



Shorts

City to begin mosquito spraying on May 25

MONTE VISTA — The City of Monte Vista will be starting its Mosquito Spray Operations at 8 p.m. on May 25.

Each year the city works to control the mosquito population by using both aerial spraying of adulticides of the city boundaries and applies larvicides in areas of standing water.

Beginning May 25, the city will once again begin this process. The city will employ two truck-mounted aerial foggers. They will begin on the furthest boundaries of the city and work toward the center of town. They will only do the streets this year until the public meetings have been concluded and decisions about the program have been made.

For more information, contact Robert Vance at rvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us.

Tibbits makes President's List

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Melissa Tibbits of Alamosa was named to Southern New Hampshire University's Winter 2023 President's List. The winter term runs from January to May.

Honeycutt named to Dean's List

MARSHALL, Mo. — Dawson Honeycutt of Alamosa was named to the Missouri Valley College Spring 2023 Dean's List. Honeycutt is an agribusiness major.

SLV Trout Unlimited 2023 fundraiser is June 3

ALAMOSA — SLV Trout Unlimited 2023 fundraiser will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 3, at the Colorado Farm Brewery, 2070 CR 12 South, Alamosa. Beer and food will be available for purchase. No admission fees. There will be a silent auction, bucket drawings, and a casting contest.

Call 719-588-7678, for more information. Online auction is open, visit <http://go.tolocalevents.org/slvту>.



Crestone Charter School graduates three

By JOHN WATERS

CRESTONE — On the afternoon of May 19, the three Crestone Charter School (CCS) graduates received their diplomas and enjoyed the commencement activities. *Please see CRESTONE on Page 2A*

MaKai Clendening, Crestone Charter School of 2023 in his Graduate Speech on May 19. Clendening said that he perused commencement addresses from schools like Harvard and the University of California at Berkeley and decided to eschew the likes of them and offer his own words. 'I believe in the success of our own actions,' said Clendening who then thanked the teachers and staff at CCS.

Photo by John Waters



Photo by Patrick Shea

The Moffat High School graduating class capped off the ceremony on May 20 by tossing their mortarboard headgear in the air.

Moffat grads gobble up scholarships

By PATRICK SHEA

MOFFAT — At the start of the Moffat High School graduation ceremony on May 20, the crowd learned that the eight graduates received more than \$22,000 in scholarships for furthering their education. They were accepted at more than 20 different institutions in total. Now they will head to two-year schools, four-

year colleges, cosmetology school, and Job Corps training programs.

Following the pomp and circumstance processional and national anthem, counselor Alex Moore highlighted the class achievements and singled out each student. Teacher and class sponsor Dan Hart

Please see MOFFAT on Page 5A

Anger, misinformation, and significant concerns surface in town hall



By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Following the frenzied ending of the 2023 Colorado legislative session, Representative Matthew Martinez (D-62) and Senator Cleave Simpson (R-6) took the Society Hall stage Friday night for another town hall review with a group of about 50 people.

Keith R. Cerny, publisher of the

About 50 people attended a town hall at Society Hall in Alamosa on Friday to hear a recap of the 2023 Colorado legislative session from Senator Cleave Simpson (left) and Representative Matt Martinez.

Photo by Keith R. Cerny

Valley Courier, was asked to step in and moderate the event.

In opening comments, Sen. Simpson spoke first, summarizing the session with what he viewed as a "key point of consideration" for the 120-day session that ended on May 8 while the day before the Senate was still on the floor debating bills.

"That hasn't happened in the Colorado Senate since 1939. It's a little indicative, from my perspective, of how the session ended," Simpson said.

Simpson said the session was a "mixed bag" for him with accomplishments in agriculture and natural resources and renewable energy. He also voiced frustration that "lobbyists, special interests and stakeholder groups" were *See TOWN HALL on Page 7A*

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Gov. Polis signs 3 bills into law in Alamosa

All bi-partisan and sponsored by Rep. Martinez

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER
ALAMOSA — With Representative Matthew Martinez (D-62) at his side, a lineup of leadership from the Alamosa School District and Adams State University behind him and a good-sized crowd looking on, Governor Jared Polis signed three bills into law in a signing ceremony held in front of Richardson Hall on the Adams State campus on Tuesday afternoon.

The three bi-partisan bills — creating a high school scholarship program, removing a barrier to applying for college and increasing access to mental health services for veterans — were all sponsored by Rep. Martinez, the Democratic first-term office holder representing the San Luis Valley.

“Representative Martinez has been very busy this session serving the San Luis Valley with these three bills I’m going to sign today,” Polis said. “All the bills are important but there’s one that I’m especially excited about for our graduating seniors class of 2024 who will get a \$1,500 scholarship.

“When first lady Jill Biden visited Colorado, she highlighted Representative Martinez’s bill as

a really great example of the kinds of things we need for workforce readiness. We’ll be really excited to see what the class of 2024 does with this scholarship that, thanks to Representative Martinez’s bill, helps to reduce the cost of higher education.”

The governor was referring to SB23-205 that puts into law a “Universal High School Scholarship Program” for Colorado high school graduates that prioritizes awards for students pursuing high-priority postsecondary pathway.

Beginning with the 2024-25 academic year, students who graduate or get a high school equivalency certificate (such as a GED) in Colorado during the 2023-24 school year and choose to pursue an in-demand or high-priority postsecondary pathway will be eligible for a \$1,500 scholarship to be used for tuition, fees, and books.

The bill is unique because it provides financial support to students pursuing not just college degrees but also certificates and registered apprenticeships.

The bill was supported by an overwhelming majority on both sides of the aisle. However, Senator Cleave Simpson was not present to vote on the bill as he was out of state due to a death in the family.

The second bill Polis signed — HB23-1261 “No Requirement for Selective Service Higher

Education” — does exactly what the name of the bill implies. Currently, a person who is applying for enrollment or reenrollment to a state-supported institution of higher education and who is at least 17 years and 9 months old but younger than 26 years old must provide the institution with a statement of registration compliance for the United States Selective Service system. HB23-1262 removes that requirement.

“This bill makes Colorado standards fall in line with federal standards and removes a barrier that had been in place for students applying for college,” Martinez told the Valley Courier. “Colleges and universities will provide a link to register on their website for those who still want to register.”

Sen. Simpson, the Republican elected to represent Colorado District 6, including the San Luis Valley, voted against the bill.

Now that Martinez’s third bill has been signed into law, HB23-1088 “Veterans Mental Health Session Reimbursement Program” will take on a long standing and often devastating obstacle faced by veterans in need of mental health services by paying for up to 26 mental health sessions per year per eligible veteran with a provision for more sessions if the mental health provider deems it necessary. That marks a sharp



Photo by John Waters

Governor Jared Polis signs three bills into law on Tuesday in front of Richardson Hall on the campus of Adams State University. The bills were all sponsored by Rep. Matthew Martinez (D-62), standing left. Adams State University President David Tandberg is standing right.

increase from the two mental health visits veterans are currently allowed.

The bill applies to veterans in community living centers, such as nursing homes.

Before signing the bill, Polis said, “Veterans living in our community living centers need better access to mental health care. They served our nation and protected our freedom. This bill represents a partnership between the Department of Human Services, the Department of Veteran Affairs and the Behavioral Health Administration to make sure none of our veterans living in community living centers fall through the gap and we’re able to meet their behavioral health needs with Post Traumatic Stress or whatever it is for all of our men and women who have proudly worn the uniform and served our nation.”

Veterans’ issues are of special importance to Rep. Martinez. Not only is he a member of the bi-partisan Veterans Caucus in the state House, Martinez also served in the United States Marine Corps and is familiar with the challenges

veterans experience in accessing health care services, including mental health.

HB23-1088 passed with overwhelming bi-partisan support in the House with only one Democratic representative voting against the bill and all senators, including Sen. Simpson, voting in favor.

“It’s good to be back home, both in the Valley and Adams State,” Martinez told the crowd, highlighting the Universal High School Scholarship Program. “In working at Adams State, financial barriers were always a hindrance for our students and (SB23-205) will really address that with \$25 million worth of scholarships. This will get them through the door, across the finish line and into the workforce, making the Colorado economy even stronger.”

Martinez also spoke of his personal commitment to providing veterans with the mental health services they need.

“I appreciate everybody coming out here and Gov. Polis coming to Alamosa,” he said in closing. “We’ve got a lot more work to do.”

SLV Tourism Association awarded \$20K Colorado Tourism grant

CONTRIBUTED
ALAMOSA — The San Luis Valley Tourism Association (SLVTA) was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) for the development of a Mystic SLV Adventure Guide.

“This is a collaborative mission comprised of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Huerfano, Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache counties. The guide will focus on advancing off-peak travel opportunities, developing and enhancing visitor experiences while encouraging responsible and respectful use of our gateways and time spent within the Mystic San Luis Valley,” SLVTA officials stated.

The board centered their vision on three themes:

- Million Dollar Shot (Conscientious Photographer Initiative)
- Dark Skies Initiative
- Do the SLV Right (a derivative of Do Colorado Right)

There will be a printed guide for self-tour, including a destination map, and a digital companion. The digital link will steer to more in-depth content, guidance and the opportunity for each county to publish and share on social media platforms.

In partnership with Federal, County and public land officials, designated locations will be determined for sign installation in each county for the

“photo adventure” Million Dollar Shot and Dark Sky physical locations, which will correspond to the printed and digital maps. With the assistance of Ameille Warner, Dandelion Creative Services, the adventures will be threaded with content about how to be respectful while visiting and enjoying the San Luis Valley.

“We welcome our newest SLVTA board member, Adam Lock from Rio Grande County, to the team as well,” SLVTA officials stated.

For more information about the San Luis Valley Tourism Association (SLVTA), contact Kale Mortenson 719-589-9385 director@alamosa.org.

CRESTONE Continued from Page 1A

that were dedicated to them.

Thomas Cleary, director of the school, opened the ceremony with words of appreciation, advice, words from Dr. Seuss, comedian Jerry Seinfeld, and these words from Zimbabwean-born and Canadian-based philosopher and writer Matshona Dhliwayo, “If you follow the herd, people may mistake you for a cow.”

Cleary implored the graduates to “forge your own pathway and grow as you walk that path and as it has been said before, it is, not the destination, it is the process of getting there.”

Teachers, Sam Goering, Lee Eversole, and Fabricio Fernandes each addressed graduates, Ava Guidry, MaKai Toven Clendening, and Kaelen Gregory Hollyer.

In a touching moment Lee Eversole, who teaches science told the graduates, “I love each of you and I want you to have a beautiful future...it will have hardships and life is not easy, but be certain to get up each time. Blessings.”

Colin Cole McGee offered a musical performance of “Fires of Mazama,” by Michael Sweeney, a work that interprets the cataclysmic eruption of Mount Mazama in Oregon, which created the Crater Lake caldera. A fitting composition for graduates who are bursting onto their world scene.

Since 1996, the CCS has served the needs of Crestone and Saguache County and is part of the Moffat Consolidated School District No. 2.

The school is located on the outskirts of Crestone in a mountain setting, only several miles from 14,000-foot peaks in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Completed in 2012, the school was made possible by a Colorado Department of Education’s BEST (Building Excellent Schools Today) capital construction grant.

In 2006, the Crestone Charter School high school program was named one of the top three schools for academic achievement in the state by the Colorado Department of Education. CCS has sustained a

program of academic excellence over the past 15 years while developing an expeditionary program that allows rural students a leg up into global citizenship through service learning, academic and cultural studies in Japan, Costa Rica, India, and Mexico. The school serves about 90 students, K-12.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Watch what you say

It's been a hectic week that included unpacking and setting up the household for the summer so far. Miss Trixie had to make her semi-monthly trip out to the Amish store to stock up on things she needed. We also got to visit the new Amish bakery and that's always a treat with their tasty homemade baked goods and other culinary delights.

Not to leave any possible stops out, we also went to all the grocery stores we could find so that Miss Trixie could get the sales items advertised in the local news. These types of activities and stops usually result in Ol' Dutch sitting patiently in the car waiting for her return and it's not so bad if you have a smartphone to peruse all the news that is news and even some that isn't.

Now it's long been known that Ol' Dutch will carry on a conversation with Mr. Cooper just like he is a normal human being and I began to notice that someone else was listening in on our conversations. I was in one of my waiting spots this week and casually mentioned to Cooper something along these lines. "Wow, lookie there Cooper at the snow on the mountains." You know, things you talk to dogs about.

He never responds much but does try and see what I am looking at which is more than I can say for how my ex-wife responded. So, it's appreciated that someone cares. No, he didn't answer back so you don't have to try and get me some psychiatric help, yet. But what did happen is more than a little worrisome indeed.

For instance, I might have said something aloud like "Hey Cooper, there's a puppy over there." And when I opened Google to search for something important like 'how is bread made,' Google would show me search parameters for puppies.

For it seems that somehow my phone is now listening in on all my conversations and trying to help me out with items related to what I am talking about. Now this may not worry you but you have to wonder just who else is listening and what they may do about what you may say in private.

I have to assume for most of you that your conversations are holy and politically correct, but for some of us a slip of the lip could lead to some real issues. Now some of you may be thinking about some loose talk about politics and our leaders and that may be a concern if they are listening in on private conversations protected by the First Amendment, right?

But there are way more important things being discussed by Ol' Dutch and others online that we do not want blabbered all over hell's half



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

acre, if you know what I mean. I mean God help us if somehow important information is being gleaned from our conversations and then being used against us in some form or another. Important stuff talked about in secret with our buddy like honey holes where the elk are hanging out this year. Or fishing hotspots where the trout are biting on every cast.

Can you imagine the ramifications of that kind of spying? I mean honestly, are we now going to be relegated to meeting in clandestine spots in the country away from spying eyes, phones left at home and with questioning glances at every car that passes by?

I suppose it's gotten to be a tad like the old party lines we used to have on our home phones where Mabel and Dortha would listen in on everyone's conversations and develop the gossip for the area from that information gathered.

I did Google about such spying, which probably put me on some kind of list, and found out there is a setting to supposedly keep the phone from listening in but Ol' Dutch suspects that if you click on that option you are simply added to a more sophisticated listening network.

So, if you are planning some illicit activity or don't want the world to know what you are up to you may want to shut the electronic wizard off before you talk about it.

And if you and your partner plan on getting "busy" remove said phones to the garage unless you want the world to know all about that the next morning. Depending on what is said during those times it just may end up in the church bulletin under prayer requests as you were heard to be calling out to God. Turn off those phones, please.

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 or on Twitter at TroutRepublic.

Volunteers — The heartbeat of Public Lands Land, Water and People

BY KATIE GOODLEAF

Volunteers are the heartbeat of our public lands in the San Luis Valley.

For over a decade, a unique partnership has existed to support the critical role volunteers and community organizations play in caring for our public lands. Perhaps you've run across traces of these efforts; a mysterious sign labeled VOC in Conejos Canyon, a freshly cleared trail in the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness, a group of hikers crouched over in a field of wildflowers, snapping pictures of pollinators as they zip from plant to plant. If so, then you have experienced community-based stewardship in action!

Founded in 1984, Volunteer's for Outdoor Colorado's (VOC) mission is to motivate and enable people to become active stewards of Colorado's natural resources. To better meet the needs of local land managers and to expand volunteer capacity, VOC developed an innovative Partnership Office program. In 2011, this idea came to fruition in the San Luis Valley, in partnership with the Rio Grande National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management San Luis Valley Field Office. The Partnership Office, based at the Rio Grande National Forest Headquarters in Del Norte, is currently managed by Volunteer and Partnership Coordinator, Katie Goodleaf. Katie focuses on collaborating with local groups, attending partner meetings and outreach events across the valley to build connections with

community members to offer programming that is tailored to the needs of each community this program aims to serve.

Our public lands are a resource that we all own, and volunteering is one way to take an active part in the management of that resource by being a steward of those special places we all enjoy. Volunteer opportunities can range from a single-day project to a long-term undertaking lasting for several months.

What captures your interest? Trail work, wildlife surveys, invasive weed management, historic preservation, information receptionist, wilderness restoration, conservation education? Spring is a great time to get involved. If you are interested in volunteering on your public lands, check out the projects that are opening for registration on June 1! I'll see you out there!

Registration for these local volunteer projects opens on June 1:

- Trail Construction at Greenie Mountain Saturday, June 24- Sunday, June 25
- Women Only: Habitat Restoration at Windy Point

Saturday, July 15-Sunday, July 16

• Habitat Restoration at Moon Pass

Saturday, July 29-Sunday, July 30

• Los Pinos Trail Restoration at SSJ Wilderness

Saturday, Aug. 12-Sunday, Aug. 13

• Beaver Dam Analog Construction at RGNF

Saturday, Aug. 26-Sunday, Aug. 27

• Trail Maintenance at

North Rock Creek

Saturday, Sept. 9-Sunday, Sept. 10

• Gunnison Sage Grouse Habitat Restoration

Saturday, Sept. 23-Sunday, Sept. 24

Habitat Restoration at Blanca Wetlands Area

Saturday, Sept. 30-Sunday, Oct. 1

Katie Goodleaf is the Volunteer and Partnership Coordinator for the San Luis Valley. She's out on your public lands a lot! Join her in the outdoors this summer by registering for a volunteer project. Visit <https://volunteer.voc.org/> to register or you can contact her directly at katie@voc.org, for more information.



LETTER

Group gets enough signatures for recall of 3 MVS BOE trustees

Editor,
We know this process hasn't been the easiest but would like to thank the community for so much support. We have acquired enough signatures to recall three out of four members of the MVS BOE. Over 400 people in our district signed, more than three times the number who voted for them when elected. We believe this speaks for itself and sends a loud and clear message that we as a community are unhappy with the direction of this board and ready for a change. The ball is in their court now. They can take this

message from the community and resign, saving the district money or continue on with the recall.

We needed a much higher number of signatures for Lisa Hammel and got well over that number but lost just enough in the petition process for reasons beyond our control, to get her on the ballot. That said, the overwhelming signatures from in district voters (411) who agreed that it is time for her to go should give her a clear choice. We ask at this time for Lisa to join her fellow BOE members and resign, allowing a fresh start for our school.

We are ready to move forward, and them holding onto seats for a few more months seems pretty childish at this point. The people of Saguache have made their voices heard, please listen to those voices and step down. To the members being recalled the number of signatures acquired should give you a clue about how an election will go. Please resign now and end this.

Individual messages from the new candidates will be made soon. Thank you again for your support.
Citizens For Mountain Valley Students



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Kiwanis scholarship winners announced



Courtesy photo

On May 16, Dick Ramsteter, Don and Janet Noland of the Kiwanis Club of Center awarded five \$1,000 scholarships to Center High School seniors — Arleth Villalobos, Cael Ruggles, Giselle Molina Valadez, Kamryn Garcia and Jenice Almeida.



Courtesy photos

SLVREC employees Nelson Arambula, Terry Daley, Devin Ruiz, Jarrod Sisneros and Rudy Vialpando, along with Mykah, moved 350-pound alligator Smiley to his new home.

REC employees move gators

CONTRIBUTED

MOSCA — On May 5, San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative employees took the opportunity to help REC member Colorado Gator Farm move seven animals as they continue to power through the obstacles brought forth by the April 18 fire at the park.

Following a conversation with REC CEO Eric Eriksen, 10 employees and family members spent about three hours helping at the farm. The volunteers aided in the relocation of crocodiles and caimans from the old greenhouse to the fish building, as well as moving 10-foot alligator Smiley to his new habitat.

The employees had a blast and loved getting to see the amazing relationships owner Jay Young and his employees have with all the animals, SLVREC stated. They took time to mend wounds on each of the creatures and were seen giving them sweet kisses.

The April fire claimed numerous snakes, turtles, tortoises, caimans, parrots and a few



REC employee Jennifer Alonzo and Wendi Harrison pose with a caiman.

rescue cats. With demolition and rebuilding on the horizon, keeping the remaining animals safe is the number one priority for the Youngs.

The incredible experience will stick with REC employees for many years to come.

RGNF reminds people to be prepared for holiday weekend visits

Many forest access points may be limited due to persistent snowpack and unseasonable rainstorms

mountains.

Due to the persistent snowpack in many areas, some campgrounds and roads managed by the RGNF may not be open by this Memorial Day weekend.

Most of the lower elevation forest roads and trails will be open, but at higher elevations, many will be impassable because of mud and snow. Visitors are advised not to attempt to drive through patches of snow or over muddy areas to avoid getting stuck and prevent damaging the roads and trails. Never attempt to drive off-road around the snow drifts. Be a good land steward and turn around and try

again another day.

While our crews are already out clearing forest roads and trails, you will likely encounter downed trees. Be prepared, carry a saw, and remember no chainsaws in wilderness. Early season hiking on most trails will have down trees which may make them impassible to stock.

Hikers should be aware that they may be able to hike over the top of snow in the morning, but warm daytime temperatures can soften the snow, making it nearly impassible in the afternoon, and increasing the difficulty of your return journey.

The low and mid-elevation lakes and

reservoirs are ice-free, and the creeks and rivers are running high. Some creek crossings may be extremely dangerous. Carefully test stream flows before walking through high water. The current may be stronger than it appears. In addition, fluctuating streams flows have the potential to strand motorist with high water during the afternoon hours that was not high when they entered the area.

While there are no fire restrictions in effect on the Rio Grande National Forest, please be aware that other areas, or individual fire districts, may have fire restrictions on lands they manage. Whether it is your first

of fifteenth camping trip of the year, please remember to never leave your campfire fire unattended. Always extinguish your fires with water, using the drown, stir and feel method. That includes putting it out before going to bed. Remember, if it is too hot to touch, it is too hot to leave.

• Check campground status here: www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/riogrande/recreation

• Check road status here: www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/riogrande/alerts-notices

• Colorado Fire Restrictions: www.coemergency.com/p/fire-bans-danger.html

CONTRIBUTED

DEL NORTE — It's shaping up to be a beautiful and busy Memorial Day weekend in the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF). Forest managers are encouraging visitors to consider a few things before heading to the

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between May 15 and May 20, 2023.

Staff made 12 traffic stops, issued two citations (\$405), and assisted motorists near Villa Grove, Saguache, and Moffat. They also filed one REDDI Report (Report Every Drunk Driver Immediately) and responded to a crash at Highway 17 and CR AA. They patrolled Saguache four times, conducted five welfare checks, assisted with five ambulance rides, and handled two deceased people. They also engaged in a search and rescue operation.

In addition to monitoring eight controlled burns, they investigated cases of suspicious activity in Center, a utility problem in Bonanza, and a civil standby in Saguache. They also addressed property found in Saguache, other property lost in Center, a vehicle stolen from Moffat, and theft in Hooper.

ARRESTS

• A 31-year-old Center man was arrested and detained on \$5,000 bond for failure to appear in Saguache County Court.

Books, activities, lunch and more at Zapata Park

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Public Library is bringing the library to Zapata Park this summer. Starting June 12 and continuing through July

20, library staff will be at the park Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. with activities and resources designed to keep kids

learning, including:

Opening day is June 12 — learn more and enjoy pizza and ice cream. Call Library Manager Maria

Kramer at 719-587-2543, with any questions.

Zapata Park is located at 850 Ross Ave., Alamosa.

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AWARDS

Continued from Page 1A

of Monica and Darren Edgar of Sanford. Alyssa will be attending Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, this fall where she will study to become an orthodontist. Alyssa will be graduating from Sanford High School.

The Monte Vista Cooperative's Dedication to Education Foundation was instituted to establish scholarships to assist students with financial support to the college or university of their choice. The scholarships are not limited to colleges or universities in Colorado. The scholarships are in honor of the Co-Op's founding members and in remembrance of Dennis Kay and Mike Kelley; former employees who whole-heartedly believed in the area's young people.

The Monte Vista Cooperative scholarships are made available



Peyton Metz

through donations from its members and customers, its board members, and from monies collected at its special events and functions.



Alyssa Edgar

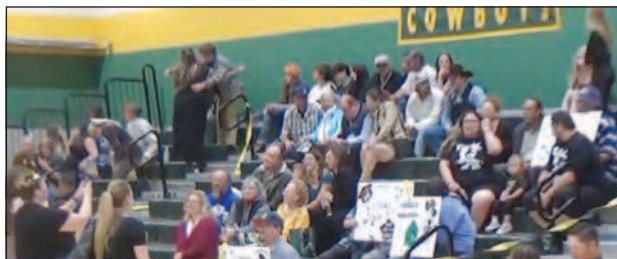
For more information about the Monte Vista Cooperative Dedication to Education Foundation, visit online MVCOOP.COM or call 719-852-5181.



Photos by Patrick Shea

Graduating Cowboy Senior Luke Maykowski started working on this massive mural before Christmas, honoring Moffat-area history and wildlife.

Right: Friends and family filled seats in the Moffat High School gym before the start of graduation ceremonies on May 20.



MOFFAT

Continued from Page 1A

followed with more stories about each student.

Alex Childers showed Hart "the value of a smile and positive attitude."

Rochelle Childers reminded Hart of Charlie Brown, a person with humble perseverance.

"It's a great day to graduate," Hart quipped.

Rowan Sisson demonstrated optimism by persisting on projects until he got it right. Ethan Richardson shared a similar optimism, according to Hart. Richardson adapted to design changes in wood shop class until he found the right balance, reminding Hart of Bill Nye the Science Guy mixed with Beaker from the Muppets. As Hart sees it, graduate Cairn Pike remains true to himself. Hart never witnessed Pike disrespecting others. Danarose Duran followed Hart's recognition for the graduates by recognizing key teachers and administrators. The students selected Mike Roberts as their guest speaker. An English teacher and coach, Roberts said, "I bleed green and gold."

Roberts highlighted challenges for the graduates, and he said, "Many want you to believe that this is the first day of adulthood. Clearly, you've been mature enough for a while. You can be considered adults. You get up early. You show up on time. You have jobs." Roberts concluded his speech with a nod to perseverance.

"I hope you remember your friendships and family fun. And remember to get up when you fall down — like a Cowboy," Roberts said.

Richardson and Sisson spoke about athletic challenges and other memories before the second-highest graduate, Luke Maykowski, gave the Salutatorian Speech.

"Being given the opportunities I had here is something I won't forget and don't intend to," Maykowski said, "regardless if it's as grandiose as working on a mural here."

Closing out the speeches, valedictorian Rose Tallmadge said, "It feels like the end of an era. I'm so excited to see where everyone goes from here."

Kathy Garcia made it official and awarded the diplomas. The graduates shifted tassels from left to right and completed the ceremony by tossing their hats in the air.

Accepting New Patients!

Dr. Amarilys Rojas is accepting new patients in the SLV Health Pediatrics Clinic. She graduated with her BA from Tufts University in Child Dev and her Medical Degree from the University of Mass Medical School. She completed seven months of training at the pediatric residency at Baylor College of Medicine & Texas Children's Hospital.

Dr. Rojas also did additional residency training in global child health in Malawi, Africa. She also completed a seven-month pediatric training in gastroenterology, hepatology, and nutrition at the University of Colo & Children's Hospital of CO.



Dr. Rojas loves kids and can't wait to meet yours! Call to schedule with her or the other team members at 719-589-8004.



National EMS Week

May 21-27, 2023

Thank you to these individuals for their hard work & dedication!



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- Clarence Dube EMT
- Don Dustin EMT-I
- Mark Hebert EMT-P
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- Dwayne Lewis EMT-I
- Dan Madrid EMT-I
- Drew Marino EMT
- Charles Miller EMT
- Terry Morgan EMT
- Elizabeth Steele EMT
- Betsey Strawn EMT-P
- Katlin Vanaken EMT
- Amy Wetherill EMT

Baca POA

- Denise Johnson Paramedic
- Quinn Kenny EMT
- William Klausmeyer EMT
- Kelly Marsico EMT
- Harold Fowler BLS Driver
- Corez Hines BLS Driver
- Steve Hirsch BLS Driver
- Isaiah Martinez BLS Driver
- Denise VandeWalle BLS Driver
- Joanna Dokson RN EMT Administrator

Monte Vista

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- Deb Haverfield EMT- Paramedic
- Valarie Maestas EMT-Intermediate
- Juan Palomarez EMT-Basic IV
- Evan Lopez EMT-Basic IV
- Reyes Nevarez EMT-Basic IV
- Jamie Black EMT-Basic IV
- Tricia Watson EMT- Intermediate
- Carlos Lopez EMT-Basic IV
- Arlyn Oakes EMT- Intermediate
- Rafelita Atencio EMT-Basic IV
- Ellie Lancaster EMT-Paramedic
- Rick Robirds EMT-Basic IV
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- Don Watson EMT-Basic IV
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- Brantlee Webster EMT-Basic IV
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Gov. Polis signs 3 bills into law in Alamosa

All bi-partisan and sponsored by Rep. Martinez.

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER
ALAMOSA — With Representative Matthew Martinez (D-62) at his side, a lineup of leadership from the Alamosa School District and Adams State University behind him and a good-sized crowd looking on, Governor Jared Polis signed three bills into law in a signing ceremony held in front of Richardson Hall on the Adams State campus on Tuesday afternoon.

The three bi-partisan bills — creating a high school scholarship program, removing a barrier to applying for college and increasing access to mental health services for veterans — were all sponsored by Rep. Martinez, the Democratic first-term office holder representing the San Luis Valley.

“Representative Martinez has been very busy this session serving the San Luis Valley with these three bills I’m going to sign today,” Polis said. “All the bills are important but there’s one that I’m especially excited about for our graduating seniors class of 2024 who will get a \$1,500 scholarship.

“When first lady Jill Biden visited Colorado, she highlighted Representative Martinez’s bill as a really great example of the kinds of things we need for workforce readiness. We’ll be really excited to see what the class of 2024 does with this scholarship that, thanks to Representative Martinez’s bill, helps to reduce the cost of higher education.”

The governor was referring to SB23-205 that puts into law a “Universal High School Scholarship Program” for Colorado high school graduates that prioritizes awards for students pursuing high-priority postsecondary pathway.

Beginning with the 2024-25 academic year, students who graduate or get a high school equivalency certificate (such as a GED) in Colorado during the 2023-24 school year and choose to pursue an in-demand or high-priority postsecondary pathway will be eligible for a \$1,500 scholarship to be used for tuition, fees,

and books. The bill is unique because it provides financial support to students pursuing not just college degrees but also certificates and registered apprenticeships.

The bill was supported by an overwhelming majority on both sides of the aisle. However, Senator Cleave Simpson was not present to vote on the bill as he was out of state due to a death in the family.

The second bill Polis signed — HB23-1261 “No Requirement for Selective Service Higher Education” — does exactly what the name of the bill implies. Currently, a person who is applying for enrollment or reenrollment to a state-supported institution of higher education and who is at least 17 years and 9 months old but younger than 26 years old must provide the institution with a statement of registration compliance for the United States Selective Service system. HB23-1262 removes that requirement.

“This bill makes Colorado standards fall in line with federal standards and removes a barrier that had been in place for students applying for college,” Martinez told the Valley Courier. “Colleges and universities will provide a link to register on their website for those who still want to register.”

Sen. Simpson, the Republican elected to represent Colorado District 6, including the San Luis Valley, voted against the bill.

Now that Martinez’s third bill has been signed into law, HB23-1088 “Veterans Mental Health Session Reimbursement Program” will take on a long standing and often devastating obstacle faced by veterans in need of mental health services by paying for up to 26 mental health sessions per year per eligible veteran with a provision for more sessions if the mental health provider deems it necessary. That marks a sharp increase from the two mental health visits veterans are currently allowed.

The bill applies to veterans in community living centers, such as nursing homes.

Before signing the bill, Polis said, “Veterans living in our community



Governor Jared Polis signs three bills into law on Tuesday in front of Richardson Hall on the campus of Adams State University. The bills were all sponsored by Rep. Matthew Martinez (D-62), standing left. Adams State University President David Tandberg is standing right.

Photo by John Waters

living centers need better access to mental health care. They served our nation and protected our freedom. This bill represents a partnership between the Department of Human Services, the Department of Veteran Affairs and the Behavioral Health Administration to make sure none of our veterans living in community living centers fall through the gap and we’re able to meet their behavioral health needs with Post Traumatic Stress or whatever it is for all of our men and women who have proudly worn the uniform and served our nation.”

Veterans’ issues are of special

importance to Rep. Martinez. Not only is he a member of the bi-partisan Veterans Caucus in the state House, Martinez also served in the United States Marine Corps and is familiar with the challenges veterans experience in accessing health care services, including mental health.

HB23-1088 passed with overwhelming bi-partisan support in the House with only one Democratic representative voting against the bill and all senators, including Sen. Simpson, voting in favor.

“It’s good to be back home, both in the Valley and Adams State,” Martinez told the crowd, highlighting the Universal

High School Scholarship Program. “In working at Adams State, financial barriers were always a hindrance for our students and (SB23-205) will really address that with \$25 million worth of scholarships. This will get them through the door, across the finish line and into the workforce, making the Colorado economy even stronger.”

Martinez also spoke of his personal commitment to providing veterans with the mental health services they need.

“I appreciate everybody coming out here and Gov. Polis coming to Alamosa,” he said in closing. “We’ve got a lot more work to do.”

A Practical, Powerful Strategy That Beats the Devil Every Time

The Bible teaches us about spiritual warfare and that we have an enemy, the devil. First Peter 5:9 says to resist the devil and stand firm in our faith in God. And Ephesians 6 tells us about the armor of God that helps us overcome our struggle “against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (v. 12 NIV).

Some people deny the existence of the devil and of hell. They don’t believe a loving God would really send anyone to a place of eternal torment. But the Bible teaches us that we do have an enemy and there is a place called hell, so we’re deceiving ourselves if we refuse to believe it.

The Bible also says that God is patient, “not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). And John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

The Truth About Our Enemy
 An effective strategy to gain victory over any enemy is to know who he is and how he operates. The Bible has a lot to say about the devil.

John 8:44 says, “He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” And 1 Peter 5:8 tells us to “be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

Deception is the devil’s primary strategy to keep us from growing spiritually and fulfilling God’s purpose for our lives. To be deceived simply means you believe a lie. This is dangerous because if you believe a lie, then it will become your reality even though it isn’t true. For example, you can believe someone doesn’t like you and be upset about being rejected when the truth is they haven’t thought one bad thing about you. Everyone is affected to some degree

by lies they believe. I used to believe I would only be able to have a second-rate life because my father had sexually abused me and I was “damaged goods.” If I hadn’t come to know the truth about God’s love for me and how He could heal and restore my soul, my life would be much different than it is today. I seriously doubt I ever would have become a Bible teacher who is helping others discover how they can know God and become everything He has created them to be in Christ.

We need to pray for God to reveal any deception in our minds because every lie we believe represents something the devil is stealing from us that God wants us to have. I’m talking about real peace and joy, freedom from constantly feeling guilty about something you’ve done, the ability to have healthy relationships, or any of the other promises God gives us in His Word.

Be Liberated by the Truth
 Our thoughts are so important, and that’s why I teach about the “battlefield of the mind.” We need to be more diligent to think about what we’re thinking about and choose on purpose to think in ways that line up with God’s Word. Jesus said, “If you abide in My word...you are truly My disciples. And you will know the truth...and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32 AMP).

The key here is to “abide” in God’s Word. To abide means to live and remain in it. As we spend time each day meditating on Scripture, rolling it over and over in our minds, we will gain freedom from wrong mindsets and beliefs.

Here’s a practical way to apply this principle. The next time you’re feeling discouraged or having a pity party, ask yourself, “What have I been thinking about?” You’ve likely been mulling over thoughts about what people don’t do for you, what you don’t like about yourself, what you don’t have...and on and on.

The solution to turning your attitude around is by thinking about God and what He says about you.



Romans 5:8 says God loves you unconditionally and that while you were still a sinner, Christ died for you.

Psalm 139:14 says that God created you by His own hand in your mother’s womb and you are wonderful.

Ephesians 2:10 says you are “God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance” for you to do.

And Romans 8:37-39 says you are more than a conqueror through Christ, and there is nothing that can separate you from God’s love.

I want to encourage you to spend time studying these scriptures, praying for God to help you get these truths rooted in your heart. You can also get more encouraging teaching or submit a prayer request by contacting our ministry at www.joycemeyer.org. We love you, and we want to help you gain victory over the enemy in every area of your life!

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s six-part teaching resource **Battle Strategies for a Victorious Life**. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

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

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

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Monte Vista native wins WCU's most prestigious alumni award

One of only nine recipients in 2023
CONTRIBUTED

This year, Monte Vista native Alyssa Rawinski received Western Colorado University's highest honor for graduating seniors at an awards ceremony Friday, May 5. As one of only nine recipients of the 2023 Alumni Award for Excellence, Rawinski will join the ranks of some of Western's most distinguished alumni and be remembered for her contributions to the campus community.

"This event truly exemplifies and celebrates the unique bond created between our faculty and students made possible by the care, dedication and inspiration our

intimate classroom environment offers," Western's Vice President for Advancement, Mike LaPlante, said. "This connection is what makes Western truly transformative, so we take the opportunity to honor and commemorate this at the Alumni Awards for Excellence."

For the last 26 years, members of Western's Alumni Advisory Council have met each spring to consider the nominations of students from nearly every department. The committee's goal is to find the most select group of nominees, who have spent their time on campus committed to being the best version of themselves and exemplify what it means to be a Mountaineer.

On May 6, Rawinski graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree

in Biology, an emphasis in Wildlife and Conservation, and a Geographic Information Systems certificate. Immediately after graduation she will work with the U.S. Forest Service as a seasonal biological technician before exploring her career options and considering graduate school.

"Going to Western has been an incredible journey of personal and academic growth," Rawinski said. "I am grateful for this award because it means that I have made a difference within the community I love and that I have contributed something valuable to the university that has shaped me into the person I am today."

Unlike the Latin honors granted on graduation day, the Alumni Award for Excellence doesn't only reward a high GPA, although an outstanding

academic record is necessary to be considered. It doesn't just recognize a student's willingness to put in long hours after class or go the extra mile in the pursuit of knowledge, however diligence is a key component to the selection criteria.

While at Western, Rawinski was president of the Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society for two years in addition to spending five semesters as a Supplemental Instruction Leader for general chemistry. She played the flute in the symphonic band for two semesters was involved in campus fellowship and ministry groups including YoungLife, Christian Challenge, and Intervarsity.

As an extension of her passion for ecology and the environment,

Rawinski also worked for the campus recycling program for more than three years, was a teacher's assistant for an ecology lab as well as the Intro to GIS class. On top of all her roles on campus, she studied abroad for a semester in the fall of 2022 with the School for Field Studies Program in Tanzania, Africa.

"The Alumni Awards for Excellence celebrates our most outstanding graduates while also recognizing those faculty and staff that inspired and motivated them," LaPlante said. "Alyssa is a great example of the kind of student we want to honor with this award."

To learn more about the Alumni Awards for Excellence or about Western, visit western.edu.

TOWN HALL Continued from Page 1A

was asking for legislators' time, starting as early as mid-February.

The middle of the session was focused on gun control and abortion, he said, and a big milestone was negotiating the budget.

What Simpson described as a "disappointing turn" and a "poor approach to public policy" was the 68-page "significant property tax bill" that was introduced, amended, and voted on during the last hours of the session with no time for consideration.

"That was the most frustrating point in my tenure in the Senate. It left me with a bitter taste in my mouth," he said.

When it was his turn, Rep. Martinez echoed Simpson's frustrations with a complex property tax bill and not enough time to consider its implications. He voted against it.

Martinez then summarized the notable number of bills he had introduced, all but one that were passed and all but one with bi-partisan support and one that passed with unanimous support.

For those who were interested, Martinez had also printed out hand-outs for the audience detailing his legislation.

Before opening up for participant questions, Cerny complimented the officials for "working across the aisle to get things done for the people of the Valley" and reminded the audience that the two officials on stage were elected by the voters and the expectation that all questions and comments from the audience be respectful.

Much of the town hall was focused on SB23-303, the \$2 billion property tax bill that was passed in the last hours the legislature was in session.

That brought up questions about the motivation to rush through a large bill and introduction in the last days of the session negating the representative government.

Both legislators, who voted against the bill, agreed the late notice was problematic. Simpson speculated that the late introduction is "what happens when one party controls the House, Senate and governor's office — whether it's Republicans or Democrats."

Martinez attributed it to a reluctance to have a special session, which can only be called by the governor.

The term "stakeholders" was also brought up by several members of the audience who either questioned its definition or opposed its use.

One member of the audience brought up the gun control legislation. Addressing Martinez, he said, "As a free citizen, I want to know what the heck you guys are doing with the Second Amendment when we all know that you have not amended the Constitution we all live by."

Martinez explained his votes — which were against two of the bills and for the other two.

The audience member pressed for his definition of due process because

"there's no due process in the bill."

Simpson interjected that the bill has been challenged in court and found to be constitutional.

"That doesn't make it right," the man said.

"It may not make it right but it's constitutional," Simpson responded.

The man then brought up an issue from a previous town hall related to the Secretary of State (SOS) sending out ballots to 30,000 voters who were ineligible to vote.

Simpson corrected the man, stating the county clerk and recorders send out ballots, not the Secretary of State and added that they were flyers — not ballots — encouraging people to vote. He acknowledged the SOS made an error in sending out the flyers to voters who were ineligible but stated the flyers were a mass mailing — not targeted — and second notices were sent out informing those who were ineligible.

"That wasn't reported in the news," the man said. "It's very suspicious."

Liza Maron, a Saguache County Commissioner, asked Simpson how the housing bill — also known as the Land Use bill — ended up.

Simpson said the bill was a priority of the governor, and it brought up concerns on both sides of the aisle about the bill taking away local authority. Martinez echoed Simpson's concerns, adding that it also didn't have stipulations requiring augmentation of water used in development.

Both legislators voted against the bill.

Simpson added that, last year, the state had allocated \$500 million for affordable housing. How that expenditure is impacting the issue should be weighed before moving forward.

The conversation then transitioned to TABOR when Gary Goodwin asked about the "mechanism" that allows "the government and Governor (Jared) Polis" to "get their hands on tax money" that really belongs to the taxpayers.

Simpson clarified that state statute allows the legislature to figure out the most appropriate way to disperse TABOR money.

"So, what keeps the government from just keeping all that money," Goodwin asked.

Martinez explained that the state cannot keep money without taxpayer approval via a ballot measure, and Simpson confirmed.

Another member of the audience asked about the urban-rural divide. "Is it getting larger?"

Martinez felt there have been a lot of bills that are urban-centric with not enough thought about how legislation will impact rural areas, but he's educating his urban colleagues on rural concerns, including a standing invitation to the Valley to become more familiar with rural concerns.

"The urban rural divide is real. It was growing my first two years but the governor's vote on the reintroduction of wolves drove a stake in that division and made it greater," Simpson said.

Simpson also said he expects future discussions about the Colorado River water system and state control of noxious weeds to widen the gap even more.

Martinez encouraged participation in testifying before committees on how legislation will impact rural communities as an effective way to increase urban understanding.

Up until that point, the dialogue had been respectful. That changed when an audience member, who did not state his name, stood, and focused on Rep. Martinez.

"Don't call me a stakeholder. I'm a landowner, not a stakeholder. Senator Simpson, you may call me a constituent. Representative Martinez, you don't have that authority... I'm removing that from you. You don't represent me... or my family.

"Just because we own a piece of property in Colorado, that does not

give you the right to put an arbitrary monetary amount on what you want to extort from us and... what the person you really represent — Jared Polis — gets to extort... because that's what it is.

"You stand with people who say that all the problems are my fault because I'm friggering white. This has to end. That's why you don't have any authority because I remove that authority from you. And... guess what. This summer, we're going to become ungovernable."

"No, we're not," said someone from the back of the room.

Simpson stepped in and said, "This is an opportunity to engage and ask questions."

Interrupting Simpson, the man continued to focus his anger on Rep. Martinez.

"Our needs are not getting met on the local level," he said. "You go up there and hob nob with people. You don't represent us. You represent Jared

Polis and smooth things over for Adams State."

Simpson was forced to speak over the individual, who continued to state that he didn't want to be called a stakeholder. Simpson said he could be called whatever he wants.

"That's part of the process," Simpson said.

He then reminded the man of his ability to watch legislative discussions as they're happening live on the floor, but the man continued.

The conversation only ended when Cerny interrupted.

"Let's move on," Cerny said.

Carol Rigenbach then asked a question about Polis' influence over Martinez, asking him about his "hope that you can represent us" when Polis directs him and "you representing us goes against what you want."

Martinez corrected her, saying that Polis does not direct him how to vote.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Saguache County Land Use Office will be holding a series of education / outreach for the public on the passage of the Saguache County Nuisance Ordinance that was recently passed by the Board of County Commissioners. Dates, time, and location will be as follows;
 June 20, 2023 - 5:00PM Center Kiwanis Club of Center - 510 S Broadway St., Center, CO 81125
 June 21, 2023 - 5:00PM KV Homeowners Association - 26415 Woodward Ave., Moffat, CO 81143
 June 26, 2023 - 5:00PM Tomichi Creek Trading Post - 71420 US-50, Sargents, CO 81248
 June 27, 2023 - 5:00PM Baca Grande Property Owners Association - 68575 Co. Rd. T, Crestone, CO 81131
 June 28, 2023 - 5:00PM Saguache County Road and Bridge - 305 3rd Street, Saguache, CO 81149
 To view the Saguache County Nuisance Ordinance that was passed, you can go on the Saguache County Website at www.saguachecounty-co.gov or pick up a copy at the Saguache County Land Use Office, 505 3rd Street, Saguache, CO 81149.
 No. 1668 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, May 18 and 25 and June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2023.

NOTICE OF 2023 Commissioner Redistricting

A public hearing will be held on June 6, 2023, for redistricting commissioner district boundaries, pursuant to CRS 30-10-306(1): "In no event shall there be more than **five percent** deviation between the most populous and the least populous district in each county, at the time such district boundaries are adopted."
 The hearing will be held at the Road and Bridge Department located at 305 3rd St Saguache, CO at 5:00 pm. A draft copy of a map with the boundary changes will be available for viewing, followed by a 30-day public comment period.
 Proposed re-districting map may be viewed at the Saguache County Clerk and Records office at 501 4th Street, Saguache, CO.
 For more information contact Wendi Maez, Saguache County Administrator at 719-655-2231 or email at wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov.
 No. 1669 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, May 25 and June 1, 2023.

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SPORTS

SLV well represented at state track and field meet

By **KEN HAMRICK**

LAKWOOD — The Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) hosted its annual state track and field meets last weekend at Jefferson County Stadium.

Class 1A Sanford

The Sanford boys team finished in third place with 60 points.

Four Mustangs scored in individual events and were led by Ren Canty who was third in the 3,200 in 10:58.79 on Thursday, third in the 1,600 in 4:53.07 on Saturday, and sixth in the 800 in 2:06.29 on Friday. Gauge Lewis was third in the 100 in 11.40 on Saturday and sixth in the 200 in 23.46 also on Saturday.

Lincoln Reynolds finished third in the 200 on 23.31 on Saturday and he also took 10th in the 400 in 53.88 also on Saturday. Cash Caldon was seventh in the 200 in 23.46 on Saturday and was also 10th in the 100 in 11.79 on Saturday.

The Mustangs' only event win was in the 4x200 relay as Lewis, Craig Ford, Caldon and Reynolds won in 1:33.72 on Friday. The same team took fifth place in the 4x100 in 46.33 on Saturday.

The 4x800 team of Tucker Canty, Justin McCarroll, William Malouff and Ren Canty took fourth place in 9:09.59 on Friday. The 4x400 team of Tucker Canty, Justin McCarroll, Mallouff and Koda Mortensen was 10th in 3:52.75 on Saturday.

The Sanford girls team took sixth place with 49 points. The Lady Mustangs had one event win as Erica Miller won the 800 in 2:23.01 on Friday.

Holly McDaniel placed in three individual events as she was second in the 100 hurdles in 16.93 on Saturday, fifth in the triple jump at 33-3 on Friday, and sixth in the 300 hurdles in 49.85 on Saturday.

Three relay teams also scored for the Lady Mustangs. The 800-meter sprint medley team of Brooklynn Reynolds, Makenzie Reynolds, McDaniel and Miller was second in 1:54.94 on Thursday. The 4x100 team of Kasey Gylling, Emery Mortensen, Brooklynn Reynolds and Makenzie Reynolds placed sixth in 53.69 on Saturday, and the 4x400 team of Brooklynn Reynolds, Mortensen, Brecken Crowther and Miller was eighth in 4:31.39 on Saturday.

The 4x200 team of Gylling, Ashley Dominguez, Brooklynn Reynolds and Makenzie Reynolds placed 10th in 1:57.69 on Friday. The 4x800 team of Teagan Crowther, Pepper Larsson, Brecken Crowther and Mortensen took 11th in 11:37.17 of Friday.

Sangre de Cristo

Sangre de Cristo took only two athletes to state, but both scored in their events.

For the boys team, William Wilson placed fourth in the 3,200 in 11:16.12 on Thursday and sixth in the 1,600 in 4:59.95 on Saturday.

For the Lady Thunderbirds, Peyton Metz took fifth in the 200 in 27.19 on Saturday, sixth in the triple jump at 32-8¾ on Friday and seventh in the 100 in 13.03.

The boys tied for 24th with 10 points and the girls placed 24th with 12.

Creede

Creede had three athletes at state and all three scored.

On the boys team, Ryder Whitehorn was eighth in the shot put at 38-10 on Saturday.

Two Lady Miners competed in the high jump on Saturday. Lila Fairchild tied for sixth at 4-7 and Jasmine Laing tied for eighth at 4-5.

The Creede boys placed 32nd with

two points and the girls were 28th with 4½.

Class 2A Monte Vista

The Monte Vista boys tied for 19th place with 21 points and all of their representatives scored.

In individual events, Alejandro Felix was fourth in the shot put at 46-10½ on Friday, and Damian Lopez was ninth in the 100 in 11.48.

In relays, the team of Lopez, Khegan Gunter, Memphis Garcia and Jack Noonan won the 4x100 in 43.81 on Saturday. The same team took sixth in the 4x200 in 1:37.85 on Friday.

The Lady Pirates were 32nd with 6½ points. Their only qualifier, Syriaiah Bernal tied for third in the high jump at 4-10 on Thursday.

Del Norte

The Del Norte boys team finished 30th with 8½ points. The Tigers were led by Michael Laymon who finished second in the high jump at 6-4 on Saturday, and Riley Orr who tied for ninth in the pole vault at 12-1 on Thursday.

The Lady Tigers were 40th with 2½ points as Aden Howell and Shelby VanZalinge tied for seventh in the pole vault at 8-7 on Friday.

Sargent

Bailey Asbell was the only Sargent athlete at the state meet. She scored one point as she was ninth in the 300 hurdles in 50.68 on Saturday. She was also 13th in the 100 hurdles in 17.55 on Thursday. She also competed in the high jump also on Thursday but did not record a height.

The Lady Farmers tied for 41st place.

Center

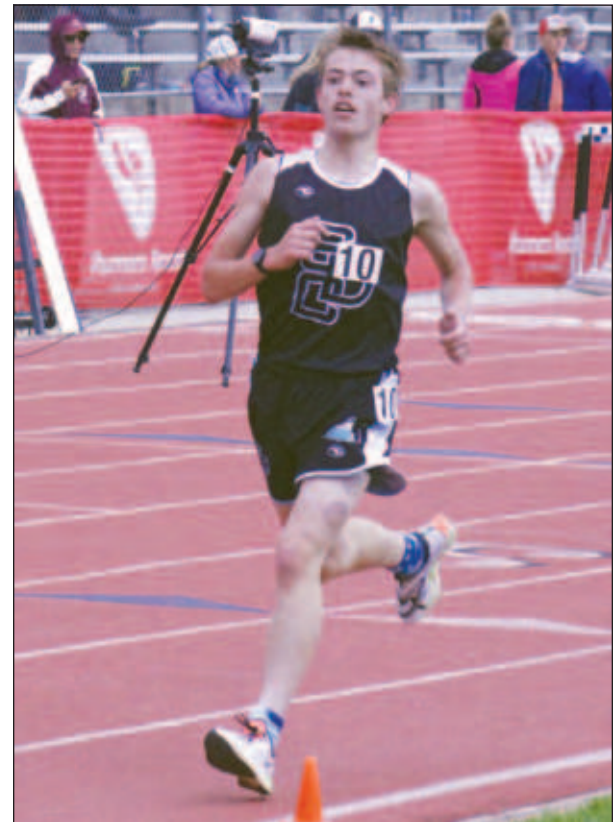
Center had two boys compete in the discus on Thursday. Andree Meraz was 14th at 118-8 and Cael Ruggles was 16th at 115-7.

Class 3A Centauri

The Centauri boys placed 27th with 5½ points. The Falcons' only scorer was Troy Sowards who tied for fourth in the high jump at 6-3 on Saturday.

Also competing were Mason Sowards who was 13th in the 110 hurdles in 16.58 on Thursday, and Josh Taylor who was 16th in the discus at 112-11 on Friday.

The Lady Falcons had two athletes compete in the 400 on Thursday. Kaia Skadberg was 14th in 1:04.89 and Tayte Hostetter was 15th in 1:04.93.



Photos by Ken Hamrick

Sangre de Cristo's William Wilson placed fourth in the 3,200 in 11:16.12 on Thursday and sixth in the 1,600 in 4:59.95 on Saturday.

Left: Sangre de Cristo's Peyton Metz took fifth in the 200 in 27.19 on Saturday, sixth in the triple jump at 32-8¾ on Friday and seventh in the 100 in 13.03.



Center's Andree Meraz was 14th in the discus at 118-8.



Right: Center's Cael Ruggles was 16th in the discus at 115-7.

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Homelake Veterans Center hosting Memorial Day ceremony

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTEVISTA — On Memorial Day, May 29, the Colorado Veteran's Community Living Center at Homelake will be holding a public ceremony at 10 a.m. at the cemetery. Everyone is invited to attend.

The center has not had a public ceremony for the past couple of years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The keynote speaker will be Eugene Farish. The ceremony will include Honor and Color guards, a presentation of wreaths, and tolling of the USS General Patrick Bell.

There will be a flyover by the 140th Wing of the Colorado Air National Guard. The Homelake History Center and Museum will be open after the service and will be open until 12:30 p.m.

According to the Homelake

Veteran's History Museum page, the Colorado Veteran's Community Living Center is the first and most historic Veteran's Center in all



of Colorado. More than 4,000 veterans have lived at the facility starting with veteran's that were from the Civil War and prevailing to current veterans.

The Homelake Veteran's History Museum was established and brought to the Valley by the Homelake Historic Preservation and Restoration Foundation and is run entirely by volunteers. The museum is host to collectables from veterans who lived at the home, and veterans that were also from the area.

For more information about the Memorial Day observance, contact the Colorado Veteran's Community Living Center at Homelake at 719-852-5118.

Care and Share Food Bank opens Alamosa distribution center

By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA — Almost 200 guests gathered on Produce Place in Alamosa on Thursday, May 11, to celebrate the grand opening of the new Care and Share Food Bank distribution center — a milestone that Care and Share considers important for its mission.

In 2021, the food bank purchased the former Budweiser distribution center and, over 18 months, renovated the facility to fit the food bank's needs. The distribution center is 25,000 sq. ft., and holds 252 pallet positions in the dry area, 252 pallet positions in refrigeration, and 152 pallet positions in the freezer. As first reported by the Valley Courier in January, the street name the center is on has been renamed Produce Place.

The SLV Distribution Center will reduce Care and Share's transportation time and mileage, allowing truck drivers to deliver more nutritious food to partner agencies across the southwest region.

"We have so many great relationships with farmers in the San Luis Valley that donate food to us or allow us to purchase it at a low



Photo by John Waters

Nate Springer (left), president, and CEO of Care and Share Food Bank, at the grand opening of the food bank's SLV distribution center on May 11.

cost," said Nate Springer, president and CEO of Care and Share. "Before, the food would go up to our Colorado Springs Distribution Center, where we repackaged it and distributed it back out to counties. Now, with this building, we're able to keep that fresh food right here in Alamosa, which will take days out of the time. We're excited that it will enable us to distribute healthier, quality food."

Springer told those assembled at the opening that Care and Share is on track to distribute 21 million pounds of food this year. The Alamosa facility will assist the food bank in making that number 30 million pounds annually.

Adams State University President David Tandberg was in attendance and told the Valley Courier, "This is

Please see CARE on Page 2

DeSanto is honored artist of Taste of Creede



CONTRIBUTED

CREEDE — The 35th Taste of Creede Festival will showcase local art and cuisine Memorial Day weekend on Main Street. The honored artist this year is Colleen Murphy DeSanto. She and her family have been coming to Creede since 1990 and permanently moved from Michigan in 2012.

The 35th Taste of Creede Festival will showcase local art and cuisine Memorial Day weekend on Main Street. The honored artist this year is Colleen Murphy DeSanto. She is adept in watercolor, acrylic and oil.

Courtesy photo

This annual event was envisioned by local artist Stephen Quiller and Richie Ormsby in 1989.

"The Taste of Creede Festival will delight visitors with inspired local art and great food," organizers stated.

DeSanto is adept in watercolor, acrylic and oil and has received numerous awards from the prestigious Oil Painters of America.

In Michigan, she was also an elementary art educator and received the Michigan Elementary Art Teacher of the year and retired in 2011.

Recently, she has been selected to exhibit a painting in the Colorado Watercolor Society's Spring Exhibition. You can find the paintings at

the C Waters/ Above Snakes Gallery in Creede, Two Old Crows Gallery in Pagosa Springs as well as showing by appointment in her studio/home.

On Saturday, May 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. watch artists paint on Main Street or pick a bench in Basham Park and listen to live, local music while noshing delectable treats.

Then at 2 p.m., be sure to watch local citizens compete in a Mountain Cookoff, to create a winning dish. Each contestant is provided with surprise ingredients and has 45 minutes to prepare an offering meant to delight the judges. The winning entry earns bragging rights for the ensuing year until next year's cook-off.

Please see TASTE on Page 11

Well Cox Jerky donates to Colorado Gator Farm

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Billy Weller owner of Well Cox Jerky recently donated 10 percent of his wages for one week from his business to the Colorado Gator Farm. Although Weller said that he did not feel like it was a lot, he felt good about making the donation because they are a place that people can visit and enjoy.

Weller and his family were devastated by the news that the Colorado Gator farm had partially burned on April 18. Weller, who became a member

of the local community about 6 years ago, said the Gator Farm had become a place that his family visited often.

"Being from Rifle you know you don't see anything like this up that way. The Gator Farm has become a part of my family," Weller said. "We love to visit the farm, see the gators, and

Please see DONATES on Page 3

The Weller Family visited the Colorado Gator Farm and made a donation.

Courtesy photo



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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.

Summer CWFIMA returns June 5-9 to Adams State

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — In June of 2023, the Upper Arkansas Valley WildFire Foundation returns to Alamosa to host over 400 students from 18 states during the week-long Colorado Wildland Fire and Incident Management Academy (CWFIMA). The Academy will offer 24 courses and exercises related to all-hazard incident management, wildland fire, and leadership. This nationally recognized wildland fire Academy is one of the largest wildland fire and

incident management training events in the United States.

Since its inception in 1994, the CWFIMA has worked collaboratively with local, state, and national agencies to deliver training to over 30,000 students. This is the sixth time the Academy has been hosted in Alamosa. Colorado is no stranger to wildfires, and students attending the Academy will be gaining invaluable operational and incident command knowledge and experience prior to the start of the 2023 summer fire season, according to organizers.

Expect to see numerous fire agency vehicles and personnel at Adams State University, as well as at local hotels and restaurants. While breakfast and lunch are offered through the academy, dinner is not, so people may see students and staff around town in the evenings.

During the week of the Academy, Public Information staff will be available to provide tours and to set up interviews with key academy personnel and attending students. In addition, anyone is welcome to join us for the Firefighter Benefit Fund Golf Tournament, Monday, June 5, at Cattails Golf Course — \$65 per person includes 9 holes, cart and dinner. Register by May 30, email us at info@cwfima.org. Individuals or teams welcome. They are also accepting

donations for their silent auction, proceeds to the benefit fund.

“Throughout the last 29 years, the Academy has never wavered from its mission statement, which is a commitment to the students we serve. I have lived in the San Luis Valley for 25 years and I look forward to bringing this event back to Alamosa and Adams State University,” states Academy Coordinator Wendy Fischer.

The CWFIMA continues to seek monetary donations to provide local firefighters with free tuition to attend classes. The CWFIMA is a non-profit organization and has remained committed to providing quality and affordable training. The value of incident management training has been reinforced numerous times during unprecedented wildfire years such as 2018, 2020 and 2021. Colorado responders also served throughout many all-hazard responses like hurricanes Harvey and Irma, where the Incident Command System served as the model for both response and recovery.

For more information about the Academy or course offerings, visit www.cwfima.org or follow on Twitter @CWFIMA and on Facebook Colorado Wildland Fire and Incident Management Academy (Facebook.com/CWFIMA).

CARE

Continued from Page 1

super exciting. I think it is going to be a major resource for the entire San Luis Valley and beyond. I’m thrilled to see it go up, and I’m excited to get some student volunteers out here.”

Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske offered, “We’re really thrilled Care and Share is up and running and providing food for the San Luis Valley and being a hub for Southern Colorado.”

The warehouse has five employees, bringing the total number of Care and Share employees to 72.

“I believe the competitive advantage of Care and Share is the people who work here. When everyone goes home, they know that they’ve helped people across the state. The secret sauce that makes all of this run is our supporters, donors, and volunteers. This facility is great because we’ll be able to welcome a whole new group of supporters who will come into our distribution center and make a difference for our communities,” said Springer.

Care and Share is looking forward to creating volunteer opportunities at the distribution center for individuals and groups in the future. If community members are interested in hosting



Photo by John Waters

Darin Tandberg and Adams State University President David Tandberg attended the grand opening. Tandberg told the Valley Courier he is excited that students from the university may soon volunteer at the facility.

food drives, donations can be delivered Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m.

To learn more about Care and Share’s work and how to get involved, visit careandshare.org.



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Chautauqua weekend is coming to SF on June 2-4

CONTRIBUTED
SOUTH FORK — Chautauqua is a learning experience drawn from the 1900's. In those days, every summer, small towns across the country would hold Chautauquas. These were gatherings for families that featured worship, education — both general and religious — recreation, and celebration of the arts. There are only a few Chautauquas held these days, but one is coming to Beaver Creek Camp in Southfork.

Friday, June 2, through Sunday, June 4, the United Methodist and Community Methodist churches in the San Luis Valley, along with the Beaver Creek Camp Board, are sponsoring a Chautauqua experience.

The schedule includes Friday night, an Old-Fashioned Camp meeting worship service at 7 p.m., followed by an educational program, "Owls are a Hoot", by John Rawinski.

On Saturday, Jack Rudder will give

a program on "Mountain Men and the Taos Fur Trade", and Lyndsie Ferrell of the Rio Grande County Museum will present "Rio Grande County History".

After lunch, Rawinski will lead a Nature Hike, "Connecting with the Landscape", which will be followed by a film, "Chautauqua, an American Experience". After dinner, Caleb Clark will give a Jazz Piano Concert.

On Sunday, there will be a film on "Walking the Bible", looking at historic sites featured in the Bible. Outdoor Worship at 11 a.m. will feature the music of Amy Dean, and preaching by the Rev. Nancy Mead.

The cost is \$35 per person for the full weekend — includes meals and housing — or \$25 for Saturday only, and \$10 for Sunday only. Day care is available on Saturday for \$10 per child.

To Register, go to beavercreekevent.com. For more information, contact the Rev. Mead at nancmead59@gmail.com.

ASU sports psychology master's degree ranked #1 nationally

BY LINDA RELYEA
Adams State University

ALAMOSA — Adams State University Online Master of Science in Applied Sport Psychology was ranked first in the nation by OnlineU for most affordable online master's degree in sport psychology.

"Being ranked first in the nation for affordability is very important for accessibility and highlights the university's driving purpose to provide equitable access to education for all," said Brian Zuleger, Ph.D., CMPC, professor and chair of the applied sport psychology graduate program. "In a time when the cost of higher education is increasing rapidly, we are dedicated to providing

a high-quality educational experience that is also affordable."

The Adams State online Master of Science in Applied Sport Psychology is a 36-credit program that offers a wide range of courses and practical experiences to provide students the knowledge and skills necessary to become a sport psychology professional. All courses are offered online, which allows for greater flexibility and optimum convenience for students who hold full-time careers or cannot relocate. Students can complete the program in two years.

Visit onlineu.com/most-affordable-colleges/sports-psychology-masters-degrees for more information about the ranking.

DONATES

Continued from Page 1 -

converse with other people there. It's just a nice family-oriented place to take your kids and enjoy the outdoors. What happened out there was so awful. We really felt bad for the animals that were lost in the fire. Jay and the folks up there are great people. When something like this happens you just want to do what you can to help because you want to try to make a difference. We decided to donate 10 percent of our week's wages to the farm and felt great about doing it."

Weller started Well Cox Jerky two years ago during the COVID-19 pandemic when everyone was advised to stay home. Weller was looking for snacks that he could make for his kids, without having to go out or to the store all the time.

"The pandemic was hard. We were ordered to stay home, and we didn't go out much, so we were looking for something healthy we could make at home that the kids would enjoy and eat all the time. We started making jerky

and the kids loved it and it just kind of grew from there," he said.

Weller said that although his company is not a huge company yet, he is excited about the foundation for his company and giving to his community.

"I am excited about growing my business," Weller said. "My son Billy Jr. is my sidekick and my partner and will take over the business someday. My son has Autism, and he really loves the Gator Farm. The farm is a calming place for him, and for all of us. When we heard about the farm burning, the kids were even excited to donate, my son was all for it. I know the farm really appreciated our donation, and they appreciate everyone who has donated and helped them build their farm back after all the loss. We were honored to be able to do it, and even though it wasn't a lot, we look forward to doing more and helping with more soon, it feels good to be a local business and give back to our community."

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05 Notices

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

Public Hearing Notice - The Rio Grande County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing at a Special Meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 9:00 am at 925 6th Street, Del Norte, CO 81132 for the designation of activities and areas of state interest. The County will consider designating the following areas and activities of state interest which apply to the entire unincorporated area of Rio Grande County: A. Site selection and construction of major new domestic water systems and major extension of existing domestic water systems. B. Efficient utilization of municipal and industrial water projects. For inquires or to review materials regarding this designation, please contact the Rio Grande County Land Use Office at 925 6th Street, Del Norte, CO 81132, or call

719-657-4003. Interested persons may also submit public comments to rgclanduse@riograndecounty.org. (6-7)

Rio Grande County is soliciting design and bid proposals from qualified contractors for the construction of additions to the McMullen Building Pavilion located at the Monte Vista Ski-Hi Complex beginning summer 2023. Sealed proposals will be received at the Rio Grande County Administration office until 4:00pm (MT), Tuesday, June 27, 2023. Contact the Rio Grande County Administrator at (719) 657-2744 or email rgcadmistrator@riograndecounty.org for additional Request For Proposals (RFP) details. (6-21)

07 Help Wanted

Rio Grande Hospital, located in Del Norte, Colorado, needs one Medical Laboratory Scientist to perform general duties pertaining to the processing of patient samples to accommodate accurate and timely laboratory testing and procedures. Responsible for accurately performing tests and reporting results in the fields of microbiology, coagulation, chemistry, hematology, transfusion medicine, serology and urinalysis. Performs duties

independently with minimal supervision, operating from specific and definite direction and instructions. Communicates new material, equipment, and procedures to all members of the team. Adheres to the laboratory's policies and procedures for instrument calibration and maintenance. Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Medical Technology or related Laboratory Sciences, AMT or ASCP or equivalent certification, full-time employment. Complete application at riograndehospital.org, Send Resumes to Human Resources, 310 County Road 14, Del Norte, CO 81132. (6-14)

VALLEY PUBLISHING SEEKS REPORTER IMMEDIATELY

For the Saguache area. Writing and photography experience necessary. Send resume, writing and photography samples to Valley Publishing Inc., P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or email bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com

The City of Monte Vista is hiring for an Event Tech at the Ski Hi Complex. The Event Tech is responsible for assisting in all office tasks including answering phones, responding to emails, giving tours of the facility, booking, contract preparation, collecting payments and permits, pre-and post-event inspections, inventory control, and the use of technology, cleaning, and maintaining the facilities. Schedule will require evening and weekend work. This is full time employment with full benefits. Starting pay range is \$16.00 to \$18.50 per hour. To view the complete job description or apply please visit: www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov Position will remain open until filled. EOE/ADA (5-31)

Instructional Coach needed at Del Norte Jr/Sr High School. Candidate should be proficient in all areas of teaching and learning, with an emphasis on professional practice and the teaching and learning cycle. The coach will be responsible for consulting with and supporting the instructional

teaching staff in using resources that impact student learning. The coach will provide support and professional learning to instructional staff as needed. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to Annie Hardy, Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co. (6-14)

Elementary Teacher needed at Del Norte Elementary School. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Amy at 719-657-4050. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (6-14)

Upper Rio Grande School District is seeking a positive, ener-

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				Accumulated Water Use (ET)					
		Shown (in./day)				From					
		5/18	5/17	5/16	5/15	2day	5/18 (inches)	3day	4day	5day	7day
Moravian 69	04/05	0.15	0.15	0.19	0.19	0.29	0.48	0.68	0.84	1.11	
Moravian 69	05/05	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.08	0.13	0.17	0.21	0.27	
Early Wheat	04/05	0.14	0.15	0.19	0.19	0.29	0.48	0.67	0.83	1.10	
Early Wheat	05/05	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.09	0.15	0.21	0.27	0.37	
White Wheat	04/05	0.14	0.15	0.19	0.19	0.29	0.48	0.67	0.83	1.10	
White Wheat	05/05	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.09	0.15	0.21	0.27	0.37	
WinterWheat	10/01	0.15	0.16	0.21	0.22	0.31	0.53	0.75	0.94	1.28	
Potatoes											
Norkotah	05/05	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.14	0.18	0.24	
Centennial	05/05	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.14	0.18	0.24	
Nugget	05/05	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.14	0.18	0.24	
Alfalfa	Est.	0.18	0.18	0.24	0.26	0.36	0.60	0.86	1.07	1.46	
Lawngrass	Est.	0.15	0.15	0.20	0.21	0.30	0.50	0.71	0.90	1.22	

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



"Killer service, awesome pizza, and big smiles! Love this place! Scotty with a 'Y' kills it up here"
 ~ Robert R., Google reviews

May is Pasta Month!

Pesto Pasta or Fettuccine With 2 Homemade Garlic Knots For \$12 for the month of May.



Now Hiring! Full or Part Time starting \$15 hr. plus tips!

Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMTs and our Veterans always receive 20% off!
30483 Highway 160, South Fork
 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. DAILY
Easy Online To-Go Orders:
MountainPizzaTapRoom.com

Valley Wide Classifieds

PART-TIME SALES

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

Genetic and experienced candidate to fill the Administrative Secretary position for Del Norte Jr./Sr. High school. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED and clerical experience. Computer proficiency required. Please submit your resume and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, DNHS Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at 719-657-4020. (6-14)

Del Norte Bank is seeking a candidate to fill a Seasonal position for Teller at our Creede Branch. Duties will be to accept deposits, loan payments and process withdrawals while maintaining a balanced cash drawer. Must be personable and pleasant answering the phone and greeting customers. Many other duties will be assigned as needed. The position is seasonal, part-time. Please send your resume or application to postmaster@truelocalbank.com by May 26th, 2023. Application is available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE. (5-24)

Center School District is now accepting applications for the position of Summer School Bus Driver, \$25.00 Per/Hour, June 4, 2023 to July 14, 2023. Qualifications; Must hold or be able to obtain a valid CDL S Endorsement driver'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 (6-7)

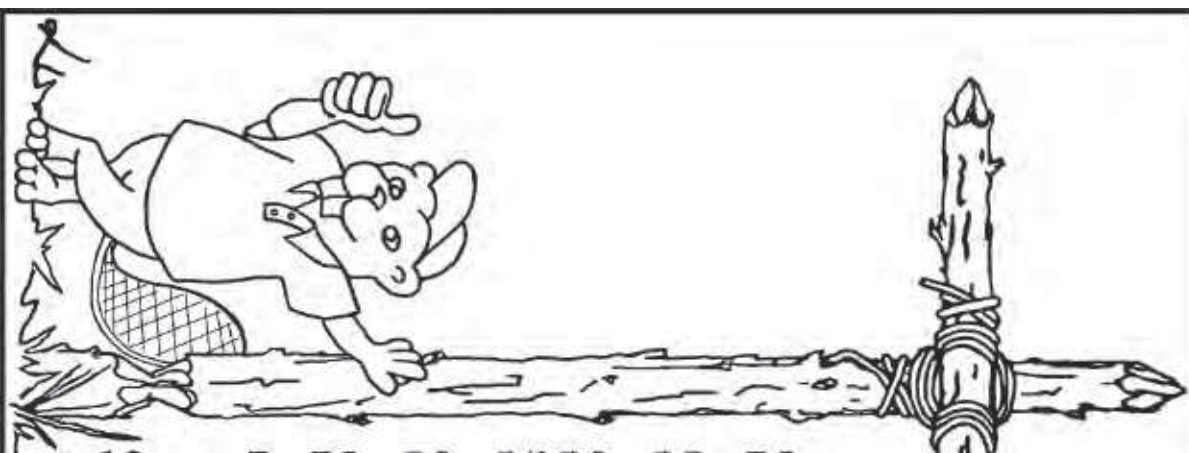
The Rio Grande County Land Use Department is seeking a full-time Land Use Code Compliance Inspector, starting at \$19.60 - \$21.80 per hr. DOE: Benefits include healthcare, retirement, and

paid holidays. The Code Compliance Inspector provides overall support to the Rio Grande County Land issues permits and maintains records for camping on private property in the Rio Grande County. Performs field verification of building setbacks. High school diploma or (GED) required. Pre-employment drug testing, including marijuana screening, and a background check is required. Applications and job description available at www.riograndecounty.org or pick up and submit to Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Application deadline: Until filled. (5-24)

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 certification 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.com.

DISCLAIMER

Please read your ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes notify us **IMMEDIATELY**. We will make changes for errors and adjust your credit **but only if we receive notice on the first day the ad is published**. We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper which reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser and not the newspaper is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. All classified advertising must be pre-paid.



BEAVER CREEK EXPERIENCE

0885 County Road 20A, PO Box 186, South Fork, CO 81154 manager@beavercreekexperience.org (719) 588-7627

The Retreat Center

is situated in the Rio Grande National Forest (near South Fork, Colorado) and has been providing opportunities for guests to enjoy a beautiful and refreshing mountain environment since the late 1940s.

Beginning as a Christian youth camp, open only in the summer, Beaver Creek still operates Christian camps and now welcomes guests for workshops, reunions, weddings, retreats, and more all year.

The campus has an intriguing blend of primitive, rustic, and comfortably modern facilities that can serve as a central basecamp for excursions into the surrounding community, including Wolf Creek Ski Area, Creede Repertory Theater, horseback riding, ATV and hiking trails, fishing and more.

Lodging rates are on a per person per night basis and vary by time of year, number of guests and accommodations used. They range from \$25 to \$40 per person per night.

Berkstresser Lodge - ADA compliant, 40 twin beds in 4 dorm style rooms, Men's & Women's Restrooms & Showers, Fully equipped kitchen, Large common area, Linen service available.

Rustic Lodge - Dining hall - seats 120, Fully equipped high volume kitchen, Game room.

8 Cabins - 12 beds each
2 Restroom/Shower Houses
Infirmary, Indoor Chapel, Covered Ramada, 2 Outdoor Chapels, Campfire Area, Disc Golf, Horseshoes & Cornhole, Basketball & Volleyball Courts, Nature Trail.

www.beavercreekexperience.org

Chautauqua Weekend

Friday, June 2-Sunday, June 4

Chautauqua is a learning experience drawn from the 1900's which includes worship, education, recreation and the arts.

Programs will include: "Camp Meeting" Worship Service—Pastor Steve Dunkel, "Owls are a Hoot!"—John Rawinski, "Mountain Man & Taos Fur Trade"—Jack Rudder, "Rio Grande County History"—Lyndsie Ferrell, "Connecting with the Landscape"—John Rawinski, "Chautauqua, an American Experience", Jazz Piano Concert—Caleb Clark, Walking the Bible, Contemporary Worship-Service Church in the Wildwood—Nancy Mead

Lodging available Friday & Saturday nights. Breakfast, lunch & dinner on Saturday. Breakfast & lunch on Sunday.

All inclusive price—\$35 per person (full weekend) or \$25 per person (for Saturday only). Children under 12—free. Child care will be available on Saturday at \$10 per child.

Information and Registration

www.beavercreekevent.com

For additional Chautauqua information, please contact Rev. Nancy Mead at nancymead59@gmail.com.

For lodging information please call Gene Haning at (719) 599-7627.

BEAVER CREEK CHRISTIAN YOUTH CAMP

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23a (CEB)

Following the theme "FruitFULL Faith: a Spirit Filled Life!" Beaver Creek's Christian Youth Camps will provide a fun and exciting program that explores Biblical Fruit of the Spirit, allowing campers to grow into new or stronger relationships with Jesus Christ, their families, and their communities.

Parents or guardians and church leaders can build on these foundations to help children and youth confidently cope in today's turbulent world.

2023 Dates & Prices:

Staff Development - June 27-29
1st, 2nd & 3rd Grade Camp & Family/Grand Camp—July 5-7 - \$175
4th, 5th & 6th Grade Camp—July 9-14 - \$365
7th & 8th Grade Camp—July 16-21 - \$365
High School Camp—July 23-28 - \$365
Scholarships are available!

Information & Registration

www.beavercreekcamp.org

Beaver Creek Youth Camp is an equal opportunity service provider and employer and operates under special use permit from the USDA Forest Service, Rio Grande National Forest.

HIT THE ROAD

Summer Car Care

Jim's Tire Store

New • Used Recapped

711-1/2 State Ave. • Alamosa 589-9690

Valley Wide Classifieds

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)

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 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.com (5-24)

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 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 26It is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Qualifications; Must hold a valid State of Colorado Teacher's License or, such alternative as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable.

Applications can be found on the District Website <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities> or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE (5-24)

12 Houses for Rent
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 today about this opportunity to be a part of this vibrant community! Charley Mitchell | Business Broker | 720-821-3732 | charley.mitchell@tworld.com | Tworld.com/colorado

23 Lawn and Garden Sprinkler repair. Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-

GOT CLUTTER? CLEAN UP WITH THE CLASSIFIEDS.
You'll find yourself with money in your pocket and room in your garage when you sell your stuff in the SLV Lifestyles Classifieds.
Advertise in our **SPECIAL GARAGE SALE SECTION** of SLV Lifestyles for **ONLY \$12** per week (15 words or less - 35¢ per word over 15)
Call Today 719-852-3531

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



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

All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.




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

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



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

Rito Hondo Estates - 18 Rural Mountain Lots Available
West of Antonito in the Conejos Canyon OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE \$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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(719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

Charming Restaurant in Fort Garland
703 4th Ave
All equipment included - even a smoker!
CLEAN and READY TO GO!
Perfect for a coffee shop or Restaurant
MLS# 801021




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(719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

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

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



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

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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(719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

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



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(719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

Valley Wide Classifieds

376-2593. TFN

32 Fuel & Heating

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

36 Miscellaneous

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

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

WANTED: vintage license plates;

cash paid based on age, rarity, condition. Call/text Colin: 970-367-7594 (5/24)

Propane Refrigerators Sold Here. Call For Options and Prices. We Also Stock Solar Powered Refrigerators and Freezers. Bontrager's Variety Store, 9726 S. County Road 3E, Monte Vista. (719) 852-0500 TFN

STEEL STORAGE CONTAINERS – Sales, Rentals & Modifications! Containers are water & rodent proof. 8' wide, 8'-53' in length. Call for more information and pricing. **Healdworks, Inc.** – **Your Total Storage Solution!**

719-850-0346 TFN

SOLAR PANELS! 355 Watt and Smaller, We Stock Inverters, Charge Controllers, and Batteries in Brand Names of Outback, Magnum, Aims, Rolls, and More. Custom Cables and PV Wire. Bontrager's Variety Store. 9726 S. CR 3E Monte Vista. 719-852-0500. TFN

47 Horses & Cattle

Need Horses Trained or Shod? Call Glen at Diamond GB Performance Horses and Farrier Service. 719-398-3757 Reliable Professional services. (6-7)

48 Pets and Supplies

Beautiful SIBERIAN HUSKY, male, born 12/1/22, blue eyes, full mask, black/gray/white, was pick of litter, can't keep him, all shots, good temperament, \$575 Call/text 970-987-2800 (6-7)

65 Professional Services

RELIABLE CARPENTRY 40-plus years-experience in carpentry, painting, stucco, tile, drywall, roofing, etc. Drug/Alcohol free. Free Estimates 719-496-7630. (TFN)

Squeegie Luigi's Washing Services: Window Washing, Concrete

Cleaning, Exterior Washing - FREE ESTIMATE: (719) 490-9047 TFN

LICENSED PLUMBER does all types of plumbing repairs and plumbing remodels at reasonable rates. Quick service. Call anytime, available weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. TFN

Need beautiful window blinds at the best prices? Call **THE BLIND GUY** at 970-799-0388 for a free estimate. (TFN)

4-Ever-Cleaning Homes, Air B&B And More Call Rene 719-480-4273 For More Info. (5-31)

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

PRICE REDUCED



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

The environment is warm and welcoming. The 3,000 sq. ft. main floor consist of large receiving office, full kitchen and bath and several large open spaces and two additional design show rooms and large 1,000 sq. ft. heated warehouse with plenty of shelves for storage and 12-foot overhead door. Lovely concrete outdoor patio with new vinyl fencing wired for low voltage lights this property sits on two lots with wiring running outside for lighting off outside signage. 1,350 sq. ft. Spacious upstairs with large open space, several large storage closets two additional offices, New 3/4 custom tile bathroom and large storage over warehouse. This well-built property has radiant floor heating downstairs and upstairs baseboard hot water heat. Property is wired for Cat 5 telephone jack in all offices, design rooms, kitchen bar, receiving office – etc. Cable tv jack, upstairs big room. There are 3 gas fireplaces, 2 wall thermostats with remote control. Wired for speakers though out the building for music. Swamp cooler and wired for electric dryer, set up for washer and has a Propane fired boiler and propane hot water heater. This property is a blank canvas with so much POTENTIAL for the right builder or person. Because there is no existing business at the present time, this makes this building available for a variety of Business opportunities: Professional Work Environment for Professionals, Restaurant, Brew Pub, Events Center, Lodge or Cottage hotel, Retail etc. Come Paint your Canvas and start Your Business Adventure. Call and schedule your personal showing today! \$975,000 MLS #794078
173 W Frontage Road • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass •Steffens & CO. Realty
(719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

SOLD

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



\$489,900 MLS #801796
74 Highland Court • South Fork

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

PRICE REDUCED



Check out this small diverse farm. The home is a 2bed/2bath, 1703.2 sq foot, historic adobe that has been fully and beautifully restored. Enjoy Colorado from the large (768 sq ft) open porch. This home sits on 126.06 deeded acres of land

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

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

PRICE REDUCED

Stately 2,818 Sq Ft. Mountain Home with Stunning Natural Light on 3.19 acres. This beautiful 3 bed 4 bath home is your perfect retreat. Open Split floor plan with beautiful cathedral ceiling and fireplace, large windows taking in the breath-taking outdoor sunlight and mountain views. Complete



with beautiful furnishing, accessories and decor. The kitchen with eat in counter, gorgeous custom cabinetry, granite countertops and butler pantry is your dream kitchen for entertaining your family and friends. Separate office space off the dining area with patio door leads out to the great outdoors. There are two guest rooms one with private bath could be considered a separate master bedroom. Large master bedroom with large walk-in closet, fireplace gorgeous walk-in shower and access to deck with hot tub. Take in the stunning views from the main floor outdoor balcony. Your perfect place for that hot morning cup of coffee or relaxing evening glass of wine. This is a luxurious home located with private access to the national forest in The Timbers subdivision of South Fork Ranches. All this, just moments from Rio Grande Golf Club, Rio Grande River gold medal fishing and world class skiing at Wolf Creek Ski area. Don't wait call and schedule your private showing today! \$1,150,000 MLS #798101
497 Timberline Drive • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass •Steffens & CO. Realty
(719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

Thinking of Selling Your Home? If so, I can help!
Residential/Commercial/Ranch
Call 719-850-1993



Steffens & Company Realty, INC
719-850-1993
Bernadette Gingrass, Broker Associate
30635 US Hwy 160 • South Fork
www.bernadettegingrassrealestate.com

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

Sandunes, the Recreation Pool and sun — the High Valley Community Center is bidding good-bye to the school year with Fabulous Friday trips.

HVCC celebrating with community on May 18

CONTRIBUTED

Hi, community members! Will you be joining High Valley Community Center for our end-of-year celebration on May 18? There will be a medal ceremony, performances, and of course, food! The festivities will begin at 5 p.m. and go to 6:30 p.m. We look forward to celebrating with you!

This week the kiddos flung marshmallows across the room with their homemade catapults, tested their building skills during the egg drop, and built boats. Friday, we took the kids to the Sands Dunes Recreation Pool for our final Fabulous Friday of the school year. Our friends from Encore joined us swimming as well for their May field trip.

Schedules will be changing a bit this summer for both our Encore and HVCC programs. The HVCC Summer Program begins on Tuesday, June 6. We are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday. Typically, Tuesdays and Thursdays the kiddos participate in activities like tie dye shirts, making clay pots, playing at the park, and much more.

Wednesdays are dedicated to field trips. We take the kids all over southern Colorado! Some favorite destinations have been the Great Sand Dunes National Park, Lathrop State Park, fishing with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and horseback riding with Lucky Shoe Riding Club. Encore friends — stay tuned for summer program updates. We will make sure to keep you posted.

We also concluded our soccer season at the end-of-season tournaments in Center over the weekend. We want to thank all of the officials, coaches, volunteers, and parents for their hard work and continued support of HVCC sports. We had a successful season largely in part because of you!

Baseball planning is underway! Rosters are being finalized and schedules are being made. Hold

tight and check our website, www.TheHVCC.org for updates.

All of us at HVCC wish you a wonderful upcoming week!

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Continuing education retreat at Joyful Journeys Hot Springs

CONTRIBUTED
SAN LUIS VALLEY — Joanna Johnson will be offering an introductory course in Zero Balancing at Joyful Journeys Hot Springs July 26-30.

This 25-hour continuing education retreat offers a blend of western osteopathy and eastern acupuncture to expand the skill base of hands-on health care practitioners. Zero Balancing offers health care professionals easier and more effective tools to engage and treat patients, according to Johnson. ZB is nationally accredited for massage therapists, and acupuncturists and physical therapists in Colorado. This retreat is also available to yoga teachers and wellness enthusiasts who would like to practice with their friends and family.

ZB is a wellness system practiced through clothing to release bone held tension and balance ligamentous structure. The skill set developed in the Zero Balancing classroom allows practitioners to gently treat patients with ease, keeping practitioners in the field longer. This easy on the hands method of treatment effectively treats chronic pain, biomechanical limitations, skeletal and ribcage injuries, and healed fractures.

Students will learn how to palpate and release bone held tension and evaluate and balance ligaments. This first Zero Balance class, Core I, provides the students with a complete protocol to put to use or integrate into their current protocol. These classes provide an understanding of the interface between biomechanical function and eastern energy theory, allowing practitioners a foothold in both allopathic and complementary medicine.

Johnson has been a practicing massage therapist since 2002 and began studying Zero Balancing in 2004. Having become a certified practitioner, she completed her faculty training in 2012. She currently practices and teaches Zero Balancing and Kundalini Yoga in Creede.

Joyful Journeys Hot Springs offers vegetarian and gluten free meals and hot mineral springs. Discover more about Johnson and Zero Balancing at www.jojohnsoncreede.com. Register by May 26, for discounts on tuition.

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 News for all paid papers... Monday, noon
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Aquatic nuisance species roadside inspection program expanded after successful pilot year

CONTRIBUTED
DENVER — Colorado Parks and Wildlife is expanding its aquatic nuisance species roadside inspection program to more locations and days in 2023 following a successful pilot year that saw 26 boats intercepted with highly destructive invasive mussels. Year-to-year increases in mussel-fouled watercraft entering Colorado led CPW, through HB21-1226, to experiment with expanding its watercraft inspection and decontamination program to include temporary roadside inspection stations. In 2022, CPW, in collaboration with Colorado State Patrol Port of Entry Staff and the Colorado Department of Transportation, led three inspection events at the Loma Port of Entry, which were highly successful. A total of 138 watercraft were inspected, 60 were decontaminated and 26 were confirmed to have adult mussels. “While the vast majority of mussel-fouled boats entering Colorado are coming from Lake Powell, there are an increasing number of waters in surrounding states infested with invasive mussels,” said Robert Walters, CPW’s ANS program manager. “Recent detections like those in western South Dakota have only heightened the risk of mussel-fouled watercraft entering the state.” Invasive zebra and quagga mussels are destructive to both fisheries and water infrastructure because fish do not typically eat them, and they attach themselves to docks, rocks,

shorelines and boats and clog pipes and pumps that supply fresh water to cities and towns across the state. “For year two of this pilot program, CPW is looking towards other ports of entry and welcome centers to implement single-day check stations similar to the first year of the pilot program,” Walters said. “The intent of this effort is to provide valuable data that will broadly inform the future application of this roadside ANS inspection program in Colorado.” CPW will be expanding roadside ANS inspection operations to seven additional locations in 2023, with operations occurring in two different locations on each event date.

ANS Roadside Check Stations in 2023

- May 19 - Cortez Port of Entry & Julesburg Welcome Center
- June 23 - Dinosaur Welcome Center & Lamar Port of Entry
- July 28 - Alamosa Welcome Center & Trinidad Port of Entry
- Aug. 25 - Dinosaur Welcome Center & Burlington Welcome Center
- Sept. 22 - Cortez Port of Entry & Julesburg Welcome Center

The Colorado ANS Program was authorized by the Colorado Legislature in 2008 utilizing severance tax funds and in 2018 the Colorado General Assembly provided funding to the program through SB17-259, funding the program through boating registration fees from residents and non-residents. Since CPW’s ANS inspection



Courtesy photo
An aquatic nuisance species (ANS) inspector uses a flashlight to investigate tiny crevices of a boat engine where invasive zebra and quagga mussels may attach themselves.

program started in 2008, 6.5 million boats have been inspected and 199,465 boats have been decontaminated. The agency is aided in the program by Colorado counties, municipalities, water districts, federal agencies and private companies that also conduct inspections. CPW also works proactively looking for aquatic nuisance species by sampling waters throughout the state. In 2022, crews sampled 180 standing waters and fourteen flowing waters and the National Park Service provided 56 water samples; these intense sampling efforts resulted in the early detection at Highline and emphasize the importance of this program.

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 - One who lives by disreputable dealings
 - Tropical American plant
 - Opposite of right
 - Importance
 - Monetary units
 - Lawmen
 - Cool!
 - Affirmative answer
 - Thrust horse power (abbr.)
 - Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
 - Muslim nobleman
 - About aviation
 - Scientific instrument
 - Protests strongly
 - Not polished
 - Grab
 - Alias
 - Large wrestler
 - Relative quantities
 - One who is big and awkward
 - Sunscreen rating
 - Atomic #90
 - Mock
 - Whales
 - Peoples
 - A state of being unclothed
 - Ottoman military commanders
 - Gatherer of fallen leaves
 - Norse personification of old age

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14				15		
16				17					18		
19				20				21			
			22				23			24	
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60				61				62			
63				64				65			
66				67				68			

- Muslim mystic
- German river
- Measuring instrument
- Have witnessed
- Disallow
- Proverb
- Popular pickup truck model
- Slang for a cigarette
- Large pile
- Solid geometric figure
- One from the Big Apple
- Male admirers
- Balsam is one
- Local area network
- Canadian law enforcers
- Koran chapters
- Cooperstown, NY museum (abbr.)
- Certificate (abbr.)
- An official who carries a mace of office
- Briefly in fashion
- Volcanic ash
- Dutch city
- Made of wood
- Legendary golfer
- Restaurant
- None
- Spanish city
- Stony waste matter
- Father
- Confederate soldier
- The ancient Egyptian sun god

Solution to last week's puzzle

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



Courtesy photo

TASTE

Continued from Page 1

At 3:30 p.m., don't miss the unveiling of a special new sculpture at the Creede Hotel.

At 7 p.m., the Creede Repertory Theatre will open a new play, "Mountain Octopus." This is a beautiful play about transitions in a mountain town.

On Sunday, May 28, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, children 8 to 13 years, there will be a watercolor class with well-known painter Ana Sharma. This is limited to 10 students and all materials will be provided by the Quiller Gallery. The class will take place on the second floor of the Quiller Gallery.

Head north on Main Street after lunch for the annual Quick Draw event. Artists begin with a blank canvas and have one hour to complete their one-of-a-kind works. Afterward, these pieces are offered in the annual art auction that takes place under the tents of the Creede Hotel. Artists are readily available to offer their expertise to other interested art lovers.

FULL SCHEDULE Memorial Day Weekend, May 27-29

Saturday, May 27
 • 10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Artists' on Main Street, live music, craft vendors, children's activities, museum tours, sidewalk sales, and more

• 10 a.m.-3 p.m.: Opening of the National Small Prints Show at the Creede Repertory Theatre

• 2 p.m.: Silver Chef Competition
 • 7:20 p.m.: "Mountain Octopus" production by CRT

Sunday, May 28
 • 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.: Children's Watercolor Class (age 8-13) Quiller Gallery

• 11 a.m.-2 p.m.: Live music
 • 1 p.m.: Artists' Quick Draw on Main Street

• 2:30 p.m.: Live Art Auction

Monday, May 30
 • 11 a.m.: Memorial Day Service in Basham Park honoring our veterans

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Bears are awake and looking for food; do your part to remain 'bear aware' in 2023

CONTRIBUTED

DENVER — With spring here, Colorado Parks and Wildlife reminds people that bears have emerged from hibernation and are beginning their search for food.

CPW has already received 173 reports of bear activity in 25 Colorado counties this year. Wildlife officials are urging residents to secure any and all attractants. Bears should not be eating from trash receptacles, bird feeders or other human-provided food sources around homes or businesses.

"Every time a bear gets a treat, a bird feeder, a hummingbird feeder, or trash, it teaches the bear that people mean food," said Matt Yamashita, CPW's area wildlife manager for Area 8 covering Aspen, Glenwood Springs and Eagle and Pitkin counties "People who think that it's one time, no big deal, are totally wrong. It is a big deal when you compound that 'one time' with how many 'one timers' they get from your neighbors, too. It adds up."

The first bears to emerge from their winter dens are typically males (boars) followed by females (sows) that did not give birth to cubs over winter. The last bears to emerge from winter dens are the females who gave birth to this year's cubs, usually in late April.

"Over the past several years, Area 8 in particular has seen a high number of bears inhabiting municipalities across both valleys and a subsequently high number of human-black bear conflicts," Yamashita said. "Even with a lack of natural food sources, bears continue to have large litter sizes of three to four cubs, indicating they are receiving supplemental food from humans."

Early season natural food sources for bears include grasses, aspen buds and other vegetative matter that is beginning to sprout. Those gentle food sources, which are the first crops available to them, help a bear's digestive system and metabolism adjust back to normal after not consuming anything for months.

"Their bodies are needing to adjust to the fact that they haven't consumed anything for sometimes six months," said Mark Vieira, Carnivore and Furbearer Program Manager for CPW. "So there is this phase that is referred to sometimes as walking hibernation, where they are out on the landscape moving slowly and eating what tends to be more vegetative material that starts to pass through their system to get their bodies ready for early summer food sources. That is when they will move back into the typical omnivore diet that we see bears eating the rest of the year."

Over 90 percent of a bear's natural diet is grasses, berries, fruits, nuts and plants — native crops all dependent on moisture. Wildlife officials monitor weather patterns in the spring and summer to help determine what natural forage will be available in the summer and fall.

In years where there is good moisture and natural food sources are abundant, human-bear conflicts and interactions are down.

Though most human-bear interactions occur in the late summer and fall months, a late frost or prolonged dry weather could lead to localized natural food failures and a rise in conflicts. A lack of natural food availability pushes black bears to be more persistent in their search for human-food sources. Being bear aware not only protects your home and property, but it can save a bear's life.

Starting with proper bear aware practices in the spring may help prevent bears from discovering your home or neighborhood as a food source that it will return to throughout the year.

Become Bear Aware

Colorado Parks and Wildlife offers a reminder that by taking some simple precautions, you can avoid human/wildlife conflicts and help to keep bears wild.

Bear-proofing your home:

- Keep garbage in a well-secured location. Only put out garbage on the morning of pickup.
- Clean garbage cans regularly to



Courtesy photo

Residual grease and fats from outdoor grilling can be an enticing smell to a bear. Be sure to clean your grill after each use to discourage bears from coming to your yard in search of food.

keep them free of food odors: ammonia is effective.

- Keep garage doors closed. Do not leave pet food or stock feed outside.
- Use a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster.
- Bird feeders are a major source of bear/human conflicts. Attract birds naturally with flowers and water baths. Do not hang bird feeders from April 15 to Nov. 15.

• Don't allow bears to become comfortable around your house. If you see one, haze it by yelling at it, throwing things at it and making loud noises to scare it off.

- Secure compost piles. Bears are attracted to the scent of rotting food.
- Clean the grill after each use, and clean up thoroughly after cookouts.
- If you have fruit trees, don't allow the fruit to rot on the ground.
- Talk to your neighbors and kids about being Bear Aware.

Cars, traveling and campsites:

- Lock your doors when you're away from home and at night.
- Keep the bottom-floor windows

of your house closed when you're not at home.

- Do not keep food in your vehicle; roll up windows and lock the doors of your vehicles.
- When car-camping, secure all food and coolers in a locked vehicle.
- Keep a clean camp, whether you're in a campground or in the backcountry.
- When camping in the backcountry, hang food 100 feet or more from the campsite; don't bring any food into your tent.

• Cook food well away from your tent; wash dishes thoroughly.

Protecting your chickens, bees, livestock:

- Keep chickens, bees and livestock in a fully covered enclosure, especially at night.
- Construct electric fencing when possible.
- Don't store livestock feed outside.
- Keep enclosures clean to minimize animal odors.
- Hang rags soaked in ammonia and/or Pine-Sol around the enclosure as a scent deterrent.

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