it belongs.

Although restoration and recreation have much in common, there is a major difference between the two. While outdoor recreation fulfills oneself, ecological restoration gives back to the land. Not that benefiting oneself

is bad; one of the reasons we recreate is for the regenerative powers of spending time in nature.

But adding restoration into the domain of outdoor recreation could go a long way to enhance our time outdoors. I've found that when a group acts to restore the health of soil, land, plants and animals, the people involved always feel better about themselves.

As author Robin Wall Kimmerer put it in "Braiding Sweetgrass," "...as we care for the land, it can once again care for us." By restoring damaged lands and waters, we still find joy in the outdoors, but we also give back to the home planet that sustains us.

Let's seek out that work, turning it into something we do outdoors together, restoring lands and water while at the same time re-creating ourselves.

Rick Knight is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is professor emeritus of wildlife conservation at Colorado State University.



Writers on the Range
by Rick Knight

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Improvements ahead for two Colorado National and Scenic Historic Byways

Silver Thread Byway to benefit from funding

CONTRIBUTED

DENVER — Two of the state's southwestern byways will be getting some enhancements after receiving a \$640,250 grant from the Federal Highway Administration's National Scenic Byways Program.

Several improvements are planned for the Alpine Loop Byway, connecting Lake City, Ouray, and Silverton, and the Silver Thread Byway, between Blue Mesa Reservoir and South Fork, including:

- An open-air picnic pavilion (Silver Thread)
- Eleven toilets (seven double ADA vault toilets; three composting vault toilets; one single ADA vault toilet) (Alpine Loop/Silver Thread)
- Safety pullouts on Engineer Pass and Cinnamon Pass (Alpine)
- Additional safety pullouts between Eureka and Animas Forks (Alpine)
- Installation of an open-deck Dark Skies observatory and interpretive site on Slumgullion Pass in the decommissioned Slumgullion Campground (Silver Thread)

The grant application was a collaborative effort between four counties, four municipalities, two ranger districts, one Bureau of Land

Management field office, and several nonprofit organizations.

"Our region is experiencing a steady increase of tourism in this scenic and historic region," said Hinsdale County Commissioner Kristie Borchers. "We are pleased to accept this grant award for vital upgrades to infrastructure."

Both also are designated as Colorado Electric Byways, requiring each route to have sufficient charging infrastructure in place for electric vehicles to complete the entire length of the byway. Fourteen of the state's byways are designated Electric Byways. More information is available at: <https://oedit.colorado.gov/electric-byways-tourism-toolkit>.

FHWA awarded \$21.8 million to 33 byways in 29 states, including five Tribal lands. These are the first National Scenic Byways Program grants awarded since 2012.

Thirteen of Colorado's 26 byways, including Alpine Loop and Silver Thread, are designated as America's Byways, meaning they are nationally recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation for their outstanding scenic and historic attributes. Colorado has the most nationally designated byways in the U.S. The collection also includes 10 National Forest Scenic Byways and two Bureau of Land Management Back Country



Courtesy photo

CDOT established the Scenic and Historic Byways program in 1989. In addition to supporting the state's 26 byways, the program includes two All-American Roads, 10 National Forest Scenic Byways, and two Bureau of Land Management Backcountry Byways.

Byways. Learn more about these scenic and historic road trips that preserve the state's culture, history and natural wonder by visiting www.ColoradoByways.org.

CDOT established the Scenic and

Historic Byways program in 1989. In addition to supporting the state's 26 byways, the program includes two All-American Roads, 10 National Forest Scenic Byways, and two Bureau of Land Management Backcountry

Byways. The statewide system is comprised of nearly 2,600 miles of roadway through 48 of Colorado's 64 counties. More information is available at www.codot.gov/travel/colorado-byways.

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

BY LYNDIS 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 Milo

Hayes Meld out of Salida and 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 Rifters 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.

Deadlines for SLV Lifestyles and local weekly papers

Lifestyles news...Thursday, 5 p.m. for the next week

News for all paid papers...Monday, noon

Classified ads...Thursday, 5 p.m. for the next week

Legal advertising...Thursday, 5 p.m. for the next week

Display advertising...Thursday, 5 p.m. for the next week

Discover the Truth About Love

The Bible teaches us that it's God's will for us to help hurting people. In John 13:34-35, Jesus says, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (NIV). Matthew 22:37-38 says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

The love message is the power of the Gospel. It's so simple: Love God and love your neighbor as you love yourself. We often think we need someone to love us, but what we really need is someone to love. And the world is desperate for real love, so it isn't hard to find someone who needs to be loved.

We live in a society that drives people to selfishness. So much of the advertising we see and hear influences us to want more and more and to never be satisfied with what we have. But the more selfish and self-centered we are, the less power we have to do good and help others.

The good news is we have what we need in Christ to overcome a selfish "What about me?!" mindset and lifestyle. We have the power of God's love! It's the answer to every dilemma and problem in our society today. And as Christians, our goal is to represent Christ in the world and show His love.

What Is True Love?

Love is not just a feeling, or a theory, or a nice word. It's action—it's the way you treat people...what you do for others. Love will always cost you something: time, energy, effort, money, giving up your pride, doing what's right when you don't feel like

it, keeping a good attitude when you don't get your way.

Loving the way God loves means you love when there's nothing in it for you; it's all about giving out and not expecting anything in return. We're called to *outreach*, not *in-reach*. Real love is about dying to self and living to love others.

Now, you have to understand that before you can love others, you have to experience God's love in your own life, because you can't give away something you don't have. Then you have to be willing to ask God to teach you to love the way He loves. When you do this, God will enable you to reach out and help someone else. I know this works because I've lived it.

Discover the Freedom to Love and Be Loved

I used to be selfish, self-centered, always thinking about how I could get my way. And I was miserable. See, I loved God and wanted to love people, but no matter how hard I tried to be sweet and nice to everybody, all of my trying was getting me nowhere. I was cranky, hard to get along with and impatient. God showed me the problem was that I didn't like myself because of the shame of my past. I grew up in an abusive home, and I felt guilty, condemned and ashamed because of it. I had to accept God's love for me before I could love anyone else.

So I decided to study God's love in the Word, pray for God to change my heart, and confess what His Word says about His love for me. Every day I would say out loud, "God loves me," and I would say it over and over to purposely keep this truth in my heart throughout the day. After a year of doing this, I finally got a revelation about God's love for me.

Now I am able to receive God's love and love others the way Jesus taught

Moving Up Higher

with
Joyce
Meyer



us to love. I don't do it perfectly all the time, but I've come a long way and am making progress every day. My prayer is, "God, show me how I can help others. Make me a blessing everywhere I go. I want to live to love You and others."

Every day I look for ways to add value to people I come in contact with. I can honestly say that learning how to love others with God's love has made me the happiest I've ever been! The truth is you can't be selfish and also be happy or have peace.

Make it your goal each day to pursue God's love and then give it away. First Corinthians 14:1 (AMP) says to "eagerly pursue and seek to acquire [this] love [make it your aim, your great quest]." So go after it with all your might, and ask God to make you a blessing everywhere you go! You can do something to help someone. You can live to love, just like Jesus.

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.

Crestone's 4th of July Celebration

9 am • 5k walk/run

11:30 • Parade Start

NOON • National Anthem

12:15 - 9 pm • LIVE music

5 Live music performances,
artisans, craft vendors, food trucks,

water balloon fight, pie baking contest,

and a Soap Box Derby race with a

\$500 Grand Prize sponsored by:

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SNAKES

Continued from Page 1A

if possible. Most of the time, rattlesnakes will not strike at people unless they feel threatened or are deliberately provoked.

While attacks on people are rare and usually not fatal for a healthy adult, bites are very painful and should always be taken seriously. Bites can have an increased effect on children and pets due to their smaller size.

Ecology and Behavior

A basic understanding of the biology and behavior of rattlesnakes can help you avoid unwanted encounters. Rattlesnakes often warm themselves in the sun, hunt, migrate and den in the same areas year after year.

Rattlesnakes are not built for speed, waiting in the same locations for hours, or days for a prey animal to walk by. Because of their slow speed, rattlesnakes will usually stand their ground when threatened.

Rattlesnakes use camouflage to blend in with their surroundings and in most cases will ignore people, thinking you cannot see them.

If a snake coils up, or makes a rattle noise, you are too close and should move away slowly. Stepping back just a few feet can convince the snake you are not a threat.

Rattlesnakes shelter in winter dens during the coldest months and resume activity in April or May, migrating several kilometers in search of food.

Snakes are often seen during the spring and fall when cool temperatures require them to bask in the sun on warm surfaces such as pavement or rocks near trails or roads.

Hunting usually occurs in the late afternoon and evening once the snakes have warmed up their bodies. When temperatures allow, rattlesnakes may also prowl for food in the early afternoon or at night.

Awareness and Avoidance

The best way to avoid dangerous encounters with any wildlife is awareness and avoidance. Always be aware of your surroundings using your eyes and ears, and avoid wildlife that you see or hear.

Watch for snakes basking in open, sunny areas such as pavements, rocks, trails or roads. It is acceptable to walk off trail to avoid them.

Watch where you place your hands and feet at all times, watching for areas such as rocks or logs that could be sheltering a rattlesnake.

Do not hike with headphones or earbuds in so you can listen for a rattlesnake's distinctive rattle.

Protect your feet and ankles as they are usually closest to rattlesnakes. Sturdy leather boots afford good protection; do not hike in sandals or flip flops.

Use extra caution around dusk when human visibility drops. Use a light and be sure to wear boots, even in camp.

Travel in groups. More people means more opportunities to see or hear a snake and more people to call emergency services in the event of a bite.

What to do if a snake is encountered
If an encounter with a snake is unavoidable, take these precautions to stay safe:

Freeze in place. Snakes are often heard before they are seen. If you hear a rattlesnake, FREEZE in place until you or a companion can locate the animal. Attempting to move away from a snake you can't see may lead you closer to it! Even if the snake is in plain view, freezing movement will reduce the threat you pose to the snake and

help you calmly assess the situation.

Establish space between you and the snake as they can strike from a long distance. A good rule of thumb is to put at least five feet between yourself and the snake. If possible, move slowly back the way you came.

Leave the snake alone. NEVER, under any circumstances, should you try to catch, kill, provoke or move a rattlesnake. One-third of people who suffer snake bites were bitten as a result of trying to handle or kill the snake. Move around the rattlesnake at a safe distance out of its way.

If you find a snake in your home or garage, call your local wildlife office for directions. In urban areas, many pest control companies can remove them for you.

Keeping your pets safe

The best way to keep your pets safe from rattlesnakes is to keep them on a six-foot leash as required on most public lands in Colorado. Dogs in particular are known to be curious animals that ignore a snake's defensive posturing.

If you live in an area where rattlesnakes are common and must let your pets outside, try to eliminate rock piles or grassy areas that could harbor snakes or common prey. Do a quick patrol of the area before letting your pets roam free.

Many dog training facilities in Colorado offer snake avoidance training for dogs, teaching them to avoid the sight, scent and sound of a snake.

A rattlesnake bite can have an increased effect on pets due to their small size. In the event of a bite, seek immediate veterinary attention and call the clinic ahead of time. Do not attempt to kill or catch the snake for identification.

What to do if a human is bitten by a rattlesnake

According to the Colorado Poison Center, if bitten by a rattlesnake you should:

- Call the Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 for instructions, then go to the nearest hospital.
- Remove any jewelry and tight-fitting clothing.
- Stay calm and avoid excess movement.
- Do not cut and try to extract venom.
- Do not use ice, heat, or tourniquet.
- Do not try to capture or kill the snake.

Body of missing man found near Crestone

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — The body of a man who was reported missing from Crestone on June 23 was found the next day just a few miles from the last location he was spotted.

Described by his friends as a "beautiful soul" in a post on Facebook's San Luis Valley Missing Persons page, Reilly Allen, born in 1988, was a resident of Crestone. He was last seen at 1 a.m. on Friday morning, June 23, in the Crestone area riding a 650-dirt bike.

In that same Facebook post, the public was asked to contact the Saguache County Sheriff's Office with information of his whereabouts along with pleas for prayers that he

returned safely.

According to Saguache County Sheriff Dan Warwick, Allen was found on June 24 by a citizen who was looking for him only a few miles from the last place he was seen.

Tom Perrin, Saguache County Coroner, told the Valley Courier that Allen died in a single vehicle motorcycle accident. His cause of death is not known pending the outcome of an autopsy.

In an update that appeared on the San Luis Valley Missing Persons Facebook page, the following statement was posted. "Our hearts are with all who knew and loved him. May Reilly rest in peace."



Reilly Allen

CPW Commission approves standardizing regulations for permissible activities on State Wildlife Areas

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — At its June 22 meeting in Alamosa, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission unanimously approved changes to regulations that standardized and clarified language for permissible activities on State Wildlife Areas. This is the next phase of work that began in 2020 to address impacts to State Wildlife Areas due to increased visitation and the impacts to wildlife habitat.



"These revisions will help CPW protect critical wildlife habitat across the state for current and future generations," said CPW Director Jeff Davis.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife manages about 350 State Wildlife Areas. SWAs are paid for primarily by sportspersons and managed for the benefit of wildlife. These areas may also offer wildlife-related recreation and potentially opportunities for other forms of recreation when not in conflict with wildlife or wildlife recreation.

In December 2019, the Area Wildlife Managers, in consultation with CPW staff managing the SWAs, began analyzing what negative impacts were occurring and coming up with ideas and solutions to these problems.

To help manage increasing recreation at SWAs, CPW began requiring either a valid hunting or fishing license, or an SWA access pass, for anyone 16 or older accessing most SWAs.

Additionally, a working group of CPW staff and stakeholders proposed updates to the SWA general provisions (regulations applicable to all SWAs) and property-specific regulations. General provisions are regulations that are applicable to all SWAs, except for State Trust Lands (or if explicitly allowed or disallowed in property-specific regulations).

The public was also invited to submit comments on the proposed changes before adoption by the Parks and Wildlife Commission. The comment period was open for a six-week period from April 12 through May 24.

While the general provision changes include new restrictions, some restrictions may not apply to all SWAs.

These new regulatory changes will go into effect on August 1, but Lamb said CPW wildlife officers would be implementing an education campaign for the first year to ensure everyone is aware of how new regulations may be affecting their favorite SWA before handing out citations for any violations of new regulations.

"Making these updates to our regulations was the culmination of a lot of hard work by staff, stakeholders and with key input from the public throughout the process," said Lamb.

The 2023 Colorado State Recreation Lands Brochure has all the updated regulations for SWAs and will be available online and in CPW offices in early August.



Valley-Wide Welcomes
Robert Caruso, BSPT
to
Edward M. Kennedy
Physical Therapy
925 2nd Ave, Monte Vista

Robert Caruso and his wife recently moved to Colorado from Oklahoma to be the host couple for a faith based Gap year program in South Fork, CO. His pathway to being a Physical Therapist was different than most. As a high school senior, he had no idea what field he wanted to study so he took an aptitude test that matched high to become a Physical Therapist and it has been a great fit 30+ years later. Robert is also an Athletic Trainer and a Certified Mechanical Diagnostic Therapist. In his free time, Robert enjoys walking with his wife and dog, hiking, lawn care, fitness and being outdoors.

Ask your Primary Care Provider how you could benefit from Physical Therapy!



valley-widehealth.org

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SLV Embroidery exhibit in Taos and workshop in Alamosa

By JOHN WATERS

TAOS, N.M., and ALAMOSA — Artists from the San Luis Valley will be featured in an upcoming exhibition, “Colcha Embroidery: Traditional and Contemporary at La Hacienda de Los Martinez in Taos, N.M., from July 1-31. After a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic and forest fires, this large display will fill several rooms. It includes works created by beginners to nationally recognized bordadoras (embroiderers). Areas represented include the San Luis Valley and La Veta and the New Mexico communities of Taos, Penasco, Chamisal, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Las Vegas, Moriarty, and Las Cruces. La Hacienda de los Martinez is a historic exhibition space, built in 1804 with adobe, and located on the bank of the Rio Pueblo de Taos. The exhibit’s unique feature appreciated by needle-workers is the ability to observe works up close. Hacienda de los Martinez is open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday noon to 5 p.m., located at 708 Hacienda Rd., Taos, N.M. Embroiderers from throughout

the San Luis Valley will be featured in the exhibition and include Donna Madrid Hernandez, Irene Medina, Julia Mondragon, Connie Morrell, Marcella Pacheco, Mary Vigil de Rodriguez, Sandy Dolak, Adrienne Garbini, and Aurora Martinez. Garbini told the Valley Courier, “Colcha embroidery is a textile art unique to Southern Colorado and New Mexico, where the art form originated in the early 19th Century. The colcha embroidery technique employs a single needle and thread, laying long stitches secured to cloth with tacking stitches. The term colcha refers to the Spanish word for a bed covering. It is common in the historical and modern San Luis Valley style to fill the entire surface of the fabric with embroidery. Valley colcha embroidery artworks often illustrate personal histories and local landscapes.” According to Taos Historic Museums, “The Hacienda de los Martinez — One of only a few northern New Mexico style, late Spanish Colonial period, ‘Great Houses’ remaining in the American Southwest. Built by Severino Martin (later changed

to Martinez), this fortress-like building with massive adobe walls became an important trade center for the northern boundary of the Spanish Empire. The Hacienda was the final terminus for the Camino Real which connected northern New Mexico to Mexico.” Included in the show will be a work by Donna Madrid Hernandez, of the S.P.M.D.T.U in Chama. According to the National Park Service, the building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2018, The Chama Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos (SPMDTU) lodge hall in Chama is locally significant as the lodge hall of the United Workers’ Mutual Protection Society group since its construction in about 1920. Founded in 1900, the society served the fraternal and social needs of its Hispano membership. The organization arose at a time when ethnic mutual aid societies were springing up across the nation. In the early 20th century, Hispanos often formed mutual aid societies to combat prejudice and exploitation: The



Image courtesy of The Range, Saguache, Colorado

Donna Madrid Hernandez, S.P.M.D.T.U in Chama 2022.

primary function of these organizations was to build solidarity within the Mexican and Spanish American communities, to educate their members about the laws and institutions of the United States, to welcome new arrivals to the communities. This colcha work is an embroidery representation of this important aspect

of Hispano culture and history. The Alamosa Public Library will be offering a colcha embroidery workshop on Saturday, June 24 at 1 p.m. with artists Donna Madrid Hernandez of San Luis, and Adrienne Garbini of Saguache. The class is free to attend. The Alamosa Public Library is located at 300 Hunt Ave.

ISSUES

Continued from Page 1A

Larry Brown from Colorado State University — San Luis Valley Area Extension Office gave the group an update and told the commissioners, that renowned CSU professor, Temple Grandin will be the keynote speaker at the Southern Rocky Mountain Agricultural Conference in Monte Vista next year.

Brown introduced Rebecca Hill, an agricultural economist with CSU who spoke on an economic analysis done on the annual Ag conference in Monte Vista. Hill’s team interviewed 177 participants who attended the March event to ascertain its economic impacts. According to Hill, 70% of the attendees who came to the ag show from outside the Valley, stayed in hotels in Alamosa, 20% stayed in Monte Vista, and 10% stayed elsewhere. Walmart in Alamosa was a beneficiary of attendees’ spending, as were the Safeway and liquor stores in Monte Vista.

Hill interviewed all of the 93 vendors who on average brought 2.6 employees to the conference and about 26% were new this year to the conference.

“People were overall positive with the event, people were excited, they loved the education they were getting and overall the comments were really positive,” said Hill.

Brown said he has almost doubled the size of the agricultural conference educational planning committee.

District Attorney Anne Kelly gave the group an overview of developments from her 12th Judicial District Office. Kelly spoke about “the mental health challenges we have in this Valley and across this state and across the country.”

“I’m a huge advocate, and have been fighting very hard to challenge the Colorado Mental Health Institute in Pueblo,” she said. “I have been very vocal about how they are not performing adequately, and that is an understatement. I have been talking to the Governor and other leaders about the mental health crisis in our jails. Mental health is a huge issue. Mental health was involved in the Monte Vista shooting and is involved in a number of crimes we are handling. What I would like to do in the next couple of years is really make that [mental health] a platform of my position in office to figure out ways we can try to address those issues and figure out ways that we can address issues and get resources from the state down here.” Kelly said she is interested in pursuing the idea of gathering a “working group of community leaders in the justice

realm,” to address mental health issues and fill in the gaps the Colorado Mental Health Institute is deficient in.

“I have great news, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, George Dingfelder, the Chief of Monte Vista police, and I have been working really, really, hard to get CBI to have a satellite office in the Valley,” Kelly said.

Kelly said that she did not hear officially from CBI when such an office will open, and said the bureau is advertising to hire agents in Alamosa.

“That is so huge, it is a total game changer, CBI was down here all week long, they’re still down here working on the two cases we found,” Kelly said. “They [CBI] have been hugely helpful to me, they came down on the Monte Vista shooting, all of our officer-involved shootings, all of our homicides and major cases. Having them [CBI] here in the Valley is an absolute game changer. I’m really, really, excited.”

Currently, Kelly and the CBI are looking for office space and she expressed interest in the old Alamosa County Courthouse or in the office currently used by Friday Health Plans after they depart. Kelly said her need for new office space is “critical.”

State Senator Cleave Simpson gave an update and prefaced his remarks by saying he and State Representative Matt Martinez had conducted town hall meetings in Alamosa and the two had collaborated throughout the session and that Martinez was, “a pleasure to work with.”

Simpson said, “The DA talked about behavioral health issues. Last session, we had \$500 million set aside to transform the behavioral health system in Colorado. I spent a summer on the task force to see where we want to spend the \$500 million. I don’t want to oversimplify it, DA Kelley touched on this; we don’t have enough bed spaces for the folks across the state who need treatment. You could probably spend all \$500 million there. And if you did have the bed space, we don’t have the workforce or staff to support them to deliver those programs.”

Representative Martinez spoke about the legislation he sponsored this session regarding Veteran mental health that needed some reforms due to complications with federal regulations. Under his legislation, Veterans are eligible for up to 12 free mental health visits annually. Martinez said he continues to work on these issues and will be meeting with Congresswoman Lauren Boebert soon.

Richard Nagley gave the commissioners an overview of the work the Veterans Coalition of the San Luis Valley does and the upcoming public meeting the organization will have at the National Guard Armory in Alamosa. The event is July 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to discuss the PACT Act. The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefits expansion in the Veteran Administration (VA) history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act. The act expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras. The Valley Courier will have more on the PACT Act in an upcoming edition.

Skip Shane, the Rio Grande administrator gave an update on the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement to protect water resources. As previously reported in the Valley Courier, for that agreement to become valid, all six counties must approve the agreement that was drafted in consultation with the Rio Grande Council of Governments. Alamosa and Saguache Counties have approved the document. The agreement will make any large-scale export of water out of the Valley more difficult.

Shane said that after receiving some input at a public hearing last week, the county decided to provide “some suggested edits” to the agreement.

“Specifically, the intent from Rio Grande County, for revisions for this IGA is to strengthen the language to focus on the singular purpose of water export from the joint planning area... there are some specific concerns of the present version that don’t necessarily stick to that intent,” Shane said.

Sara Stober from the council of governments said that any changes to the water agreement had been made prior to the agreement being finalized for county approval and said the new proposed changes from Rio Grande County, “are surprising to me that changes are being considered at this juncture. It seems to me the time for that has passed.”

Saguache County Commissioner Tom McCracken said, “If the document itself [IGA] is not standard through all six counties, I do not believe it will not go into force if it is not exactly the same through all six counties. I guess what I’m hearing is Saguache and Alamosa [counties] would need to go back and redo the whole process again?”

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners are accepting written offers for County Owned Property currently. The lots available will be accepted by the Commissioners, at their discretion, until July 25, 2024.

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Saguache County Land Use Office will be holding a series of education / outreach for the public on the passage of the Saguache County Nuisance Ordinance that was recently passed by the Board of County Commissioners. Dates, time, and location will be as follows:

June 20, 2023 – 5:00PM Center Kiwanis Club of Center – 510 S Broadway St., Center, CO 81125
 June 21, 2023 – 5:00PM KV Homeowners Association – 26415 Woodward Ave., Moffat, CO 81143
 June 26, 2023 – 5:00PM Tomichi Creek Trading Post – 71420 US-50, Sargents, CO 81248
 June 27, 2023 – 5:00PM Baca Grande Property Owners Association – 68575 Co. Rd. T, Crestone, CO 81131
 June 28, 2023 – 5:00PM Saguache County Road and Bridge – 305 3rd Street, Saguache, CO 81149

To view the Saguache County Nuisance Ordinance that was passed, you can go on the Saguache County Website at www.saguachecounty-co.gov or pick up a copy at the Saguache County Land Use Office, 505 3rd Street, Saguache, CO 81149.

No. 1668 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, May 18 and 25 and June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2023.

ANTHONY PECHENIK and SHERRY MIELING ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint in this action by filing with the District Court Clerk, Saguache County, an answer or other response to the following civil action.

This summons is in regard to Civil Action No. 2023CV30005, District Court, Saguache County, State of Colorado, Plaintiff Doree Newbery V. Defendants Anthony Pechenik and Sherry Mieling; and all unknown persons who may claim any interest in the subject matter of this action.

You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after the service of this summons. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.

This is an action in which the Plaintiff is seeking reversal of the fraudulent transfer of real property in her favor and against the named defendants. The property at issue is known as 2202 Spanish Creek Road, Crestone, CO 81131.

Plaintiff’s attorney-of-record is Gerald L. Jorgensen, Atty. Reg. No. 18855, 8001 Arista Pl., Suite 415, Broomfield, CO 80021.

No. 1671 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, June 8, 15, 22 and 29 and July 6, 2023.

DISTRICT COURT, SAGUACHE COUNTY, COLORADO Court address: 501 4th Street, Saguache, CO 81149 Phone number: (719) 655-2522	
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SADIE MARIE SKEFF a/k/a SADIE M. SKEFF a/k/a SADIE SKEFF, Deceased.	
Darrin L. Buxman, #21061 Buxman Kwirek & Shirley, PC Attorneys for Personal Representative 601 N. Main St., Suite 200 Pueblo, CO 81003 (719) 544-5081; Fax: (719) 546-3457 Email: dlbuxman@msn.com	A COURT USE ONLY A Case No. 2023 PR 30012 Div. No. c
NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO §15-12-801, C.R.S.	
NOTICE TO CREDITORS Estate of SADIE MARIE SKEFF a/k/a SADIE M. SKEFF a/k/a SADIE SKEFF , Deceased Case No: 2023 PR 30012 All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the Personal Representative or to <input type="checkbox"/> District Court of Saguache, County, Colorado or on or before October 16, 2023 (date)*, or the claims may be forever barred. Robert B. Gjellum a/k/a Bob Gjellum 75 Juniper Trail Del Norte, CO 81132	
No. 1673 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, June 15, 22 and 29, 2023.	

A librarian's legacy

AHS' Mark Skinner retires after 30 years

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Mark Skinner, a long-time, beloved staff member of Alamosa High School, retired at the end of this school year, leaving in his wake a gap that will not be easy to fill as he brings a 30-year career to a close.

For the past 22 years, Skinner served as the high school librarian. But to many students over the years, Skinner was the library as much as the books on the shelves or computers lined up on the tables. He shattered outdated stereotypes of librarians as stern, shushing, unwelcoming curmudgeons with his energy, optimism and genuine interest in each student who came through his doors — whether they came by choice or were driven there by an assignment that called for research or finding a book to read.

“Mark was an integral part of the staff, spirit and life blood of Alamosa High School,” says Andy Lavier, AHS principal.

Ironically, when he was younger, Skinner never intended to pursue a career in education. He had not even intended to live in the San Luis Valley.

With a degree in English Literature from Colorado College, Skinner came to the Valley with his wife for her internship in nursing. When she was then hired as an OB nurse, Skinner settled into the community, first working in construction, then making furniture followed by four years managing the Valley Food Co-op. But he found himself looking for something different. Something more.

“I’d worked in youth ministry for a year with young adults of all ages,” he says, “and I always loved kids. Teaching elementary education seemed like it would be a good fit.”

As it turned out, he was right. After getting his teaching certificate from Adams State University, Skinner spent seven years in the classroom in Monte Vista, initially teaching third grade and then combining fourth- and fifth-grade classes. But by the eighth year, he was looking “for a bit of a change” and found it when he took a job for a year as the librarian at Alamosa Elementary School.

The next year, he was hired as the librarian at the high school and all indications suggest he was in exactly the place where he was meant to be.

“Libraries are about a lot more than just all those books,” he says, “and they’re more important now than ever. Students think they can just do a search online and learn about a subject but there’s such an onslaught of incorrect information. And, with students working online so much more, how do you know what’s true? How do you use your critical thinking to know what’s actually true? Librarians are trained to do that. To teach critical thinking skills and what is valid information.”

But Skinner also saw great value in “all those books.”

“I grew up reading. That stemmed from my parents. Reading teaches you what it’s like to be in the world,” he says. “Kids don’t read for enjoyment that much anymore. You have to find the book that will draw them in. There were kids who would come into the library and say, ‘I have to read a book and I don’t read.’ So, I would say, ‘Talk to me. What do you like

to do? When you go home, what do you like to do?’ It would take some work but eventually I learned about some interest the student had. ‘Oh, so you like football? We have books on football.’ And they’d say, ‘Oh, you do?’ Someone else would say, ‘I like to work on tractors.’ I’d tell them we have books on tractors, and they’d get hooked.”

Critical thinking skills, using a database for research, students reading below grade level and reading to understand the world are all areas Skinner speaks about with expertise and conviction.

But his real passion emerges when he discusses the crucial role a library — specifically, his library at AHS — played in the lives of students by creating a “safe place” for students to be.

Part of feeling safe means feeling comfortable, so Skinner brought lamps and comfortable chairs into the library. But, much more important than the décor, Skinner created a place where students felt comfortable being themselves.

“When you’re a teenager, there are so many things you don’t know,” he says. “How do you make friends? How do you become true to yourself? How do you know who your true self is? Where do you belong?”

“A safe place is a place to explore without judgment, without question, to just be who you are as you navigate through all those things that teenagers are going through. It’s a place where a student feels welcomed, no matter their gender or their religion, no matter who they are.”

Katy Plomb, class of 2016, was one of Skinner’s library aides while she was in high school. Nine years later, the significance of the library — and Skinner — still resonates.

“Navigating high school cliques is terrifying,” she says. “It’s so easy to get lost, especially if you don’t fit in with sports or do all the extracurricular activities. Me and my friends spent all of our time in the library. The library grounded us. It was a place where we knew who we were. We could be ourselves and explore and learn and... feel normal.”

Plomb feels that Skinner and the library also shaped her future after graduation.

“I didn’t come from a privileged background and thought I wouldn’t go to college because we couldn’t afford it. In the library, I learned how to play chess. I got into studying animal behavior. I did go to college and now I’m studying to get my masters in clinical mental health. Having the library to go to and getting support from somebody like Mark really made all the difference.

“He has this superpower where he sees things in people that other people don’t see,” she says. “And he has a way of bringing it out.”

Rockie DeHerrera, AHS class of 2015, echoed Plomb’s words.

“Mark made the high school library a place where you were always welcome,” DeHerrera says. “A library usually comes to mind as being still and quiet, but our little library was always full of life and good conversation and respect. Mark made that library special to countless students, including myself.

“He radiates positive energy and sees good in people far beyond the surface level. He has had a profound impact on my life, and I know that I’m not alone.”

Skinner and his wife, Lou Ann, were

also known for going to numerous events where students participated — not just sporting events where the stands were full and not just events in town.

“A lot of the kids came from families where their parents didn’t — or maybe couldn’t — come and watch them in things,” Plomb says. “But students could look out and see Mark and Lou Ann were there and that... that meant a lot.”

Principal Lavier made the same observation.

“Mark and Lou Ann attended more AHS events (games/plays/concerts/dances) than just about anyone,” Lavier says. “The support and encouragement that the kids got out of seeing them was hard to overestimate.”

As much as Skinner understands the importance of being there for students, there are times when even he is surprised by how much it can mean.

“Each year, kids can ask someone to hand out their diploma,” he says. “I’ve had kids ask me to do that every year. But one year I had a student ask me and I said I’d be honored to but why me? I didn’t even know her name. And she said, ‘You just say hello to me every day. I never get that at home.’”

Skinner chokes up at the memory. “That still breaks my heart because there are those stories. You just smile at someone, and it makes that kind of difference,” Skinner says.

As he leaves his job and the world he created for students over the past 22 years, Skinner was asked what advice he has for others who are just



Photo courtesy of Mark Skinner

Mark and Lou Ann Skinner attended countless student events — not just sporting events and not just in town.

starting out.

“Teaching is an honorable profession,” he says. “And it’s also challenging. Every person you meet, you don’t know how you’re going to affect them, but you will affect them one way or another. That’s the joy and beauty of being a teacher.”

“Mark was always a positive influence on the students, staff, and programs,” says Lavier. “He was always willing to go above and beyond to make AHS a great place to work and go to school. His pride, commitment, enthusiasm, and professionalism for all things AHS will live on for years to come. He will be missed very dearly.”



Photo courtesy of Katy Plomb

Photo of Mark Skinner when he officiated at the marriage ceremony of two former students who met when they were library aides — Katy Plomb and Rockie DeHerrera.

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SFFR recovers capsized boat



Courtesy photos

On Saturday, June 24, working together with Mountain Man Rafting, South Fork Fire Rescue recovered a capsized boat from the Rio Grande near Wagon Wheel Gap. On Friday, guides from Mountain Man Rafting cleared the debris from the trestle bridge at Wagon Wheel Gap. South Fork Fire Rescue recommends scouting this bridge before running it. It is possible to scout it from the left or right and from the pullout just beside the bridge. There is a canoe currently submerged and wrapped near the middle and will likely be there until the river level drops. 'Be safe as you head out to enjoy activities on the river and always wear your personal floatation device.'



Creede set to explode for the Fourth of July

BY LYNDIE FERRELL

CREEDE — Traditions fuel the excitement around many events held in the small mountain town of Creede, but none so much as those surrounding the Fourth of July and Days of 92' Mining Competitions. This year, the City of Creede is planning to see hundreds if not thousands of people in town to experience those traditions.

Throughout the years, the Fourth of July in Creede has grown, bringing crowds of people to the area to enjoy not only the historical mountain town's parades, family activities and fireworks but also for the small-town feel and friendly nature of the community. This year is expected to be no different and the town is ready to celebrate Independence Day in style.

According to the Creede and Mineral County Chamber of Commerce, the Days of 92' State Mining Competitions will begin

at 9 a.m. either Sunday or Monday morning. Details about the start date and time are still being worked out and will be confirmed before the start of the holiday weekend. The mining competitions are a staple during the Fourth of July weekend and will take place in the Days of 92' arena behind Basham Park.

Guests can come and watch several competitions that include Jack Leg Drilling, mucking and so much more. Creede's mining history makes it the perfect venue for such an event and people come from all over the state to participate in the mining competitions. Each category tests the skills of miners and their partners, bringing some of the most difficult tasks to the forefront for the attending crowd.

Along with the mining competitions, the City of Creede will be hosting its annual parade along Main Street on Tuesday, July 4, beginning at 10 a.m. This year's

theme is "Creede: The True Silver Lining" and anyone wanting to participate in the parade should contact the city to sign up. Call 719-658-2276, for more information.

There will be craft vendors, food vendors and local businesses will be open for people to spend the afternoon shopping for those unique and flavorful gifts. There will also be children's activities in Basham Park including a bouncy house and more.

The Creede Repertory Theatre is featuring a performance of "Cinderella" at 6 p.m. and the Creede Chute Out will be hosting its Fourth of July rodeo out at the Mineral County Fairgrounds located south of town.

Dependent on weather and conditions, the town is planning on a firework show at dark. For the most up to date information and a full schedule of events, visit www.creede.com.



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Lifestyles News/Calendar Items:
Wednesday, June 28th - 5 p.m.

News/Obituaries:
Thursday, June 29th - 5 p.m.

Our office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4!

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Buffalo soldiers: reVision exhibit opens June 24 at Ft. Garland Museum

Explores complex history of all Black military regiments in the West



Denver Public Library Special Collections
Dick 'Buckskin' Charley and John Taylor.

CONTRIBUTED COSTILLA COUNTY — History Colorado's Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center has worked in partnership with eight independent artists to create a new exhibition which disrupts the common narratives of manifest destiny and settlement of the American West.

Titled buffalo soldiers: reVision this exhibition opens on June 24, exactly 165 years after Fort Garland was commissioned by the United States and presents a visual interpretation of the history and impact of the all Black Army regiments that were established in 1866 following the Civil War.

Known as Buffalo Soldiers, these regiments — including the 9th Cavalry who were stationed at Fort Garland from 1875 to 1879 — played a role in American westward expansion and the displacement of Indigenous populations.

Many of those who served as Buffalo Soldiers were formerly enslaved African Americans and military service offered them the opportunity to make a living and provide for themselves and their families.

The 9th Cavalry, as well as the other Buffalo Soldiers regiments, served valiantly and honorably despite facing discrimination and segregation. Their legacy, however, is a complicated one for they often stood on the front lines of conflict with Native Americans.

Buffalo soldiers: reVision also explores the prejudice and systemic racism faced by Buffalo Soldiers following emancipation, as well as the lasting impacts of this history in Southern Colorado.

"This exhibition allows us to explore the complexity of this history in order to
Please see SOLDIERS on Page 10



Photo courtesy of Great Outdoors Colorado

A \$35,000 grant will help conserve the Kester Ranch in Costilla County.

Kester Ranch \$35K grant to conserve over 1,400 acres

COSTILLA COUNTY — The Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) board awarded a \$35,000 grant through Keep It Colorado to Colorado Open Lands to conserve the Chris and Carol Kester Ranch, a multigenerational working ranch in Costilla County.

The grant is part of Keep It Colorado's Transaction Cost Assistance Program (TCAP), which re-grants GOCO funds to nonprofit land trusts to help cover the costs associated with conservation easement transactions. It enables landowners who have urgent opportunities to conserve their

properties, but who face financial barriers to facilitating the transaction, to conserve land more quickly.

Kester Ranch is 85% irrigated, supplied by both senior surface water rights and groundwater. The ranch owners, who are in the process of transitioning much of the ranch management to their daughter, have stewarded the ranch land and its water to support important wetlands and habitat for sandhill cranes and other wildlife.

Leveraging both the conservation easement tax credit and Natural Resources Conservation Service fund-

ing, the project will not only protect 1,471 acres of productive agricultural lands and wetland habitat, but also guarantees that water supporting both economic and ecological functions will remain in the San Luis Valley. Its protection provides connectivity from the 172,000-acre conserved Trinchera Ranch in the upper watershed across the valley floor to the mainstem of the Rio Grande.

"This is an incredible property that provides a critically important home for wildlife and agriculture in the San Luis Valley. We are honored to sup-
Please see RANCH on Page 12

SLV Ecosystem Council continues its work



Christine Canaly

Informational meeting in Antonito set for June 29

BY DIANE DREKMANN

ALAMOSA — Christine Canaly is the director of the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council, a public lands advocacy organization. She has been working tirelessly for over 20 years to preserve and protect the unique landscape and wildlife of the San Luis Valley.

Canaly explained how the SLV Ecosystem Council was first formed. In the 1980s, a Texas developer wanted to build a big ski resort in Wolf Creek, near the headwaters of

the South Fork River, an area rich with wildlife. It was a habitat for a rare lynx.

People like Marion de Boor voiced their concerns. She started SLV Ecosystem Council. Canaly became director in 2001 and is still battling this same issue to this day. The Wolf Creek area is still protected.

Some of SLV Ecosystem Council's past victories include getting legislation passed for the purchase and designation of National Park status for the Sand Dunes. It was responsible for creating the Baca wetlands and protecting the Baca ranch.

SLV Ecosystem Council works with the Rio Grande National Forest

to revise their wildlife corridor plan, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) concerning grazing rights, "any issues that concern the Valley, like timber sales," Canaly said.

The SLV Ecosystem Council has been a strong proponent of solar power.

"San Luis Valley has a flat slope, optimal for solar radiation," Canaly said. "Would love to see a microgrid where the Valley can produce its own electricity."

Canaly provided history of the area. Before World War II, people irrigated their land with a gravity-fed system using ditches and acequias. The farmer would look at the snow

melt, then determine how much to plant.

After World War II, pumps became mechanized, and with a "pivotal" arm, could pump large amounts of water within a ¼ mile radius. High-capacity pumping went unabated from the 1950s-1970s. People ignored water rights and wouldn't replenish it, Canaly said. Eventually, the State of Colorado stepped in and created a plan. Pivot pumping now has to be in compliance by 2030.

Using all that water combined with a persistent severe 20-year drought dealt the San Luis Valley a one-two punch. Canaly said, "agriculture,
Please see WORK on Page 11

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

07 Help Wanted

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 (7-19)

Del Norte Bank is seeking to fill a full-time position for a Teller in the Del Norte Branch. Duties will be to accept deposits, loan

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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 - saguachecounty.colorado.gov under the Road and Bridge Department tab. Please fill out and submit the County Application. A complete job description is available at the Road and Bridge Office. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge - at the address listed above, sent by email to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov or faxed to: 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until qualified candidates are hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (8-2)

WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge is looking to hire a Shop Foreman....Starting at \$27.00/hr SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must possess a current Class-A CDL license with heavy semi-truck endorsement and a current medical certificate. Applicants should have a high school diploma or GED equivalent, along with extensive knowledge of vehicles, equipment and mechanical maintenance pro-

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

Crop	Date Planted	Daily Crop Water use for Dates Shown (in./day)				Accumulated Water Use (ET) From 6/22 (inches)				
		6/22	6/21	6/20	6/19	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
Moravian 69	04/05	0.25	0.26	0.29	0.29	0.51	0.79	1.09	1.35	1.70
Moravian 69	05/05	0.25	0.26	0.29	0.29	0.51	0.79	1.09	1.35	1.70
Early Wheat	04/05	0.25	0.26	0.29	0.29	0.51	0.79	1.09	1.35	1.70
Early Wheat	05/05	0.25	0.26	0.29	0.29	0.51	0.79	1.09	1.35	1.70
White Wheat	04/05	0.25	0.26	0.29	0.29	0.51	0.79	1.09	1.35	1.70
White Wheat	05/05	0.25	0.26	0.29	0.29	0.51	0.79	1.09	1.35	1.70
WinterWheat	10/01	0.25	0.26	0.29	0.29	0.51	0.79	1.09	1.35	1.70
Potatoes										
Norkotah	05/05	0.19	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.37	0.56	0.74	0.89	1.07
Centennial	05/05	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.11	0.16	0.22	0.27	0.33
Nugget	05/05	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.17	0.26	0.34	0.40	0.47
Alfalfa	Est.	0.28	0.30	0.33	0.33	0.58	0.91	1.24	1.54	1.95
Lawngrass	Est.	0.24	0.25	0.27	0.28	0.48	0.76	1.03	1.29	1.62

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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

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 26Jt 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 (7-12)

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Moffat Consolidated School District #2 open positions for the 2023-2024 school year: High School English Teacher; MS/High School Science Teacher; 6th/7th Grade MS Teacher. For complete job descriptions and requirements or, to complete an application for one of these positions, please visit www.moffatschools.org or call the school at 719-745-0500. MCSD #2 is an equal opportunity employer.

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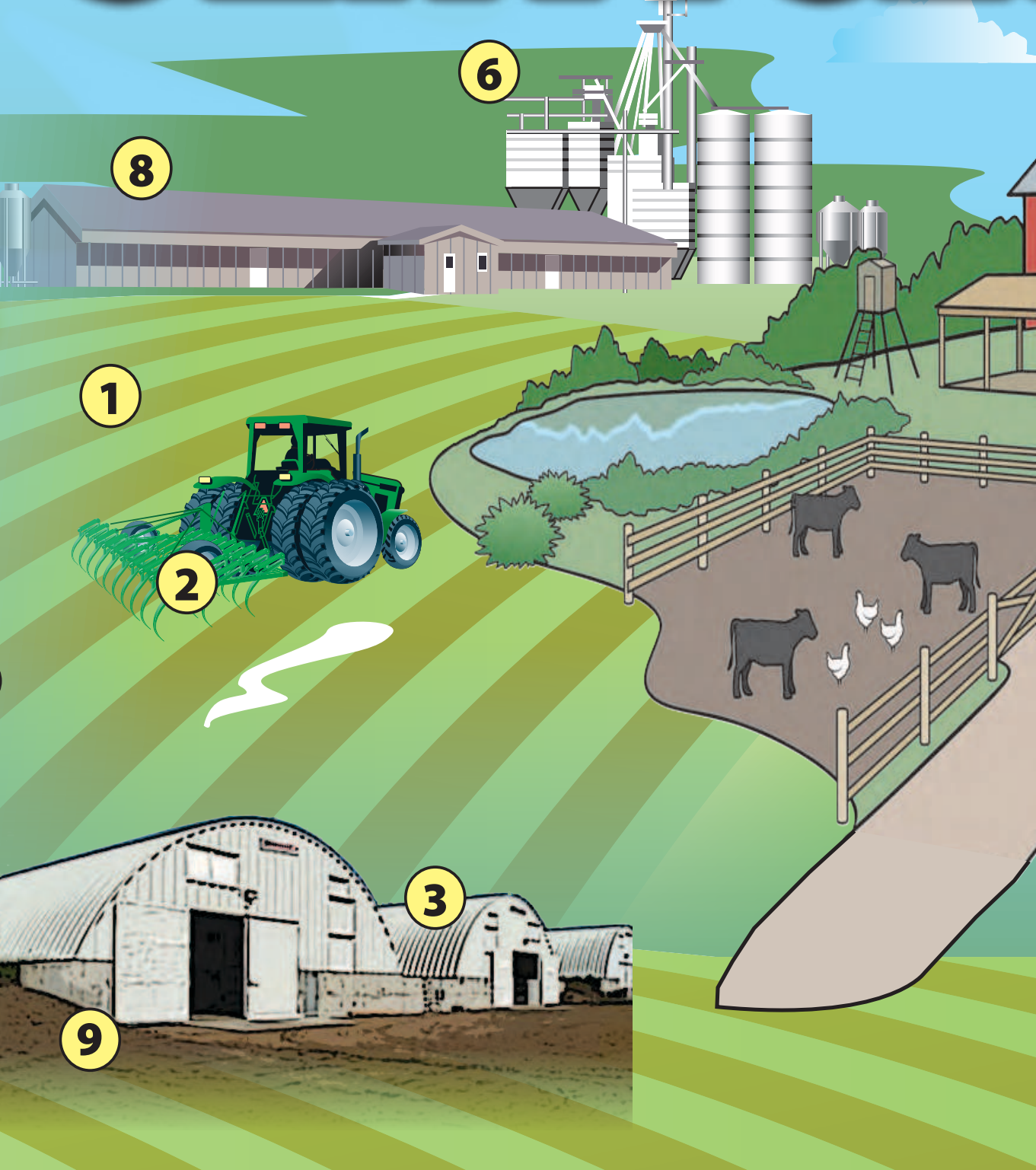
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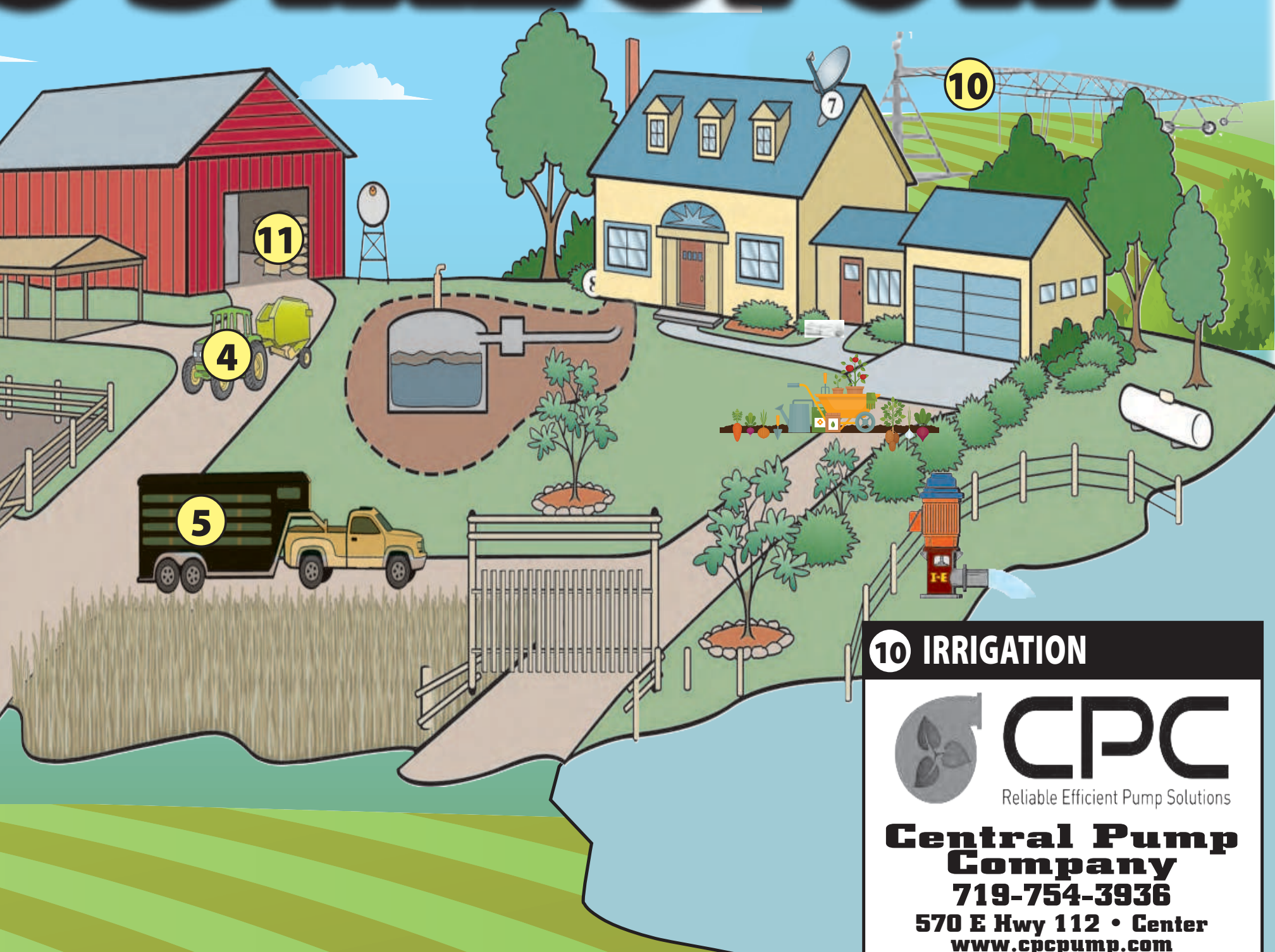
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ADM RANCHWAY FEEDS

SF gears up for annual 3rd of July celebrations

BY LYNSIE FERRELL
SOUTH FORK — Many years ago the Town of South Fork began a tradition in the San Luis Valley and the event known as the Third of July has grown year after year. Now guests come from all over to enjoy a long holiday beginning with celebrations on July 3 and stretching all the way to the end of the Fourth of July. The celebration kicks off on Monday morning with the annual catfish fry fundraiser held by the South Fork Fire Rescue (SFFR). This event is the only fundraiser the organization hosts every year, and it draws hundreds of people. It is a sight to be seen as members of SFFR gather around a table as they first dredge delicious catfish filets in cornmeal flour and then fry pounds upon pounds for the hungry crowd. There is plenty to do while waiting for the catfish to be served — check out the silent auction with items ranging from overnight stays in and around the Valley, rounds of golf and much more. There will also be vendors in the back courtyard selling homemade wares. The catfish fry opens at 10 a.m. and will serve food until 2 p.m. The catfish fry finishes just in time for guests to wander through the shops in South Fork and at 3 p.m. the annual Third of July parade kicks off along the Frontage Road that runs parallel to Highway 160 just west of town. This year's theme is "America the Beautiful", and guests are encouraged to sign up and join in the festivities with decorated ATVs, OHVs, bikes, trikes or yourself. For more information on how to participate in the parade, contact the South Fork Visitor Center at 719-873-5512.

Later in the day, the town will host Rockin' the Rio Grande Rodeo out at the Rickel Rodeo Arena. This event is sure to captivate audiences of every age. The non-stop rodeo action includes bull riding, barrel racing and much more. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. with concessions provided by the South Fork Kiwanis. The night will end, weather conditions permitting, with a bang as always. The Town of South Fork plans to host a firework display at dark from the Rio Grande Club and



File photo

Adams State free movie night set for June 30

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Alumni Association is having Family Movie Night, an outdoor show featuring Disney's "Moana," on June 30. The fun begins at 5:30 p.m. and the movie after sunset on the Richardson Hall Lawn.

The event includes free food, drinks, and popcorn for the first 100 people, as well as fire truck appearances by the Alamosa Fire Department. Food from Suavecito Grill, lawn games, bouncy houses, fire trucks and more are planned for the event. Organizers ask that people bring lawn chairs, blankets, and a change of clothes in case of water games.

Resort that can be viewed in several center parking lot is the perfect and enjoy the show. schedule of events, visit www. locations around town. The visitor place to set up a chair to sit back For more information or a full southfork.org.

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Photo by Diane Drekman

The Conejos Library Board held a renaming ceremony on June 17 at the La Jara Branch commemorating Maria DeHerrera, second from right, for bringing 47 years of literacy to the county.

Library District honors DeHerrera

Library in La Jara now bears her name

BY DIANE DREKMAN

LA JARA — The Conejos Library Board held a dedication ceremony on June 17 commemorating Maria DeHerrera for bringing 47 years of literacy to the county.

The Conejos Library District renamed the branch in La Jara the Conejos County Library Maria DeHerrera Branch. Due to DeHerrera's efforts, Conejos County has three thriving libraries, "unique for the size of population in one of the poorest counties in the nation," remarked Sharon Morris from the Colorado State University, Department of Education, which has provided many of the grants through the years for early literacy, computers and books.

"She is a true leader," Morris said. The dedication ceremony opened with the Chairman of the Library Board, Celina Espinoza. She praised DeHerrera's "fierce determination, creative fundraising, and vision for the library" and recalled de Herrera often telling her, "This is my baby."

DeHerrera was responsible for opening the first library in Conejos County in La Jara in 1978. In the ensuing years, and many grants later, branches were opened in Antonito and Capulin. The La Jara library was originally part of the county.

After many budget cuts, DeHerrera as director was able to make the library its own district through two mill levies which are still in effect today. Chairman of the board, Espinoza thanked DeHerrera "for 47 wonderful years. She did a good job...no regrets. We are blessed to have her."

Shery Abeyta, one of DeHerrera's daughters, thanked her family and shared her mother's influence — "...the importance of education and giving access to books to kids."

Abeyta is a retired professor emeritus from Adams State University, in accounting and tax help.

Morris then shared memories and thoughts about DeHerrera. She has known DeHerrera for 20 years and recalled a time when DeHerrera skinned a deer at the library "to get more men to use the library."

Morris commended DeHerrera's "belief in the power of reading. Kids need access to books...(her) hard work, inspiration and dedication shows she loves what she does and does it because it is the right thing to do. (de Herrera) makes an impact. She is a true com-

munity leader and continues to create new ways to improve the library."

DeHerrera spoke for a few minutes, first thanking her husband Joel, then family, the board, staff, and volunteers. She shared her inspiration where she first gained a love of books.

"My teacher in Center would read us stories but not tell us the ending and say, you have to go to the library to find out the rest of the story," she said. This is when DeHerrera realized, "everyone has access to the library."

Through her early jobs at Sanford and involvement with the Right to Read program, DeHerrera learned about grant writing — an integral part of her job. DeHerrera is currently applying for a DOLA (Department of Local Affairs) grant to expand a computer technology room.

Espinoza mentioned some of the other programs DeHerrera has been involved in, like offering quilting and cooking classes at the library. DeHerrera brought the Vietnam Wall to Conejos when it was first a travelling exhibit.

Espinoza feels de Herrera continues to "look ahead...she meets people where they are at."

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

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Solution to last week's puzzle

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L	A	K	H		P	E	N	C	E		A	M	I	R
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SOLDIERS

Continued from Page 1

understand, acknowledge, and reconcile some of the most difficult aspects of our collective history while updating and expanding our understanding of the Buffalo Soldiers," said Eric Carpio, History Colorado's chief community museum officer and director of Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center. "It's also a chance to look forward to the future of historical interpretation of the American West with renewed perspective and wisdom so we can tell a more inclusive and representational history."

Buffalo soldiers: reVision features the works of a team of artists who have been partnering with Carpio to collectively understand this multifaceted history with the help of Buffalo Soldier scholars, descendants, community members, and Tribal Partners. This exhibition is made possible through sponsorships from Arts in Society and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The creations from this team of artists take multiple forms ranging from prints, which layer historical photos and documents with contemporary drawings, to poetry which evokes the emotional toil of this part of our shared history.

Included amongst the artists working on the project are: lead artist, Chip Thomas, also known as jetsonorama, who created the Unsilenced: Indigenous Enslavement in Southern Colorado installation currently on display at Fort Garland; and Esther Belin (Diné), award winning poet and author of "From the Belly of My Beauty."

Thomas was intrigued to pursue this project because it allowed him to explore a number of questions of interest to him over the 35 years he has spent working on the Navajo Nation including: "how did formerly enslaved peoples rationalize the subjugation of another race," and "in what ways did Buffalo Soldiers connect with the lands they were helping to take away from Indigenous peoples?"

"It seems the land provided solace and space for contemplation, matura-

tion and dreaming of new possibilities in a way the Black soldiers couldn't consider in the Reconstruction South when enslavement was replaced by Black Codes," Thomas said. "For the Buffalo Soldiers the expansive horizons of the west are a metaphor for unlimited possibilities to discover oneself as they continue to do to this day."

Belin expressed that this project has been a challenging one as it required her to grapple with the difficult history of how Indigenous people were captured, slaughtered, and decimated by the United States government, including the very Buffalo Soldiers whose histories reVision tells. The process to create art in response to this complicated history entailed empathetic journeys into the choices of the Buffalo Soldiers.

"I wondered if those men ached at witnessing Indian people die and be slaughtered to protect their land," Belin said. "I wondered at the idea of property and how the soldiers queried that concept, possibly overhearing conversations that Indians did not feel they owned the land but rather the land was for them to use and be stewards of."

Thomas' contribution to reVision highlights Native and Black interactions by emphasizing established friendships and alliances in the two communities that challenge the stereotypical narratives. In comparison, Belin wrote historical narratives in poetic form, unpacking themes of race, land, and the harm unleashed by westward expansion while providing an emotional testament to the difficult choices Buffalo Soldiers faced.

Another crucial part of this exhibition is the building in which it is displayed. At the base of the traditional eastern boundary mountain for the Diné nation, Mount Blanca, the location of Fort Garland represents unsettled history. This revisioning initiative offers a pledge to present the complex history of the region.

"The West Officers Quarters is one of the five remaining buildings that was constructed in 1858 when the former US Army fort was established," Carpio said. "The whitewashed adobe walls and wooden vigas that have been here since the 9th Cavalry was stationed here in the late 1870s, add a powerful element of 'place' to the exhibition."

To commemorate the opening of buffalo soldiers: reVision, Fort


Garland Museum and Cultural Center is holding an opening program from 10-11 a.m. on June 24. This program includes a welcome of seven of the eight artists involved in the project and a blessing by Johnny Taylor Valdez — a descendant of John Taylor and Kitty Cloud (Ute), a well-known Buffalo Soldier and his wife whose stories are explored in the exhibition.

The exhibit opening is free and open to the public. Additionally, admission to the Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center is free on June 24.

The Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center is located at 29477 Highway 159, Fort Garland, and is open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit www.FortGarlandMuseum.org or call 719-379-3512, for more information.

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July 1st, 2023
Saturday 9:30 am

Location: 18 Lower Terrace Dr, South Fork, CO. From: South Fork take Hwy 149 11.6 miles turn Left. From: Creede take Hwy 149 SE 9.4 miles turn Right. Watch for signs.

Auctioneer's Note: This is an exceptional offering of items. If you are looking to expand your fishing gear, outdoor recreational gear, or add furniture to your home this auction will not disappoint. There are many items that are new, all other items are in good to excellent condition. Check our FB page for pictures and last minute items!

Vehicles & Trailers	Commercial Items	Shop
1984 Blazer w/ Snow Blade 14' Flatbed Bumper Pull Trailer 5 x 10' Utility Trailer Snowmobile Trailer Arctic Cat Cougar 550 Snow Mobile Car Top Cargo Carrier Snow Plow Blade for Pick-up Yamaha 600 Grizzly 4-wheeler Arctic Cat 350 4-wheeler	2 - Stainless Steel 3 Sink Units. 3 - Folding Calsteria Tables Bullet Warming Table Schlitz Gym Lockers Glass Display Case Clothes Racks 9 - 24" Round Tables Vinyl Restaurant Chairs	20- Shelf Units - 48" x 18" x 72" 30- Shelf Units - 48" x 24" x 96" 4 - LT2500 ATV Winches Crossover Tool Box Handyman Jack Step Ladders Electric Air Compressors Gas Cans Chain Saws Light Fixtures (new) Ceiling Fans (new)
Outdoor Recreation	Household	Lawn & Garden
Alum. Canoe Kayak 2 - 970 Trek Bicycles 3 - Children Bicycles 1 - Giant Bicycle 2 - Road Race Bicycles Lots of Fishing Poles & Tackle Goose & Duck Decoys Lots of Snow Shoes Bow Case Rec. Hitch Bike Racks Lots of Cross Country Skis 5 - Sets of Golf Clubs 2 - Golf Bag Carts Lots of Helmets (several types) Lots of Lifejackets Alum. Framed Backpacks	2 - Leather Couches 2 - Leather Love Seats 1 - Overstuffed Chair Side-by-Side Refrigerator Book Cases Gun Cabinets Metal Parrot Cage Coffee Tables End Tables Entry Way Tables Lots of Glasses Coca-Cola Glasses & Mugs (new) Rustic Log Stools Dining Room Chairs Kitchen Tables Lots of Decor Items 4-Drawer Metal File Cabinet Several Armoires Rustic Log Stools Baker's Racks	Lots of Garden Tools Rakes, Shovels, etc... 3 - Gas Weed Trimmers Lawn Mower Snow Blower 10 - 6" round Posts RR Ties 30 - 6" & 8" T-Posts Woven Wire Used Tires Cat & Dog Carriers Chain Link Dog Kennel Red Bricks

Check out our face book page for pictures! **Lunch Available** **Many Items too Numerous to Mention**

Auction Note: There are lots of small quality items too numerous to mention. Therefore, we will have **2 auction rings**. Watch FB page for details on these items

OWNER: Carlock Estate
Terms: Cash or Good Check
Nothing to be removed until paid for
ALL ITEMS SOLD "AS IS WHERE IS" no warranties expressed or implied
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Sale conducted by: VALLEY AUCTION SERVICES, LLC
719-588-3979 or 719-588-3978
Auctioneers: Dale Adams & David Brown

CONOUR

www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org

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

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We have big plans! There are so many great things we want to do to help the shelter really and to care for the dogs in our community. Can you help?

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Our next big renovation project, we are hoping to build 12 new exterior kennels with a concrete pad. The dogs need it!

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If you want to donate but prefer to mail a check, please make the check out to URGAS (or Conour Animal Shelter) and mail it to:
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2825 Sherman Ave.
Monte Vista, CO 81444

CONTACT US 2825 Sherman Avenue Monte Vista, CO 81444 (719) 852-3366 www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org

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This lovely lady is Lucy and she's about ready to bring her puppies into the world! We're hoping to find her and the puppies a foster home until we can find them all their forever homes! Please call us or stop by if you want to help!

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WORK Continued from Page 1

water, and energy are a nexus-all intertwined.”

The SLV Ecosystem Council watches over 3.5 million acres and continues to purchase more land.

“The SLV Ecosystem Council is the connective tissue between private and public lands. (It) recently purchased ½ million acres in Saugache County, a strip of land between former mining claims and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains,” Canaly said. “Creating unbroken areas where wildlife can move freely is crucial to protecting the biodiversity of an area. (You) have to keep the land intact. Remove fragmentation by roads and hiking trails...by minimizing impact, wildlife, birds, insects, plants can adapt. They have a complex system that reinforces each

other and creates self-perpetuating biodiversity.”

Their current focus is to protect air and water quality, address illegal dumping, and put a 10-year plan in place to dispose of solid waste in a benign way by creating a transfer station.

Canaly is most excited about having Conejos become a national conservation area.

“Conejos was identified as a visual resource. Flat Top Mesa looks the same 500 years ago and 500 years from now,” she said.

If Conejos can be designated as a national conservation area, SLV Ecosystem Council can receive funding to manage and protect the area. To become one, the President of the United States signs a proclamation.

By becoming a national conservation area, laws become passed because it goes to Congress for vote, according to Canaly.

San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council is holding a meeting at 1:30 p.m. on June 29 at the Chavez Market in Antonito to provide information and assess interest in becoming a national conservation area. With agriculture becoming more challenging, landowners can receive money for creating a conservation easement, or wildlife corridor, that would allow unhindered access for wildlife or be paid to leave their land fallow, allowing it to recuperate and regenerate.

Canaly sees “the best version for the future is for agriculture, wildlife, and energy to work together.”

She thanks the Board for “walking the talk and donating. It helps to get things done. We have the most biodiversity in our forests and valleys. It’s been scientifically proven that people need nature.”

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

SOLD



Majestic Custom-Built Log Home! Fabulous 7 bed, 5 bath 4,619 Sq. Ft. Home with attached garage on 9.04 acres in Beautiful gated Bear Creek.

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

2951 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass •Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com


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

37 Million Court • South Fork
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PRICE REDUCED



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

31517 Us Highway 160 • South Fork
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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 through 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
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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
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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
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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

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RANCH Continued from Page 1

port the Kester family in their vision to protect this special place,” said Tony Caligiuri, president of Colorado Open Lands.

“With this assistance, GOCO and Keep It Colorado ease the financial burden on landowners who’ve voluntarily chosen to conserve their land, protecting critical landscapes that make Colorado so special,” said Linda Lidov, interim executive director of Keep It Colorado. “We’re grateful to Chris and Carol Kester for making the decision to protect this land for generations to come.”

To date, GOCO has invested more than \$6.4 million in projects in Costilla County and partnered to conserve more than 27,100 acres of land there. GOCO funding has supported SLV Generation Wild, one of 12 Generation

Wild communities in Colorado, as well as the Brownie Hills acquisition, Fort Garland Park project, Costilla County Outdoor Fitness Center and Exercise Park, and Rio Grande recreation and habitat conservation efforts, among other projects.

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state’s parks, trails, wildlife, rivers, and open spaces.

GOCO’s independent board awards competitive grants to local governments and land trusts and makes investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Created when voters approved a constitutional amendment in 1992, GOCO has since funded more than 5,600 projects in all 64 counties of Colorado without any tax dollar

support. Visit GOCO.org, for more information.

Keep It Colorado serves as a unified voice for conservation organizations focused on private lands conservation, and does so by bringing together land trusts, public agencies and conservation champions around a vision to create a Colorado where people, lands, waters and wildlife thrive.

Keep It Colorado advocates for sound public policy; provides connection and collaboration opportunities for conservation partners; offers a forum to address emerging conservation issues and opportunities; pursues sustainable funding and programmatic tools and solutions; and works to advance a culture of conservation in Colorado. Learn more at www.keepitco.org.

Valley Publishing EARLY DEADLINES!

Due to the 4th of July Holiday Deadlines for July 5 & 6 Issues:

Legal, Classified & Display Advertising:
Wednesday, June 28th - 5 p.m.

Lifestyles News/Calendar Items:
Wednesday, June 28th - 5 p.m.

News/Obituaries:
Thursday, June 29th - 5 p.m.

Our office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4!

Valley Publishing
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Have a Safe & Happy 4th of July!



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 \$465,000



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Dee - formerly known as Diane Chapman - is a 4th generation South Fork Native and 1994 graduate of Del Norte High School. Licensed in 2011, Dee knows the area and knows local real estate.



All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.



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