

## Shorts

### City of MV auctioning off seven vehicles

**MONTE VISTA** — The City of Monte Vista is auctioning off seven vehicles determined to be surplus. If interested, they are listed with PurpleWave Auctions — [www.purplewave.com](http://www.purplewave.com) — ending May 16. Vehicles are located at the Public Works Shop and can be viewed by appointment by calling 719-852-2502.

### Sangre de Cristo School Board of Education Meeting is May 16

**MOSCA** — The Sangre de Cristo School District Board of Education will have a regular monthly meeting on May 16 (instead of May 9) in the school Library at 8751 Lane 7 North, Mosca at 6 p.m. Copies of agendas are posted at school site, website, the Hooper and Mosca Post Offices, and the Mosca Pit Stop.

### Saguache County Museum opening day celebration is May 28

**SAGUACHE** — The community is invited to the 64th opening day celebration for the Saguache County Museum in Saguache on Sunday, May 28, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be free admission (donations welcome) to the museum, soap making, knife making and pulled pork sandwich and fixings for lunch; \$7 for adults, \$4 for kids under 12.

The program for the day will be “4 Horses, 4 Kids, \$40” at 1:30 p.m. in the Virginia Sutherland Room. This is a story about traveling in a homemade stagecoach from South Dakota to Colorado.

The hours for the 2023 season will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekly Thursday through Monday from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

The Hazard House will be open one day-week by appointment.



## Project helps state comply with Rio Grande Compact

BY PATRICK SHEA

**ALAMOSA COUNTY** — Two days before the Rio Grande State of the Basin Symposium at Adams State University on May 6, Representative Lauren Boebert visited the Closed Basin Project (CBP) during her tour of the San Luis Valley.

The Secretary of the Interior granted permission to construct the CBP in 1972, primarily to meet obligations dating back to the start of the Twentieth Century. The Rio Grande Convention of 1906 and the Rio Grande Compact of 1939 laid the legal framework for administering the river’s flow from Colorado

*Please see PROJECT on Page 8A*

**Underground water from roughly 115 miles of pipeline pours into the Closed Basin Project south of Moffat and flows downstream to the Rio Grande in the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge.**

Photo by Patrick Shea



Photos by Patrick Shea

Racers leave the starting line at the 2nd Annual Center Drag Races on May 6.

## Accident managed at Center drag races

BY PATRICK SHEA

**LEACH AIRFIELD** — About an hour into the 2nd Annual Center Drag Races at Leach Airfield on May 6, two cars collided before they reached the finish line. Emergency crews responded immediately, and the drivers stepped out of their vehicles unharmed. One car tilted and settled upside down.

As Center Mayor Tony Garcia from Garcia Brothers Racing explained, “These drivers know the risks. This happens sometimes.”

*Please see RACES on Page 4A*



More than 500 fans and racers at the 2nd Annual Center Drag Races chose from five food trucks at Leach Field on May 6.

## Air Force Academy honors Spirit 03 aircrew legacy

*Family of Maj. Weaver of Alamosa attended the ceremony*

BY TECH SGT. ZACH VAUGHN

*U.S. Air Force Academy Strategic Communications*

**U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, COLORADO SPRINGS** — Gen. Richard Clark, U.S. Air Force Academy superintendent, hosted a ceremony to dedicate a memorial sculpture honoring the aircrew of an AC-130H Spectre gunship, on May 5.

Maj. Paul Weaver, from Alamosa, aircraft commander and Academy Class of 1979 graduate, along with 13 other Airmen, gave

*Please see SPIRIT on Page 7A*

Maj. Paul Weaver, from Alamosa, aircraft commander and Academy Class of 1979 graduate, along with 13 other Airmen, gave the ultimate sacrifice during a combat mission on Jan. 31, 1991, in support of Operation Desert Storm. A ceremony to dedicate a memorial sculpture honoring the aircrew was held on May 5 in Colorado Springs.

Photo courtesy U.S. Air Force Academy



## DA not charging MVPD officers in fatal shooting

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

**ALAMOSA** — The Monte Vista Police Department officers involved in the fatal shooting of a teenager on March 21 will not be charged, according to 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney Anne Kelly.

A statement was released to the press on Monday afternoon. In it, Kelly announced that her office was not filing charges against MVPD officers Sgt. Michael Martinez and Cpl. David Pino for their use of force resulting in the death of Xavier Sanchez, 18, on March 21, 2023, outside a family residence in Monte Vista.

Kelly went on to cite the statute considered in publicizing her decision, “Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 20-1-114(1) ‘The district attorney shall, if no criminal charges are filed following the completion of an investigation pursuant to section 16-2.5-301, C.R.S., release a report and publicly disclose the

*Please see DA on Page 4A*



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Photo courtesy of the National Park Service

Youth archeology participants and a park ranger explore a site in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

# Great Sand Dunes NPP offers two Youth Archeology Expeditions

**BY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE GREAT SAND DUNES NPP** — Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve will host two summer Youth Archeology Expeditions (YAE) for San Luis Valley middle school and high school students.

YAE is a 6-day program that introduces participants to the discipline of prehistoric and historic archeology through place-based learning. Participants can gain an understanding of the various applications of archaeology and the need to protect and preserve archaeological sites through hands-on activities and fieldwork alongside archeologists,

park resource management specialists, and other public land managers throughout the San Luis Valley. The goal of the program is to create the next generation of stewards by exposing them to the discipline of archeology (including excavating, and collections management) and the value of telling the story of local, state, and nationally significant sites.

The program is free and includes transportation, snacks and lunch, and supplies. Park employees will select a central location for pick-up and drop-off and transport students in government vehicles. Great Sand Dunes is extending the deadline for interested high school

students to apply. Students completing 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th grade this spring are eligible to apply for the high school expedition, which will take place July 10-15, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Interested students must be pre-registered by May 14 to attend. Eligible students from all 14 districts in the San Luis Valley are encouraged to apply. Upon receipt of applications, the park will select 8-12 participants.

For more information about this opportunity and to obtain an application, contact [grsa\\_education@nps.gov](mailto:grsa_education@nps.gov). For more information visit, [www.nps.gov/grsa/learn/education/youth-archeology-expedition.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grsa/learn/education/youth-archeology-expedition.htm).

# SLV Fast Friends shifts to Draggin' Main June 3 in Monte Vista

**CONTRIBUTED MONTE VISTA** — SLV Fast Friends has shifted gears from hosting drag racing to Draggin' Main on June 3 in Monte Vista.

Draggin' Main consists of a tour through some of the prettiest country in Colorado, following the Silver Thread Scenic and Historic Byway along the headwaters of the Rio Grande River.

"We will drag main through some old mountain towns on our way to North Clear Creek Falls on Highway 149 between Creede and Lake City, then return to Monte Vista for a big block party with live music, a beer garden, vendors, food, and a slow cruise," organizers stated. "To top things off, there will be a double feature at the Star Drive-in featuring 'Bullitt' and 'Two Lane Blacktop.' All vehicles welcome,

including motorcycles. There are going to be lots of fun stops, photo ops with professional automotive photographers set up at scenic spots, wildlife, and some awesome scenery."

A 50/50 drawing will be available only to tour participants as well as breakfast at the Best Western Movie Manor just west of Monte Vista from 7:30-9:30 a.m. served by a local 4-H club.

The tour leaves at 10 a.m. Participants will be able to set their own pace. There will be only one mandatory check-in for the 50/50 drawing, at North Clear Creek Falls.

SLV Fast Friends will provide participants with maps, lists of businesses, attractions, and fun things to see and do. Proceeds will benefit the San Luis Valley 4-H Foundation's Scholar Support Program, helping 4-H

kids Valley-wide. For more information, check out Draggin' Main on Facebook or [www.dragginondirt.com](http://www.dragginondirt.com), call 719-588-8566, or email [dragginondirt@gmail.com](mailto:dragginondirt@gmail.com).

"SLV Fast Friends would like to thank the City of Monte Vista, the OptiMystics Citizens Action Network, The LOR Foundation, and all the other sponsors who made this event possible," organizers stated.

Event shirts will be available at the start of the event, along with stickers and drawing entry forms. Any remaining shirts and stickers will be available at the block party, along with tickets for door prizes donated by local businesses. Anyone wanting to donate door prizes or cash donations are encouraged to contact SLV Fast Friends by email or phone.

# OBITUARY

## John E. McDaniel, Jr.

John Edgar McDaniel, Jr., long-time Adams State professor and philanthropist, passed away on May 2, 2023. He was born Oct. 10, 1932, in Decatur, Texas, the son of John Edgar McDaniel and Vivian Randolph McDaniel. He graduated from Coleman (Texas) High School in 1950. Dr. McDaniel earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Christian University and then studied French culture and civilization at the University of Strasbourg on a Fulbright Grant. Subsequently, he served as an officer in the USAir Force before enrolling at Harvard to study government and politics. Dr. McDaniel temporarily deferred his graduate studies at Harvard to work in John F. Kennedy's 1960 presidential campaign, before serving in the Kennedy White House and later as Chief of Staff to an Oregon congressman Al Ullman. After his career in Washington and spurred by an illness in his family, he returned to Texas in 1964 and enrolled in a Ph. D. program in history at the University of Texas, which conferred his doctoral degree in 1970. He joined the Adams State University faculty in 1967, where he taught for the next 40 years. Adams State recognized McDaniel as emeritus professor of history at Adams State in 2007.

"Dr. John," as he was fondly known, generously supported students through exemplary teaching and philanthropy. Beginning in the 1990s he began a scholarship endowment that now features 40 scholarships. Among those beneficiaries is Dr. David Tandberg, President of Adams State, who credits the McDaniel Scholarship he received as the primary reason he could persist at Adams State and graduate. Currently, the McDaniel Scholarship Trust continues to benefit the students at Adams, with twenty-eight students recently awarded scholarships for the 2023-24 academic year. In 2012, the newly renovated Education and Social Sciences Building was dedicated as the John E. McDaniel Hall in his honor. In 2014, McDaniel endowed the McDaniel Fellows program, a student intern program, which places students in campus and community employment while they complete their undergraduate degrees. In 2019, John was inducted into the Coleman Independent School



District Hall of Fame, a measure of his career as an educator and philanthropist.

After his retirement, Dr. McDaniel joined the Adams State University Foundation, and was serving as vice-president and chairing the Nominating Committee at the time of his decease. In the last 30 years, his financial contributions to Adams State equaled one million dollars to date. From 1995 to 2007, he served as Faculty Marshall and was instrumental in revamping the commencement ceremony proceedings.

An avid reader, devotee of the opera and cinema, Dr. McDaniel is survived by James D. Johnson and numerous students, including Gary Gallagher, Vickie Ford, Tom Bruscano, and scores of others. His survivors remember his intellect and wit, and his favorite swear word: "Bear's butt," which he uttered in response to evidence-free opinions in his classes. John was preceded in death by his parents and a foster-son, Clyde Calvin Carstens.

Adams State University will conduct a memorial service on June 10, 2023, at 10 a.m. in Richardson Hall Auditorium. (The memorial will be live streamed—more information to follow). In lieu of flowers, please support and commemorate Dr. McDaniel by donating to the Adams State University Foundation at <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/drjohnmcdanielinmemory> or scan this QR code.



Rogers Family Mortuary of Alamosa is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences or tributes, please visit [www.Rogers-Funerals.com](http://www.Rogers-Funerals.com)

# SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between May 1 and May 6, 2023.

Staff made nine traffic stops, received two traffic complaints, and issued two speeding tickets for a total of \$405. They also handled an abandoned vehicle between Moffat and Crestone on CR T.

Deputies patrolled Saguache eight times in five days. They conducted two welfare checks in Moffat and search and rescue operations along Highway 114 between Saguache and Gunnison County and the towns of Saguache and Crestone.

Staff responded to burglaries in Crestone and Hooper and stolen property in Moffat. They issued a warrant in Saguache and responded to civil disputes in Center and Moffat. They also dealt with harassment and threats in Moffat, suspicious activity in and around Saguache, loose livestock near Moffat, and three animal problems in the county. In addition to monitoring a dozen controlled burns, staff helped managed four fires and arranged two ambulance rides.

### ARRESTS

• A fugitive of justice from Orange County, Calif., was arrested in Center and detained. Bond for the 40-year-old man was set at \$200,000.

# ESTIMATED CROP WATER USE

Weather Data from SLV Research Center located on the 9N and Hwy 285										
Crop	Date Planted	Daily Crop Water use for Dates Shown (in./day)				Accumulated Water Use (ET)				
		5/7	5/6	5/5	5/4	From	5/7	(inches)		
		2day	3day	4day	5day	7day				
Moravian 69	04/05	0.11	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.25	0.38	0.50	0.61	0.62
Moravian 69	05/05	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.08	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
Early Wheat	04/05	0.11	0.14	0.12	0.12	0.24	0.37	0.49	0.59	0.60
Early Wheat	05/05	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.11	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17
White Wheat	04/05	0.11	0.14	0.12	0.12	0.24	0.37	0.49	0.59	0.60
White Wheat	05/05	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.11	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17
Winter Wheat	10/01	0.17	0.23	0.21	0.22	0.40	0.61	0.83	1.04	1.05
<b>Potatoes</b>										
Norkotah	05/05	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.08	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
Centennial	05/05	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.08	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
Nugget	05/05	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.08	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
Alfalfa	Est.	0.20	0.26	0.24	0.24	0.46	0.70	0.94	1.15	1.16
Lawgrass	Est.	0.17	0.22	0.20	0.20	0.38	0.58	0.78	0.96	0.97

For the latest ET information, call 754-3494 extension x40 for Center, x36 for Center #2, and x38 for La Jara. Use the crop maturity and planting data and weather station closest to your own. Find this up June 8d table each day at this web address: <http://aes-slvrc.agsci.colostate.edu/daily-crop-water-use-report/>

This information is provided by the SLV Research Center (Colorado State University) and the Colorado Potato Certification Service. For info, call 754-3494 x26 or e-mail: [andrew.houser@colostate.edu](mailto:andrew.houser@colostate.edu)

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Old bones can be a small town's movie stars

By ADAM LARSON

The prehistoric past can perk up the present. When woolly mammoth bones were found in my hometown in Wisconsin years ago, they became the centerpiece of one of our local museums. Today, they continue to attract visitors and serve as one of the city's informal symbols.

Unfortunately, the story across much of the fossil-rich West is more abandonment than local fame. During the late 19th century, paleontologists made huge finds in the region, excavating specimens of famed dinosaurs like Triceratops, Stegosaurus,

Diplodocus and Allosaurus.

But like many would-be movie stars, the bones ended up leaving their rural sites to find fame in the big cities. Left behind were holes — literally, in the case of the dinos.

It took time for the West to stake its claim to keeping some fossil finds at home. Countless fossils, for example, have been exhumed in Wyoming since the late 19th century, but the University of Wyoming Geological Museum in Laramie didn't have a single mount of a Wyoming dinosaur until 1961.

One reason was money. Even today, a town might be located right next to

spectacular fossil sites, but limited municipal budgets can make it hard to keep the lights on in a museum. Funding for the collection, curation and study of fossils doesn't always match up with areas containing many fossils.

Yet everyone benefits when at least some fossil finds stay put. In many cases, they are discovered not by paleontologists but by ordinary citizens. In 2006, oil workers in Wyoming happened upon giant white bones, recognized their importance, and called in experts. The bones were part of an enormous, 11,600-year-old Columbian mammoth.

Thankfully, that mammoth is now on public display at the Tate Geological Museum in Casper, Wyoming. The landowners whose property contained the mammoth bones thoughtfully chose to donate them.

Once in local museums, fossil displays give people in the area examples of the bones they might come across, and a place for them to contact if they find something unusual. When locally found fossils stay local, they also connect people to their prehistoric heritage and encourage them to donate discoveries to local museums.

But there's more: fossils help the local economy by attracting visitors. Once local museums start drawing a crowd, they can help pay for themselves while also indirectly contributing to schools and roads. According to the national group Americans for the Arts, tourism from museums and other cultural nonprofits generates five dollars in tax

revenue for each dollar they receive in government funding.

Thankfully, a lot has changed since the first fossil hunters descended upon the West in search of prehistoric dinosaurs, mammals and more. Fossil fans in the West no longer have to travel hundreds or thousands of miles to see incredible discoveries made in their home states.

For example, in Ekalaka, Montana, population 399, the Carter County Museum hosts an annual "Dino Shindig," which attracts paleontologists from across the country and hundreds of other visitors.

As Carter County Museum director Sabre Moore told the documentary series Prehistoric Road Trip, the Shindig shares groundbreaking science and includes the landowners who made the discoveries possible.

At the Wyoming Dinosaur Center in Thermopolis, population 2,725, visitors can see fossils of dinosaurs large and small, tour active dig sites and even take part in the digs themselves.

"I like that we're a destination for folks coming to Thermopolis," said Levi Shinkle, collections manager at the Wyoming Dinosaur Center and a Thermopolis native. "We're a small museum," he added, "but we're often in the same conversations as the large museums in urban centers."

In North Dakota, the North Dakota State Fossil Collection is on a quest, in the words of founder John Hoganson, to put "a fossil exhibit in every town." The program has helped put up more than



two dozen paleontology and geology exhibits across the state, from Pembina, population 512, to Lidgerwood, population 600, to Bowman, population 1,470.

Sharing a home where the dinosaurs once roamed definitely adds to local pride. When the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Montana, obtained a second large Tyrannosaurus rex, they put the second one up on display in the museum as "Montana's T. rex," and they loaned the other to the Smithsonian in Washington, DC, where it's now known as the "Nation's T. rex."

Sharing the riches of the West's past — right here in the West — enriches everyone.

*Adam Larson is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is a former editor of the Wyoming Dinosaur Center's newsletter.*

## Does your dog bite?

Many moons ago there was a movie that came out starring the great Peter Sellers. It was one in a series about a bumbling detective who was trying to catch a diamond thief who had stolen the famous Pink Panther diamond.

It's a hilarious comedy and has many famous lines, one of which involves Peter Sellers upon seeing a dog at the desk while checking in at the hotel asks the clerk, "Does your dog bite?" To which the clerk says no. Sellers bends to pet the dog and gets bit. He then asks the clerk, "I thought you said your dog did not bite?" And the clerk answers back, "That is not my dog."

Ol' Dutch was reminded of this over the past week as he and Miss Trixie went to visit some possible new neighbors and they had a passel of dogs running loose. Now I was not born yesterday, as Miss Trixie so often likes to point out, so I knew better than to get out of my truck with strange dogs and warned Miss Trixie of the same.

The man was cutting up a huge old oak tree and so he politely came to the truck window to see just what these intruders could possibly want. We had a good visit but somewhere about the 5-minute mark the incessant circling of his wolf pack and non-stop barking became too much to endure.

Trying to extricate ourselves from the yard, the man suddenly decided to share with us that the dogs had bit and ruined 3 tires just this week, including two on an Amazon delivery vehicle. Now this may or may not have been to get me to move along but I was trying my best to get out of his yard before suffering a similar fate.

We finally did and of course Miss Trixie did a thorough inspection of the tires on the truck when we got to a safe location. And of course, what did she find but the darned canine had bitten a hole almost through my 10-ply front tire. This then led to having to buy a new tire and hours waiting for it to be installed, not to mention the \$225 expense of the tire and labor. To say Ol' Dutch was mad is probably the understatement of the year as I was seething to think anyone would have a dog like that and let it damage other peoples' tires.

Now you may ask why Ol' Dutch did not return to the man and ask him to pay for the new tire. Well let me



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

tell you this. I don't know about you but demanding money from a man in shorts, cowboy boots with a running chainsaw in his hands is not my idea of a good time. That and his eyes were the kind that required me to constantly shift positions trying to get in line with at least one of them at a time.

I am not sure what the deal was there, but I have a suspicion he was suffering from the same distemper that his dogs have and Ol' Dutch wanted no part of that.

The old adage "he bit off more than he could chew" held fast at least and we did make it to the tire store without having to change it at some inconvenient roadside location. Although I was not ready to purchase a tire, it will come in handy when elk season rolls around, and I think I will just break down and get another matching one on the other side for good measure.

This all occurred as Ol' Dutch was thinking about moving near this guy and I think it was the crowning blow to deciding to ditch that whole plan and remain where I am on the Ponderosa. I think the thing to possibly gain from this whole story is if you drive into an unknown location and a dog runs out the right question to ask is "Does THAT dog bite." And from now on I am going to specify bite humans, tires, or cars.

*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.*

## Why preserve places?

Have you ever seen a small bronze plaque on a building while walking around town or through a park? Many cities will have these plaques notifying the public that the site is on a registry of historic places. However, acknowledging that the space is on the historic registry does not alone provide full detail about exactly why the structure is significant.

To be included on the National Registry of Historic Places the structure must show it is important to history because of an event that happened there, a relationship to a historically significant person or event, or because it is an example of a particular style or method of construction. With some exceptions, the structure or location must have achieved their historical significance more than 50 years ago and the significance must be explained with detail in the application. A brief summary is then included on the plaque if the application is successful.

There are three categories of historic registry — National, State, and Local. The Colorado State Historic Register does not place as many restrictions on what property owners may or may not do with the structure; however, the National Register does not permit any alteration that would remove the qualities on which inclusion in that register were

based. For a local building like the Boyd School a State listing would permit remodeling and reuse of the internal spaces, including structural features if necessary. However, in the case that the external features were relevant to the significance, as in the case of Adams State University's Marvel House (the president's house), remodeling that altered the external appearance could void the structure's inclusion on the National Historic Registry.

Although historic registries can have some restrictions, inclusion on the registries does confer some protections. For any state or federal government action that might affect the property, the comments of state and or federal historic preservation organizations must be solicited to ensure that historic significance is given proper consideration in the planning process for that action. Furthermore, there are various grant funding opportunities and tax credits for registered sites. These are some of the reasons why an owner of a potentially historic property might want to look into registering their historic structure.

All this being said, why should we preserve historic buildings? Historic preservation is important because it allows us to learn from the past in a

physical sense. It is one thing to read about a particular structure or event, but another to actually visit it and witness how life in that setting would have been. Reading about the defense of the Alamo conveys the sense of defending that small structure, but visiting it impresses a sense of exactly how difficult it was.

Similarly, historic buildings across the state and nation allow visitors to sense and experience how it would feel to stand in that place and time in a way that merely reading about it or watching a tv special do not. The Alamosa Historical Preservation Advisory Committee is working with community organizations to preserve and highlight local history. We currently have 24 sites on historic registries. Preserving these sites helps celebrate our state culture. And ensuring the preservation and publication of state historic and prehistoric places will enable future generations to experience and enjoy state history.

May is Historic Preservation Month so keep your eyes out for articles and activities around town related to these structures and their significance!

*Submitted by the Alamosa Historic Preservation Advisory Committee*

# CENTER POST - DISPATCH

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report explaining the district attorney's findings, including the basis for the decision not to charge the officer with any criminal conduct. The district attorney shall post the written report on its website or, if it does not have a website, make it publicly available upon request."

Kelly attached a copy of the summary report she sent to MVPD Chief George Dingfelder, informing him — as is protocol — that the investigation was complete and detailing the Colorado Bureau of Investigation's findings.

"I want to acknowledge the Monte Vista Police Department ("MVPD") for immediately notifying CBI following the incident," Kelly wrote. "By doing so, MVPD enabled CBI to quickly respond and conduct a thorough investigation. MVPD was not directly involved in the investigation of Sgt. Martinez and Cpl. Pino's use of force.

"The CBI investigation was conducted," she continues, "for the purpose of determining whether criminal charges are warranted...and does not evaluate nor review the appropriateness of police tactics, or whether policies and procedures were followed.

"My decision, based on criminal law standards, does not limit administrative action by MVPD or any civil action where less-stringent laws, rules, and levels of proof would apply. The authority and role of the District Attorney is to determine whether Sgt. Martinez and/or Cpl. Pino committed a criminal offense that can be proved beyond a reasonable doubt."

What followed was a 17-page summary of the investigation that included 16 still photos taken from body cam footage worn by Martinez and Pino during the incident. Kelly also references her review of the file containing all the relevant

documentation upon which her decision was based, including police reports from the agencies that responded, including Saguache County, the Monte Vista Police Department, the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office, Colorado State Patrol, and the Alamosa Police Department; interviews with both officers conducted by an agent with CBI and an investigator with Colorado State Patrol; and recording from radio traffic and 911 calls made related to the incident.

Finally, the file Kelly reviewed included numerous photographs of the interior of the house and the exterior where the shooting took place.

When asked by the Valley Courier why she chose to make public so many photos of the incident, including some that may be disturbing to view, Kelly said, "It was my decision and was based upon my obligation to include all the factual information that led to my conclusion. Obviously, I reviewed both the body cameras, and the evidence in the body cameras was the best evidence I could present. It's one thing to document what I saw with my own words, but the best evidence here was actual evidence from the body camera."

Kelly also told the Valley Courier that she notified the family of her decision last week. Although the Crime Victims Rights Act (VRA) does not mandate the family be notified in cases where charges are not filed, as is true in this case, Kelly says she is treating the situation with the same priority on advising the family of the decisions she has made and why.

"My heart goes out to the family and the community for this tragedy," she said.

The Courier reached out to Xavier's family for a reaction to the DA's decision, but no response was received prior to going to press.



Although the Ace Towing Truck led from the start against the Center Fire Department at the 2nd Annual Center Drag Races on May 6, the firetruck prevailed at the finish line.

Photos by Patrick Shea

# RACES Continued from Page 1A

Both drivers in the collision wore helmets, and Garcia described how the crew inspected every vehicle before the races. They scrutinized safety features, particularly tires. Drivers signed insurance waivers, and the racers were not allowed to carry passengers.

This year's race drew a few more racers, and possibly three times as many fans. Competitors came from as far as Denver and New Mexico, and five food trucks served the crowd.

Volunteers included almost a dozen Center High School students who showed up early to set up and helped throughout the day.

One of many sponsors, Ace Towing provided two trucks. They lined up one of them against the Center Fire Department truck. The tow truck led from the start, but when the automatic transmission shifted before the finish line, the fire truck pulled ahead to win.

Center Police Department Chief Aaron Fresquez spoke with the two racers who crashed, noting that they both said they want to return to compete next year.



Prepared for emergency, the Eagle Air Med helicopter was one of many safety features at the 2nd Annual Center Drag Races on May 6.

Fresquez praised the emergency crews and the fans for how they responded.

Everyone in the grandstands rose to their feet when the accident happened, many willing to help. But they cooperated with officials and the next race started within 30 minutes of the accident. The crowd didn't start to thin out until the bracket shrank to the final winners.

Chief Fresquez noted how the event helps bring the Center community together and plans to

continue the event.

Proceeds from the races went to the Center Police Department's K9 Unit. Currently, the unit includes two veterans (Casio and Argo) and a puppy, Tequila. The puppy is 9 months old and training with Eric Martinez, the school resource officer on the Center campus. Martinez and Tequila are on track to be officers by the start of 2024.

For pictures of the winners and a full list of sponsors, visit the Center Police Department Facebook page.



An image from body camera footage shows Monte Vista Police Department officers at the door of a home in the 1000 block of South Broadway in Monte Vista on March 21. A man, identified as Xavier Sanchez, wearing a cloth over his head with two circles cut out as eye holes, jumped out of a front window armed with a knife in his left hand and a machete in his right hand.

Courtesy of 12th Judicial District Attorney's Office

## The Simple Strategy for Better Health and Less Stress

Our thoughts are connected to every single area of our lives. They affect our words, moods, attitudes, the choices we make, and even our relationship with God and others. They also affect our emotional and physical health.

In fact, research shows that 75 to 98 percent of mental, physical, and behavioral illness comes from one's thought life.<sup>1</sup> The mind and body are definitely connected!

For instance, did you know you can stress yourself by the way you think? So often, we believe our circumstances are to blame for our unhappiness; however it's the way we think about our circumstances that usually causes worry and stress.

**It's a Modern-day Epidemic**  
Stress has been proven to cause issues like muscle tension, headaches, breathing irregularities, increased heart rate, artery inflammation, gastro-intestinal problems, constipation and diarrhea.<sup>2</sup> And that's only a few of the side effects!

The good news is God has given us the answer for worry and stress—**trust**. Proverbs 3:5 (AMPC) says, "Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding."

Trusting God is the greatest stress reliever in the world, and our minds play an important role in the process. We have a choice. We can "rely on our own insight and understanding"—endlessly thinking about our problems, trying to figure everything out ourselves. Or we can choose to adopt a trusting attitude that says, "God, I don't know what to do about this situation, but I can't fix it on my own. If You want me to do something, I ask You to show me. Meanwhile, I'm going to trust You and enjoy my life

while You work on my problems."

I used to be a professional worrier—I was good at it. Years ago, when my children were young, I would sit at our kitchen table and spend hours looking at our bills, worrying about how we would pay them. Dave, on the other hand, would be sitting on the floor in the TV room, playing with the kids, letting them put curlers in his hair.

I would say, "Dave how can you have fun at a time like this?" And he would answer, "Joyce, we've prayed about it, and we're doing everything we know to do. I refuse to worry and be miserable with you."

It made me so mad! But Dave was right. I was allowing myself to get upset and waste time I could have been spending with my children.

### How to Give Up Stress and Gain Peace

In John 14:27 Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (NIV). I love this! God is saying, "I am giving you My peace, and you can choose to be at peace."

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus offers us a new way of living; however, a new way of thinking will always precede this new way of living. Romans 12:2 (NIV) says, "...Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

This scripture is so important! God has a good, pleasing, and perfect plan for you and me, and the way we can experience it is not to think like the world thinks, but by learning to renew our mind and think the way God thinks. That's how we're changed to be more like Christ.

So, when life throws you a curve



and you're tempted to get stressed-out, I encourage you to choose positive, faith-filled thoughts from God's Word. You can think, *I know God loves me and He is going to take care of this. It doesn't matter what it looks like I believe God is working!*

The truth is God knew about your problem before you ever got it, and He already has a plan for your solution. In the meantime, you can choose to enjoy your life while you wait. He has equipped you with the "mind of Christ" (see I Corinthians 2:16) and with His help, you can trust Him more and overcome stress.

<sup>1</sup>Dr. Caroline Leaf, *Switch On Your Brain*, Baker Books, pg. 33-38, September 1, 2013. <sup>2</sup>Ibid.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource *The Power of Thoughts and Words*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *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](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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# SLV Rattlers to host Ride with a Rattler Day

By **MARIE MCCOLM**

**MONTE VISTA** — The San Luis Valley Rattlers will be hosting Ride with a Rattler Day on Saturday, May 13, beginning at 10 a.m. The event is open to middle school and high school aged youth.

Attendees will meet at 3953 North County Road 5 West in Monte Vista. Riders can bring their own bicycle or borrow one from the Rattlers. Helmets are required to ride — bring one or borrow one. Everyone attending will be biking with coaches and local riders on an easy trail of climbs, single-track rides, and small obstacle courses.

The San Luis Valley Rattlers were founded in 2017. The Rattlers are a competitive team made up of cyclists from different schools in the San Luis Valley. The Rattlers train both middle and high school aged youth. They also compete against mountain bikers from Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming in the Colorado High School Mountain Bike League.

Coach Larry Roberts and Brian Stevenson founded the team. Roberts recalls racing mountain bikes when he was younger and really enjoying it.

“I have always liked to ride bikes, and when the idea for this came up it sounded good,” Roberts said. “I had a son who was entering high school, and he and I started riding bikes together. We had heard about a team like this up in Salida and we decided to start our own. What I like about this sport is kids that participate today can participate at any age, even at my age. This can be a lifelong sport that you can really enjoy.”

SLV Rattlers coach Gregg Goodland also spoke about how the team

originated and about being a coach for the team.

“I have been riding bikes for a number of years, but really hadn’t taken it to another level until I joined the team,” he said. “Both of my daughters were interested in joining the team. We didn’t do a whole lot during that COVID period, just a few short races here and there, that was about it. The next year when they had the Ride with the Rattler Day, similar to the upcoming event on May 13, there were so many people that showed up for that event. I looked at Larry and the other coaches and said to them, ‘You guys are going to be riding.’ I decided to join on as a coach right then and there, and I don’t regret it for one second. I find it extremely satisfying. We have about 17 people on the team. It’s a pretty good size for our school, considering that a school like Boulder may have 150 members on their team. We think it’s a good size and we have a great team.”

The SLV Rattlers host many events including the Ride with the Rattler Day, which promotes the Rattlers and allows middle school and high school students to ask about and join the team.

The Rattlers also hold league races that take place in July, and at the end of August the bikers participate in league race events about every two weeks. The bikers also participate in state competitions if they can advance that far.

“We do also have to meet those qualifications for state,” Roberts explained. “You have to participate in at least three of the races. You must also be in the top 50% of your category. The laps for the races are about 6 miles.



Courtesy photo

### The SLV Rattlers pose for a group photo.

This isn’t overwhelming, but it’s a very intense workout for a while. It is neat to see the kids that participate really working hard. The growth and the effort that they put into this. We celebrate whether the kids come in first or last, because sometimes this is a personal goal. It really is amazing to see.”

Coach Roberts also spoke of the importance of sponsorship for the kids with the events.

“We aren’t recognized as an official school sport, so these events do cost some money,” Roberts said. “If anyone would like to sponsor and donate to the kids, that would be helpful. We have overnight stays; we also have food. We have a lot of other expenses, so donations and sponsorships for members or the whole team are very much appreciated.”

Roberts and Goodland invited everyone out to the Ride with a Rattler event on May 13. For more information about the event or on the team, visit their website at [www.slvrattlers.com](http://www.slvrattlers.com).

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# Wound care at Rio Grande Hospital offers nine tips to prevent and manage chronic wounds

**BY RIO GRANDE HOSPITAL**

It is no secret that as we age, our bodies undergo changes that can increase the risk of developing health related issues. One of these health concerns is the susceptibility of forming a chronic wound. Chronic wounds are wounds that fail to heal within three months or more. They can be painful, debilitating, and can significantly impact the quality of life of the person suffering with a non-healing wound. Which is why this May, Rio Grande Hospital is acknowledging Older Americans Awareness month, and offering nine tips to prevent and manage chronic wounds.

Senior Americans are at an increased risk of a hard to heal wound forming. In fact, seniors make up 85% of all chronic wound cases, and it is estimated that 8.2 million seniors above the age of 65 will develop a chronic wound. Even though wounds can be the result of many different things as the skin becomes thinner with age, there are several factors that can increase the risk of developing chronic wounds in seniors, including diabetes, heart disease, limited mobility, dietary habits, and even medications.

The positive side is that chronic wounds are not developed overnight, and with the appropriate prevention

and management techniques, they do not have to become life threatening. The prevention and management of chronic wounds in seniors involve a comprehensive approach that includes proper wound care, healthy lifestyle habits, and management of underlying health conditions. Here are some tips for preventing and managing chronic wounds in seniors:

- **Practice Good Hygiene Habits:** Seniors should bathe regularly to keep their skin clean and moisturized in dry areas to prevent infections that can lead to chronic wounds.
- **Wear proper footwear:** Seniors should wear properly fitting shoes to prevent foot injuries and blisters.
- **Stay active:** Regular exercise can improve circulation and help prevent pressure ulcers caused by prolonged sitting or lying down.
- **Practice good nutrition:** A healthy diet rich in nutrients, such as protein, vitamin C, and zinc, can help promote wound healing.
- **Quit smoking:** Smoking can impair circulation and delay wound healing, so seniors should avoid smoking to reduce the risk of chronic wounds.
- **Manage chronic health conditions:** Seniors with chronic health conditions, such as diabetes or peripheral artery disease, should work with their



healthcare provider to manage their condition and prevent further health complications.

- **Protect skin from the sun:** Seniors should protect their skin from the sun to prevent skin damage.
- **Keep the wound clean and covered:** Seniors should clean their wound regularly and keep it covered to prevent infection and promote healing. As well as working with a care team to apply the appropriate dressings and topical aides.
- **Seek emotional support:** Living with chronic wounds can be emotionally challenging. Seniors should seek emotional support from family, friends, or a mental health professional to help them cope with their condition.

Chronic wounds can significantly impact a senior's quality of life, and impact the majority of the American elderly, but with proper prevention and management, they can be avoided and treated when needed. Seniors can reduce their risk of developing chronic wounds by following a healthy lifestyle, managing chronic health conditions, and seeking timely medical care for wounds that do not heal. By following these tips, seniors can maintain their independence, mobility, and quality of life. If you or someone you love has a non-healing wound, give them a call at 719-657-3277 or visit RioGrandeHospital.org, for more information and assistance.

# Big Game Season Structure public meetings begin May 11

**CONTRIBUTED**

**DENVER** — Colorado Parks and Wildlife invites the public to have a voice in big game hunting regulation changes that will form the foundation for policy in the years to come. As part of its Big Game Season Structure (BGSS) planning process, CPW will hold a series of in-person open house and town hall meetings across the state as well as virtual meetings for big game hunters to voice their opinions about current BGSS topics under consideration.

CPW is encouraging the public to attend these public meetings to learn about the current BGSS and the potential changes CPW is considering. CPW wants to give the public ample opportunities to provide input and help inform the BGSS planning process. For more information regarding these public meetings, visit the BGSS Engage CPW page online.

BGSS topics being discussed at the public meetings include:

- Alternatives regarding over-the-counter archery and rifle elk licenses
- Rifle season date structures for deer and elk
- Early season (archery and muzzleloader) date structures
- Adding rifle deer opportunities to the first regular rifle season
- Adding a second regular rifle buck and doe pronghorn season

The topics covered during these meetings are starting points for discussion. Additional topics and options may be considered at future meetings.

Open house meetings will consist of several stations where members of the public can learn more about specific BGSS topics, ask questions, and give verbal feedback directly to staff. Each station will have a different interactive activity that allows attendees to provide input.

Town hall meetings will consist of a PowerPoint presentation and will include live interactive digital polling via smartphones and devices to compile

input from attendees on each of the BGSS topics. All attendees are encouraged to bring a smartphone or device to the town hall meetings to better and more fully participate. Attendees will also have an opportunity to ask questions and provide verbal feedback to staff.

The BGSS planning process is a critical component of big game management and big game hunting regulation development.

The central purpose of the BGSS planning process is to determine:

- What, when, and where types of big game hunting opportunities are available.
- How opportunities are divided among hunters.

Through this planning process, CPW is better able to maintain healthy wildlife populations while keeping with management objectives and provide recreational benefits for the hunting and non-hunting public.

CPW evaluates and updates the BGSS by gathering internal and external input, evaluating the current season structure, and identifying emerging issues related to season structure. CPW then uses that information to develop policy recommendations for the upcoming framework. This approach helps ensure the administration of hunting is continuously aligned with big game management needs as well as sportspeople's interests.

Southwest Region Public Meeting List

- Monday, May 22, 6-7:30 p.m.; Area 15, Durango (town hall), La Plata Room at La Plata County Fairgrounds Durango
- Monday, June 12, 6-7:30 p.m.; Area 18, Montrose (town hall), Montrose Police Department Community Room, 431 S. 1st St., Montrose
- Thursday, June 15, 6-7:30 p.m.; Area 17, Monte Vista (town hall), Ski Hi Complex, 2335 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista
- Thursday, June 22, 6-7:30 p.m.; Area 16, Gunnison (town hall), Fred Field Center, 298-278 S Spruce St., Gunnison

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# New landing pad for emergency crews



Photo by John Waters

Alamosa County is working in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue (AVSAR) to build a helipad off of Lake Como Road (BLM road 5410) near the Blanca Massif. At the April 12 meeting of Alamosa County Commissioners, County Administrator Roni Wisdom said the helipad is a great collaboration and added that the location off Highway 160 would allow ambulances to quickly meet helicopters during rescue operations. AVSAR is a non-profit and 100% volunteer staff that works with the Alamosa Sheriff's Office. For more information or to donate, visit [avsar.us](http://avsar.us).

# Celebrate Colorado Public Lands Day with SLV GO! at Pronghorn Trails System

CONTRIBUTED

**RIO GRANDE COUNTY** — The BLM's Pronghorn Trails System, totaling 9.5 miles of purpose-built single-track trails, was constructed in the summer of 2016. The non-motorized natural surface trails are rated intermediate to advanced for mountain bikers. Located between County Road 13 and County Road 14, Pronghorn is south of Del Norte and connects to Del Norte's Lookout Mountain Park and Trails. The trail area is at 7,884 to 8,600 feet and is open from May 1 to Dec. 31.

For hikers and mountain bikers, this NEPA-approved trail has long, mostly gradual climbs and descents. The area has a mix of rock features, canyons, and big vistas of San Francisco Creek, the San Luis Valley, and the Sangre de Cristo Mountain range. Designed as one large loop, the climbs/descents are longer than many in the area with some excellent lower watershed features. Mule deer, elk, falcons, hawks, other bird species, desert flowers, grasses, and reptiles inhabit the area.

This trail is 1.5 miles south of Del Norte on Rio Grande County Road 13 (French Street). It is easily accessed off US Highway 160; turn south onto French Street in Del Norte, which becomes County Road 13. The Pronghorn North trailhead parking and information kiosks are across from the Del Norte Cemetery.

On Saturday, May 20, San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!) will be hosting a community volunteer trail day with leadership from its Great

Outdoors Action Team (GOATs). Sign up today, at <https://slvgo.us>.

In May 2016, Colorado became the first state in the nation to establish a state holiday for our public lands when the Colorado General Assembly passed a bill establishing the third Saturday in May as "Colorado Public Lands Day."

The bill passed with bipartisan support and was signed into law by Governor Hickenlooper. The inaugural event was celebrated on May 20, 2017. Colorado Public Lands Day celebrates the importance of public lands in Colorado. To this day, it recognizes the significant role that public lands play in the state's economy, heritage, and recreational opportunities.

Public lands in Colorado are managed by various agencies, including the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service.

These lands offer a range of outdoor recreation opportunities, from hiking and camping to fishing and hunting. They also provide habitat for wildlife and plant species, help protect clean air and water, and contribute to the state's tourism industry.

Celebrate Colorado Public Lands Day with SLV GO! This is an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of public lands, encourage stewardship and conservation efforts, and promote outdoor recreation for everyone. It's time to get your hands dirty SLV, join us in celebrating our diverse landscapes and natural resources that make our state so special.

# SPIRIT

Continued from Page 1A

the ultimate sacrifice during a combat mission on Jan. 31, 1991, in support of Operation Desert Storm when an Iraqi surface-to-air missile struck the Air Force Special Operations Command aircraft, call sign Spirit 03.

"These aircraft, flown by AFSOC, don't have showy nose art or tail flashes like bombers do, and they don't boldly announce the aircraft's home base," said Clark. "Their nondescript markings speak to their unique calling to execute special operations any place, anytime, anywhere — and be gone before you even knew they were there."

The aircrew, assigned to the 1st Special Operations Wing, 16th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Florida, were providing close air support to U.S. Marines in the vicinity of Khafji, Saudi Arabia.

"For the crew of Spirit 03, like all gunship crews past, present and future, there was a singular mission — ensure the forces on the ground get home safely," said Clark. "And it is safe to say that the AC-130 community is part of a remarkable legacy, and legacy is something we know a lot about here at the Air Force Academy."

The sacrifice of Spirit 03 became the single largest loss of any U.S. Air Force unit during Desert Storm.

"Our prime directive at the Academy is to develop Leaders of Character and this is the bond that is the long blue line," said Clark. "Maj. Weaver understood what it meant to be a part of that legacy. He led Spirit 03 with honor and courage as an example of our great institution."

Jennifer Lavery and Karen Roberts, Weaver's sisters, attended the ceremony. Roberts fondly remembered her brother.

"Paul was proud to have graduated from the Air Force Academy," said Roberts. "I'm very proud of the work he did while serving in the Air Force and of the men and women with whom

he served. I can say with certainty, Paul would have been most honored and deeply, deeply moved that you chose to remember the crew of Spirit 03 in this manner.

"On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to thank the members of the Class of 1979 for commissioning this beautiful sculpture," said Roberts. "They paid for the creation of this sculpture of their own funds and went through a great deal of work to make this happen."

An AC-130J Ghost Rider gunship from the 16th Special Operations Squadron, now assigned to Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico, crowned the ceremony with a flyover in salute of the aircrew.

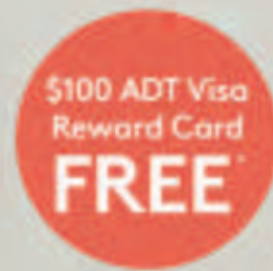
"Our class is proud to honor the superb warrior example set by the Spirit 03 Air Commando crew, led by our classmate Maj. Paul Weaver," said retired Col. Michael F. Van Hoomissen, Academy Class of 1979 president. "They risked it all flying gunship close air support, saving Marines in contact with the enemy on the ground. We believe their devotion to duty and selfless service to their fellow warriors should be learned and emulated by every Airman and Guardian, especially Air Force Academy graduates."

The sculpture is displayed at the Academy's publicly-accessible Honor Court among more than 10 other statues that symbolize stories of the service and sacrifice of generations of American Airmen.

The Spirit 03 aircrew: Maj. Paul Weaver, Capt. Cliff Bland, Capt. Arthur Galvan, Capt. William Grimm, Capt. Dixon Walters, Senior Master Sgt. Paul Buege, Senior Master Sgt. James May, Tech. Sgt. Robert Hodges, Tech. Sgt. John Oelschlager, Staff Sgt. John Blessinger, Staff Sgt. Timothy Harrison, Staff Sgt. Damon Kanuha, Staff Sgt. Mark Schmauss, and Sgt. Barry Clark.

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DF-CD-NP-G421



The Program Manager for the Rio Grande Farm Park, Seth Armentrout, shared what he has learned about water conservation with attorney Philip Lopez, Amber Pacheco, and Nathan Coombs during the Rio Grande State of the Basin Symposium at Adams State University on May 6.



Rich Roberts from the Bureau of Reclamation and Amber Pacheco (Deputy General Manager for the Rio Grande Water Conservation District) recounted the history of the Closed Basin Project for Representative Lauren Boebert on May 4.

# PROJECT

Continued from Page 1A

through New Mexico and Texas into the Gulf of Mexico. Although Colorado's required delivery ends at the New Mexico border, the legal agreement extends through all these jurisdictions.

Millions of years ago, the Rio Grande flowed into and beyond what was once Lake Alamosa, but the river took a turn south and the lake drained away from the northern San Luis Valley. Over time, all the water flowing from the top of Poncha Pass and the ridges of the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo mountains drained into San Luis Lakes. Migratory birds stopped by San Luis Lakes until a few years ago. Today, the Colorado State Wildlife Area is a dry but soft lake bed.

The initial construction included 170 water salvage wells drilled as much as 110 feet into the shallow unconfined aquifer. Yielding between 50 and 400 gallons per minute, 94 of the wells remain operational now. The wells pump through about 115 miles of pipeline laterals, ultimately filling the 42-mile Closed Basin Project Canal.

As Bureau of Reclamation manager Rich Roberts explained to Representative Boebert during their visit to the CBP Canal, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) owns the water rights for the project. RGWCD Deputy General Manager Amber Pacheco elaborated on the partnership for Boebert, noting how they share acre-feet with different agencies and remain in compliance.

An Operating Committee for the CBP includes representatives from the BoR, the RGWCD, and a member appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. The federal project is secured behind fences and relies on an automated remote control and data acquisition system from controlling wells and canal gates, collecting data, and monitoring water quality.

According to the Rio Grande Compact, the water from Colorado to New Mexico cannot exceed a 10-day average of 350 parts per million of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). Two monitoring stations upstream provide water quality data for meeting the requirement at the CBP Canal outlet, the final station.

While the CBP infrastructure continues to reroute water, Valley water users heard from a variety of experts during the Rio Grande State of the Basin Symposium at Adams State University on May 6. The CBP today was promoted to capture acre-feet that would otherwise evaporate.

Despite greater snowpack this year, panelists and representatives addressed the "Future of Water" with stories of adaptation over the past two decades of drought in the San Luis Valley.

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## Trinidad State Robotics Team conquers the dunes again

By GREG BOYCE

Trinidad State College

**TRINIDAD and ALAMOSA** — About 150 dedicated souls braved a very cold morning at the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve on April 15 for the annual Robot Challenge, sponsored by NASA and the Colorado Space Grant Consortium.

The statewide program includes teams from about 20 colleges and universities, including Trinidad State College, running autonomous robots through obstacle courses which

include large rocks, hard-packed sand, soft sand, trenches, and other barriers.

Trinidad State's entries F.R.O.G. (Field Retriever Obstinate Grandpa) and F.L.Y. (Frequently Lost Youngster) completed all five obstacle courses and were the only robots in the competition to complete course five. These were judged to be the best-performing robots of the day.

The challenges tend to become more difficult from year to year. This year F.R.O.G. was assigned the task

*Please see TEAM on Page 2*



Photo courtesy of Trinidad College

The annual Robot Challenge was held in Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve on April 15.

## Safety Day

Photos by Jennifer Alonzo

The Monte Vista Coop and Progressive Agriculture Safety Day was held at Ski Hi Complex on Thursday, April 27. The educational program offers instruction on topics like grain safety, electrical safety, gun and firearm safety and more to all San Luis Valley third grade students.



Students were allowed to match liquid substances at the Mistaken Identity station.



Michelle Pastor of Tri-State, representing SLV Rural Electric Cooperative, used a plasma ball and other hands-on demonstrations to show how electricity gets from the power plant to homes.



Colorado State Patrol officers presented the rollover simulator with "Bob" onboard to demonstrate the dangers of not wearing a seatbelt.



Colorado Parks and Wildlife Officers Tyler Cerny and William Miedema discussed gun and firearm safety.



Students experimented with rubber gloves used by REC linemen to protect them from high voltage.

## Fire Adapted Colorado (FACO) encourages residents to 'Live Wildfire Ready'

CONTRIBUTED

**STATEWIDE** — Colorado faces a "new normal" when it comes to wildfire. Ongoing drought and warmer temperatures elevate wildfire risk for Coloradans and wildfires now occur year-round in the state. To encourage more residents to prepare for wildfire, Fire Adapted Colorado is joining other organizations in Colorado in a campaign called Live Wildfire Ready.

The campaign will help residents in communities throughout Colorado, especially those who live in the wildland-urban interface, understand their wildfire risk and what they can do to mitigate that risk to their life, home, and property. More than half of all Coloradans live in the wildland-urban interface and are susceptible to wildfire, so it's important for

people to act and be prepared for wildfire.

"During a wildfire, embers cause most home ignitions. Many homes are not directly impacted by the flames of a wildfire, but instead ignite due to embers landing on or near structures. That's why it's important to take steps now, to protect your home, by removing flammable materials, creating a defensible space, and having an evacuation plan."

Live Wildfire Ready shares simple, practical, relatively low-cost actions residents can take to prepare their homes and property for wildfire. These actions include the following:

- Regularly clear leaves, pine needles and other debris from your deck, roof and gutters.
- Rake and remove pine needles

*Please see FACO on Page 8*

## SLV Area Extension Office offers Cottage Foods Course on May 17

CONTRIBUTED

**MONTE VISTA** — The Colorado State University San Luis Valley Area Extension Office is offering a Cottage Foods Course from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, May 17. This is an intense 3-hour food safety training that provides a 3-year certification and meets the food safety training requirement for Colorado Cottage Foods Act established and supported by the Colorado State Dept. of Health and Environment.

Participants can learn food safety guidelines and the specifics for operating a small home-based

cottage food business from a home kitchen.

The main sections of the training cover food safety guidelines for preparing foods in a home kitchen which is different from a food service site that would be inspected by the county and or state health departments.

"We cover the basics of proper hygiene; preventing cross-contamination and cross-contact of food allergens; temperature control for safe food preparation, storage, transporting produce, and sales.

*Please see FOODS on Page 2*

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Photos by Patrick Shea

Saguache Town Trustee Alex DeCarli talked with Shannon and family, who volunteered to help Danielle Berreth and son Bo sow seeds in the Saguache Community Garden.

## Saguache community garden takes root again

By Patrick Shea

**SAGUACHE** — Volunteers and gardeners converged on the Mountain Valley School campus April 29 to bring the Saguache Community Garden to life again. Tylor and Danielle Berreth agreed to manage the space and set up beds for planting. Financial contributions for the garden peaked during the recent SLV Seed Exchange weekend at Joyful Journey when organizers gathered more than \$600 to help fund the project. High Ground Gardens out of Crestone donated a variety of seeds — Afghan peppers, turnips, radishes, arugula, oats, and a mix of beans.

Using town water, Saguache community gardeners follow the watering restrictions and schedules

that govern residents. On planting day, 21 of 31 isolated beds appeared to have sow-ready soil. A secure storage shed provides space for individual and communal tools and necessities.

Although the geodesic dome was not ready for planting, the space offers options for the future. Gardeners can start plants early and nurse survivors through the winter.

The garden sits near the MVS bus barn south of the football field and track. Although the plot had to be moved east to accommodate blacktop for the buses, it is roughly the same size as the previous garden.

By the end of planting day, many beds remained available for residents to claim and cultivate.



Volunteers and gardeners gathered on April 29 to kick-start the Saguache Community Garden for 2023.

## Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



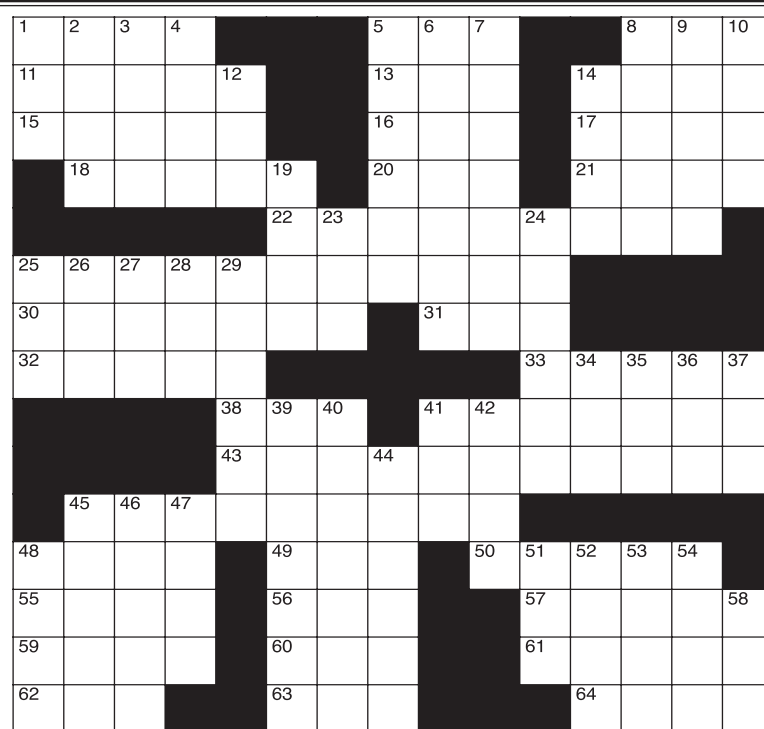
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### CLUES ACROSS

1. A people of Eastern Afghanistan
5. Supervises interstate commerce
8. Touch lightly
11. Relating to bees
13. Mauna \_\_, Hawaiian volcano
14. Mosuo culture religion
15. Italian village
16. Stiff bristle
17. Wealthy enclave in Rio
18. Cause to lose courage
20. Examines animals
21. Ethnic group of Laos and Thailand
22. Gets rid of
25. Having easily perceived thoughts
30. Removed surgically
31. Principle underlying the universe
32. Popular airline
33. Antelopes
38. Peacock network
41. Utter repeatedly
43. One from the Golden State
45. Photographers
48. Father
49. Popular BBQ dish
50. Cavalry sword
55. Ancient Greek sophist
56. Atomic mass unit
57. Afflicted in mind or body
59. Indian mythological figure

### Solution to last week's puzzle

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



60. Mild expression of surprise
61. Jewish spiritual leader
62. Brew
63. Doctor of Education
64. Impudence
27. The whole quantity
28. \_\_ King Cole, musician
29. One's opinion
34. Holds ashes
35. Stablecoin cryptocurrency
36. Side-blotched lizards genus
37. Legislator (abbr.)
39. Concentrated bombardment
40. Took for oneself
41. Nigerian City
42. Thousands of pounds
44. Inspired
45. Secret clique
46. Expression
47. Dough made from corn flour
48. Comedian Carvey
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Actor Idris
54. Resistance fighters
58. Criticize

### CLUES DOWN

1. State attorneys
2. Imitated
3. Latvian capital
4. Irish goddess
5. Taste
6. Dried
7. Spanish saloon
8. Mother of Perseus
9. Evergreen coniferous trees
10. Refuse to comply
12. Negative
14. Hyphen
19. A way to record
23. Not good
24. One who tends the furnace
25. Small amount
26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)

## FOODS

Continued from Page 1

The allowable food products are highlighted with CSU Extension fact sheets provided for each food product allowed. Then the instructor goes into product ingredient labeling, packaging requirements, marketing, preparation at altitude, and for going further with your business," organizers stated.

The course is presented by CSU Extension Specialist Janae Naranjo. The cost is \$50. Register online at: <https://CFMay23.eventbrite.com>. A Zoom link for this online class will be emailed upon registration.

## TEAM

Continued from Page 1

of picking up F.L.Y. and retrieving the smaller robot after it had fallen into a pit. That operation was a success. F.R.O.G. has another impressive ability. It can operate upside down. The challenge was inspired by the testing of the Viking Mars Lander missions of the 1970s. Hardware from those missions was tested at the Dunes, because the sand there was believed to be the closest thing on Earth to what rovers on Mars would face.

# Business Showcase

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## CLASSIFIED INDEX

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### 05 Notices

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### 07 Help Wanted

**Saguache County Road and Bridge is hiring for Three (3) Temporary Summer positions.** REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must be 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening and criminal background check. Temporary Summer positions – applicants must have working knowledge of common hand and power tools, shovels, wrenches and radios. Must be able to lift 25 to 45 pounds. Will be required to work in various climate conditions and be able to stand for long periods of time. Flagging certifi-

cation a plus. Work Hours will be Monday – Thursday 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM. Rate of pay: \$16.25/hour. Prospective hires to start around mid-May. 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 Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge – at the address listed above, sent by email to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov or faxed to: 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until a qualified candidate is hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (5-31)

**The Upper Rio Grande School District has received a grant for a full time K - 6th grade School Counselor** - for the next 3 years, starting in the 2033-2024 school year. Applicants must have a Master's Degree or higher and possess

or be able to obtain an appropriate Colorado school counselor license. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Del Norte Elementary Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Amy at 719-657-4050. Applications for certified staff positions can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co. (5-17)

**Center School District is now accepting applications for the positions of Elementary Administrator** for the 2023-2024 School Year. Qualifications; Must hold a valid Colorado Administrative Certificate; have at least five years' experience teaching or administrating in a public school; or, such alternative as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Single family health insurance, \$78,200.00 Salary. Salary is negotiable depending on experience. Applications can be found on the District Website <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities> or con-

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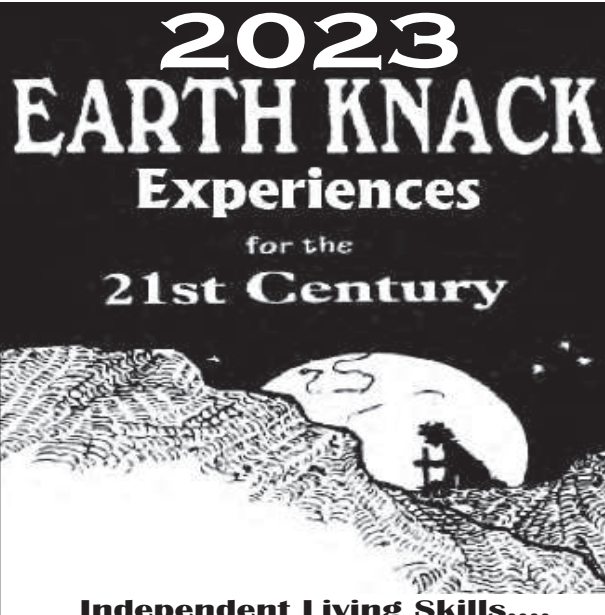
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# Valley Wide Classifieds

Contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE (5-31)

**Full-time Office Clerk 719-655-2512 Come join THE- AWE-SOME-ONES-!** Experienced individual needed for general office duties. Required skills include: · Computer experience in Excel, Word and other electronic devices; · Working with the public; · Other duties as assigned; · Ability to handle stress; · Ability to speak both English and Spanish is preferred, but not required For a detailed job description, please contact our office. In addition to

the hourly rate starting at \$16.25, the County Employee Benefit Package includes vision, dental and health insurance coverage, paid time off, and a generous 401k retirement plan. Drug testing and a background check will be required for final applicant. Applications are available at the Saguache County Administration office, 505 3rd St., Saguache CO. Please submit to the Saguache County Clerk and Recorder's office. Applications close May 19, 2023, or until position is filled. (5-31)

**The Del Norte Fire Protection District has an opening for Board**

**Secretary.** Duties are as follows: Monthly bookkeeping, Bank Rec, Yearly Audit & Budget prep, Elections, and getting all these to the State and County Depts., Required to attend monthly meeting (Every 3rd Thursday @ 7pm) and take minutes, responsible for getting those and the meeting agenda for each meeting to the board members each month, Paying Retiree's each month, Preparing monthly accounts payable and printing checks for each meeting, picking up mail from post office, any banking that needs done, filing, and any other needs the board may have. Approx.

5-8 hrs. per month. Knowledge of Quickbooks and Bookkeeping background will be helpful. Pay will depend on experience. Position will open in May. Please contact Claude Trujillo at 719-850-9974 or Terry Haynie at 719-850-1728. (5-24)

**Seeking an Executive driver for my old grandfather** on a part-time basis (e.g. Wednesdays and Fridays) weekly salary very attractive. \$410 weekly must have a valid state-issued driver's license. Must be professional, safe, patient and an attentive chauffeur at all times. Contact dw786875@gmail.

## PART-TIME SALES

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

(719)850-1993

**Del Norte High School is seeking a qualified Boys' JV Head / Assistant Varsity Basketball Coach** for next season. If interested, please email Gilbert (Gibbs) Sanchez, Del Norte High School, 1000 N. 1st St., Silver Lake, CO 80852, (719) 850-1993

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

## FOR SALE!



Must See Custom-Built 5,350 sq. ft. Commercial Property in Fabulous South Fork, CO. Great Highway 160 exposure!! This building is extremely well built. The building was built for retail with many amenities.

The environment is warm and welcoming. The 3,000 sq. ft. main floor consist of large receiving office, full kitchen and bath and several large open spaces and two additional design show rooms and large 1,000 sq. ft. heated warehouse with plenty of shelves for storage and 12-foot overhead door. Lovely concrete outdoor patio with new vinyl fencing wired for low voltage lights this property sits on two lots with wiring running outside for lighting off outside signage. 1,350 sq. ft. Spacious upstairs with large open space, several large storage closets two additional offices, New ¾ custom tile bathroom and large storage over warehouse. This well-built property has radiant floor heating downstairs and upstairs baseboard hot water heat. Property is wired for Cat 5 telephone jack in all offices, design rooms, kitchen bar, receiving office – etc. Cable tv jack, upstairs big room. There are 3 gas fireplaces, 2 wall thermostats with remote control. Wired for speakers though out the building for music. Swamp cooler and wired for electric dryer, set up for washer and has a Propane fired boiler and propane hot water heater. This property is a blank canvas with so much POTENTIAL for the right builder or person. Because there is no existing business at the present time, this makes this building available for a variety of Business opportunities: Professional Work Environment for Professionals, Restaurant, Brew Pub, Events Center, Lodge or Cottage hotel, Retail etc. Come Paint your Canvas and start Your Business Adventure. Call and schedule your personal showing today! **\$1,250,000** MLS #794078

173 W Frontage Road • South Fork

**Bernadette Gingrass •Steffens & CO. Realty**

(719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

## FARM 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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**Bernadette Gingrass, Broker Associate**

30635 US Hwy 160 • South Fork

www.bernadettegingrassrealestate.com

## FOR SALE!

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 compete 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! **\$345,000** MLS #800364

31517 Us Highway 160 • South Fork

**Bernadette Gingrass •Steffens & CO. Realty**

(719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

## FOR SALE!

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! **\$1,250,000** MLS #798101

497 Timberline Drive • South Fork

**Bernadette Gingrass •Steffens & CO. Realty**

(719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

## UNDER CONTRACT



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

This South Fork Beauty checks all the boxes, both his and hers - and is a fun place for family and friends. Custom built Log home tucked in the trees and backs up to the National Forest. The main level has a wrap around deck with beautiful stone fireplace, 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

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# CALL TODAY!

# 719-852-3531

**Sandra Marquez**

smarquez@valleypublishinginc.com

**Brian Williams**

bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com

# Valley Wide Classifieds

Norte Jr/Sr. High School Athletic Director at gsanchez@urtigers.co or call him at 719-657-4020. (5-24)

**Center School District is now accepting applications for the positions** of Elementary Teacher, Elementary Physical Education Teacher, Elementary CLD Teacher, Anticipated Middle School Language Arts Teacher, High School Math Teacher, Foreign Language Teacher and 9th-10th Grade Social Studies 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 (5-24)

**Rio Grande County is soliciting bids from qualified contractors** for the construction of additions to the McMullen Building Pavilion located at the Monte Vista Ski-Hi Complex beginning late spring or

no later than early summer 2023. Sealed proposals will be received at the Rio Grande County Administration office until 9:00 am (MT), Wednesday, May 17, 2023. Contact the Rio Grande County Administrator at (719) 657-2744 or email [rgcadministrator@riogrande-county.org](mailto:rgcadministrator@riogrande-county.org) for additional Request For Proposals (RFP) details. (5-10)

**CSU Extension and Rio Grande County are hiring a part time 4-H youth program coordinator** to assist members with their projects and to deliver life and leadership skills curriculum to other students. This is a 9-month pilot program.

Hours are variable and flexible, up to 30 hours per week. \$16-\$18 per hour depending on experience. Call Larry Brown 719-852-7381. CSU is an equal opportunity employer. (5-17)

**Bus Drivers needed for the Upper Rio Grande School District**, CDL and Non-CDL drivers. Will pay for CDL license and training with contract. Must be able to pass a background and pre employment drug test. If interested, please contact Demo Trujillo, 719-657-4040 x4007, [dtrujillo@urtigers.co](mailto:dtrujillo@urtigers.co). Applications can be retrieved online at: [www.urtigers.co](http://www.urtigers.co). (5-17)

**Cafeteria Cooks needed at Upper Rio Grande School District** for the 2023-2024 school year. Must have a high school diploma and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or a willingness to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at [lmartinez@urtigers.co](mailto:lmartinez@urtigers.co). (5-17)

**Del Norte Elementary School is seeking an energetic, caring candidate to serve as a ParaEducator.** Applicants must have a high school diploma. Please submit your application to Amy Duda, DNES

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

**122 Pinon Circle** - 3 bedroom 2 bath on 3.5 acres in South Fork. Great for horses, borders public lands. \$425,000



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(719) 873-5605 • [dee@steffenscorealty.com](mailto:dee@steffenscorealty.com)

**175 Bear Cub Hollow** 5.8 acres with two creeks in the gated Bear Creek community in South Fork. Borders National Forest \$158,600



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**242 Landen Drive** 1 acre of land in South Fork - all utilities at the lot line. VRBO OK \$58,500




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



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**0 Old Homestead Road, Del Norte** 48 acres bordering National Forest. Easy, year-round access, both Forest Service Road AND a county-maintained road to the lot line. Ride out and enjoy without trailering your ATV or snowmobile. \$425,000 MLS#796222 Text 134434 to 25678 for more info



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




All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.

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**UNDER CONTRACT**



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**Rito Hondo Estates - 18 Rural Mountain Lots Available** West of Antonito in the Conejos Canyon OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE \$85,000-\$400,000 35 acre lots, 17 acre lots, 6 acre lots Power to lot line, great roads, gated community. Email Dee for an interactive document with photos, videos and descriptions of each lot.



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Reese W. Shay 970-630-5006 or email [Reese@ShayRealty.com](mailto:Reese@ShayRealty.com)  
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Sandra Marquez — [smarquez@valleypublishinginc.com](mailto:smarquez@valleypublishinginc.com)  
Brian Williams — [bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com](mailto:bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com)

# Valley Wide Classifieds

Principal at 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO 81132; aduda@urtigers.co; or call at 719-657-4050. The position will be open until filled. You can pick up an application at the District Office or online at urtigers.co. (5-17)

**Del Norte High School is seeking an Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2023 volleyball season.** The individual would be responsible for developing the junior varsity program and assisting the varsity coach in all aspects of the high school volleyball program. If interested, please email Gilbert (Gibbs) Sanchez, Del Norte Jr/Sr High School Athletic Director at gsanchez@urtigers.co or contact him at 719-657-4020. (5-17)

**Creede Family Practice of Rio Grande Hospital has a full-time Creede receptionist available.** Full Benefits Job includes Answer phones, schedule appointments for patients, notify patients of their appointments the following day, scan reports into patient charts, medical records requests, collect copays, insurance eligibility, daily reconciliation, other duties as assigned. Please apply online at riograndehospital.org or contact Jennelle Gallegos at jennelleg@riograndehospital.net 719-657-4114 RGH is an EOE

**12 Houses for Rent**  
Beautiful fairly new 3-bedroom 2-bath home on the river partly furnished \$875 plus deposit ready by May 1 719-672-3146 (5-10)

**Cozy 1 Bedroom MV** Dennis St. WSG PD No Pets 625 Month 625 Deposit 719-580-5400 (5-31)

**A remodeled quaint 1 bedroom or office space/1.75 bath unit** in a 4-plex in Del Norte. Pets are prohibited. Credit report required. \$600/month, inclusive of water and sewer. Please leave a message at 719-850-0750. (5-31)

## 17 Real Estate For Sale

**House for sale:** 2 1/2 acres, 5bdm, 2 bath, 4 car garage in Alamosa \$275,000 OBO 2 1/2 Miles West Walnut Hwy 160 720-217-7886

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

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

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

## 20 Business Properties

**BUSINESS FOR SALE:** Established natural foods market and deli in the SLV is for sale. Inquire

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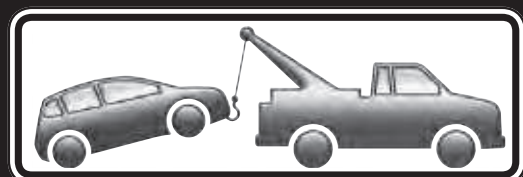
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# Valley Wide Classifieds

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**32 Fuel & Heating**  
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**36 Miscellaneous**  
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**GUN/KNIFE/COIN SHOW PAGOSA SPRINGS:** Tables \$60, Food Trucks \$80. Archuleta County Fairgrounds. June 16-18th. Mike 970-946-2841 (6-14)

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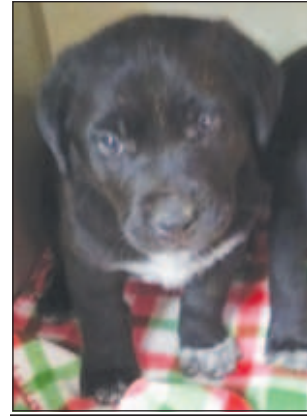


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We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.



## We've got puppies!

4 Lab Heeler mixes were found by the river in Del Norte on 5/2. They will be available for adoption Tuesday 5/9. There are 3 males and 1 female (the mostly white one). We hope to find them homes as soon as possible since they're about 2 months old and shouldn't have to grow up in the shelter! Call to set up a meeting with them!



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

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

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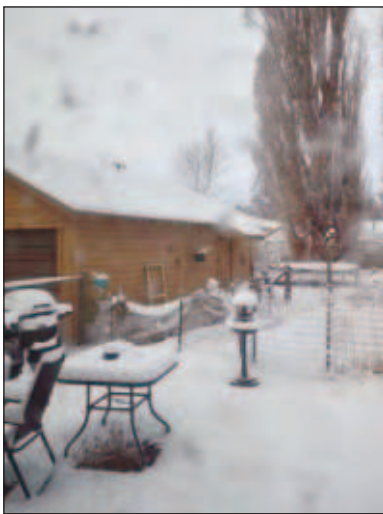
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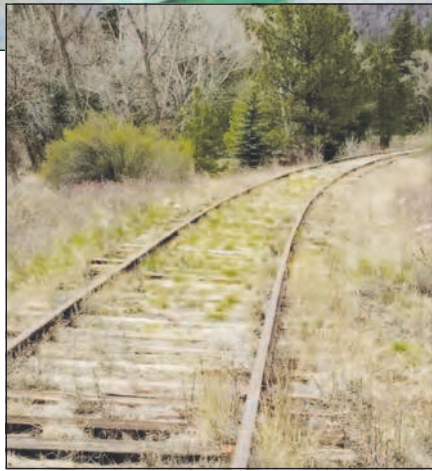
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# Unsettled spring weather



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

Weather has been on the fritz the past couple of days in the San Luis Valley as a typical spring settles in. A blanket of snow covered most of the San Luis Valley on Friday, April 28, followed by rising temps and waters on the Rio Grande.



## FACO

Continued from Page 1

and leaves 5 feet from your home.

- Store firewood at least 30 feet from your home, preferably uphill, and never on or under your deck.
- Move items under your deck or porch to a storage area.
- Prune branches hanging over your roof and within 10 feet of your chimney.
- Remove flammable material within 6 vertical inches of your home's siding.
- Mow grasses to 4 inches or less within 30 feet of your home.
- Clear brush, shrubs and other plants within 10 feet of propane tanks and gas meters.
- Screen attic, roof, eaves and foundation vents and wall-in areas below decks and stilt foundations with 1/8-inch metal mesh.

In addition to preparing one's home, living wildfire ready means being ready to evacuate during a fire:

- Ensure home address signs are clearly visible from the street.
- Contact your local Office of Emergency Management to register for emergency notifications and encourage your friends, family and neighbors to do the same.
- Confirm at least one alternate path out of your neighborhood other than the one most commonly used and be prepared for potential evacuation requiring the alternative route.

Live Wildfire Ready is directed and generously funded by the State of Colorado through Senate Bill 22- 007 and was developed by the Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, USDA Forest Service and Colorado State Fire Chiefs.

For more info about the campaign, visit [LiveWildfireReady.org](http://LiveWildfireReady.org), or search for #LiveWildfireReady on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Fire Adapted Colorado is an independent non-profit organization closely associated and born out of Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (FAC Net), a national network of people working to build wildfire resilience capacity in wildfire-prone communities.

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