

Shorts

CO 17 open to alternating traffic near N.M. state line

Colorado Highway 17, in Conejos County, was opened just before 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 27, to one-lane alternating traffic. Motorists will be guided by a temporary portable light signal where severe road damage occurred just north of the New Mexico state line, MP 0.3.

The Colorado Department of Transportation implemented a full safety closure of CO 17 on May 26 at approximately 2 p.m. when a large sinkhole appeared in the roadway, three-tenths of a mile from the Colorado-New Mexico border. The hole on the surface is approximately 8 feet in diameter and situated in the northbound lane. The sinkhole, running under the roadway, is approximately 12 feet wide and 15 feet deep, between the shoulder's white line to the center yellow line.

CDOT engineers and maintenance personnel are assessing the road damage and considering options for permanent repairs of the sinkhole and a failed culvert.

Chip seal operations begin near Alamosa next week

ALAMOSA AND RIO GRANDE COUNTIES — The Colorado Department of Transportation is chip sealing short sections of Colorado Highway 17 and Colorado 368 over a two-week period. Operations will start Tuesday, May 30, on Colorado 368 southwest of Alamosa. Beginning June 5, crews will complete surface treatment on a 5-mile stretch of Colorado 17 north from the US 160 intersection in Alamosa.

Upcoming Surface Treatment Projects:

- CO 368 (Mile Points 0-6) — May 30 through June 1, motorists will encounter chip sealing operations on CO 368 for approximately 6 miles south of the CO 370 intersection from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The public should expect delays up to 15 minutes.

- CO 17 (Mile Points 69-75) — June 5 - 8, chip sealing operations will take place approximately 5 miles north of the US 160 and CO 17 intersection in Alamosa. Travelers should plan for lengthy delays and road closures between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Tinkham Lane and McKinney Avenue will be closed on Monday, June 5. Motorists are encouraged to seek alternate routes.

Suspects in high-speed chase facing felony charges

Passenger fired multiple rounds from a rifle

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
CENTER — Center Police Department Chief Aaron Fresquez, in a statement to the Valley Courier provided additional details on Friday's high-speed chase.

At approximately 8:30 a.m., Friday, May 26, CPD officers responded to a call of a suspicious vehicle within

Center city limits. When officers arrived on the scene and made contact with the two suspects inside the vehicle, the suspects appeared to be under the influence of drugs.

Upon making contact, the vehicle fled the scene and the officers followed in pursuit.

During the pursuit, with the suspects' vehicle exceeding 120 mph, the suspect sitting in the passenger seat fired numerous rounds from a rifle at the officers, according to Fresquez.

The pursuit went through Center, Del Norte, La Garita, and into Monte Vista where the vehicle crashed near

the Subway. Prior to the crash, spike strips were deployed multiple times but were unsuccessful.

Two suspects were taken into custody immediately after the crash and treated at local hospitals before being released into the officers' custody and booked into jail. None of the officers or suspects were seriously injured.

The suspects were identified as Demi Ida Meastas of Aurora and Jonathan Raymond Segura of Denver. Both are being charged with numerous felonies and misdemeanors, including two counts of attempted murder of a

police officer, two counts of attempted vehicular homicide, first-degree assault, possession of a firearm by previous offender, felony eluding, reckless endangerment, and other charges.

Multiple agencies were involved in this incident. The Center Police Department is the lead agency, with assistance from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation Crime Scene unit assisting in the processing of evidence.

This is an active investigation, and no further information is being released at this time.

Center Class of 2023 perseveres to earn diplomas



STAFF REPORT
CENTER — Center came together on Saturday morning to celebrate the 20 students graduating as part of the Class of 2023.

Seniors gathered on May 27 inside the Vikings gymnasium alongside hundreds of friends, family, and supporters to commemorate the academic success of the graduating students. Center High School Principal Nicole Neufeld led

Please see CENTER on Page 4A

Center High School graduates pose for a photo prior to their graduation ceremony on May 27 at Center High School.

Photo by Brian Williams

County having 5 educational sessions on nuisance ordinance

CONTRIBUTED
SAGUACHE COUNTY — The Saguache County Board of Commissioners adopted the Saguache County Nuisance Ordinance on Tuesday, April 18, following several readings and opportunities for public comment.

It is the intent of the BOCC to make sure that Saguache County constituents have every opportunity to be educated about how this new ordinance affects them and to be aware of resources available to them.

In addition, it is the intent

of Saguache County Code Enforcement and Saguache County Land Use Department to work cooperatively with landowners and other responsible parties.

Five educational sessions will be held throughout Saguache County during the month of June.

- Tuesday, June 20, 5 p.m. at the Center Kiwanis Club Building, 510 South Broadway, Center.

- Wednesday, June 21, 5 p.m. at the KV Estates Clubhouse

- Monday, June 26, 5 p.m. for Town of Sargents at the Tomichi

Please see SESSIONS on Page 2A

Proposed trail network in Saguache County gets a boost with a new path on national wildlife refuge

By JOHN WATERS

SAGUACHE COUNTY — A new one-mile hiking trail at the Baca National Wildlife Refuge is now open. The trail can be accessed from the Colorado College Road near Crestone and when the wildlife refuge road to the visitor center is open from that area as well.

During June, the Baca Refuge Visitor Center will be open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. On June 10, the visitor center will close at noon.

The visitor center has interactive displays that detail

Please see TRAIL on Page 2A

Dani Robben with San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!) leads a hike on the new Baca Nature and Heritage Trail during an open house on the refuge on May 13.

Courier photo by John Waters



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Battle of the Bands in Alamosa June 2

BY ALAMOSA LIVE MUSIC ASSOCIATION

ALAMOSA — Alamosa Live Music Association's Battle of the Bands will be from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 2, at Cole Park during Summerfest on the Rio in Alamosa. Five artists are scheduled to compete: INTOTO, Steve Hield, G-Stylez, Lucky Overton Trio, and Absolution.

"These local and regional performers offer a fantastic variety of sounds including rock, folk, hip hop, blues, and metal. Your vote will help decide the winner, who will perform at the first Sundays at Six concert of the season in Cole Park on June 25. We hope to see you there," organizers stated.

INTOTO is an American rock band from the San Luis Valley of Alamosa, established in 2023. The band is formed by university students who share a love for music and performance. While the group covers popular rock and alternative songs by favorite artists, they also produce their own originals. The mission of INTOTO is to connect communities through the art of music.

Hield lives in South Fork. Brian Rowe (bass player) lives in Alamosa. Steve and Brian met at the Ancient Valley Open Mic last winter and started playing together soon after. Both have extensive performance experience; Hield's from the Santa Fe, N.M., area and Rowe's from New York and East Coast music scenes.

G-Stylez is an American rapper from Colorado. He released his debut studio album, "Versatile," in 2011. He has performed at numerous venues across the Southwest with acts of all



different genres. Founder of 8000 Feet Productions and co-founder of the Hip-Hop group 8Grand. He hosts the podcast WORD! and the web series Style Flip on YouTube as well as the radio show Old Time in the Rockies on KRZA.

The Lucky Overton Trio consists of Lucky Overton (songwriter, rhythm guitar, lead vocals, harmonica, and stomp box), Brian Mott (bass guitar), and Ruben Dominguez (lead guitar). Overton's sound is a soulful blend of Americana and roots-rock influenced by 1950's rock 'n' roll and country, 1960's and 1970's soul and folk. He lives in Alamosa County, where he enjoys making new friends and connecting with people through music. Mott is a lifelong resident of the San Luis Valley and a avid enjoyer of all forms of music, and prides himself on his stylistic versatility in playing bass. He aspires to continue becoming a better bass player and musician, while still

maintaining his broad skills in computer science and visual arts. Dominguez began his musical journey at the age of 10, when his father taught him his first chord progression and the rest was history. He loves to play with other artists, learn from them, and experience their music firsthand through adding his signature guitar licks to their music.

Absolution is a rock band formed in 2017 in Antonito consisting of Liz Samora (vocals), Erik Lucero (guitar), Alex Flores (bass) and Matt Samora (drums). Each band member has been playing multiple instruments since they were around 12 years old and has developed a unique sound that is characterized by heavy guitar riffs, powerful drumming, and emotive lyrics and explores themes of love, loss, and empowerment. Absolution has had multiple releases and success on social media and can be found on all streaming platforms including Spotify and iTunes.

OBITUARY

Mary Ann Messick

Mary Ann Messick passed away May 21, 2023, in Tucson, Ariz., a month shy of her 92nd birthday. She was born June 20, 1931, in Monte Vista, Colo., to Leto and Lorna LaJune Scott Kehler, the fifth of eight children.

Mary graduated from Sargent High School, and received a degree in Home Economics from Colorado A & M. She married Richard Lee "Dick" Messick on April 10, 1953, and they recently celebrated the milestone of 70 years of marriage.

Mary and Dick lived and farmed in the Sargent Community, and enjoyed entertaining at their place in Crestone, Colo. Their children and grandchildren have fond memories of picnics and making cider with the apple press at the Crestone house.

They moved to Tubac, Ariz., in 1989 where she lived until her passing. She was an excellent homemaker, cook and hostess, making sure family and guests felt welcome in their home. Mary and Dick hosted weekly Bible study and prayer groups for many years. Mary was very knowledgeable at identifying birds and wildflowers in both Colorado and Arizona. She enjoyed playing golf in her younger years and looked forward to her weekly bridge



group until the week before her passing.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents Leto and LaJune Kehler, and siblings Don Kehler, Marjorie Jones, Jeanne Roberts, Margaret Caruso, and Leatrice Malouff.

She is survived by her loving husband Dick Messick; sons Richard (Beulah), and Doug (Julie); daughter LeeAnn (Mark) Sisson; seven grandchildren, and four great grandchildren; and her sisters Judy Hale and Ardy Maddoux.

Per Mary's wishes, her body was donated to science. A memorial service will be held at a later date in Tubac, Ariz.

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Tracy (Rogers) Trow Sept. 27, 1967-March 9, 2023

A Celebration of Life Memorial Service for Tracy will take place on Saturday, June 17, 2023, at 1 p.m. at the Creede Community Church (4th and Main Streets) Creede, Colo. A time of gathering and light refreshments will follow.

SESSIONS

Continued from Page 1A

Trading Post, 71420 US Highway 50.

- Tuesday, June 27, 5 p.m. at the Baca Grande POA Hall, 68575 County Road T.

- Wednesday, June 28, 5 p.m. at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Conference Room, 305 3rd St., Saguache.

"The Board of County Commissioners of Saguache County concludes that providing

a comprehensive mechanism for identifying, abating, and compelling the removal of rubbish; including trash, junk and garbage is necessary in order to preserve the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Saguache County. Nuisances, if not controlled and eliminated, can result in visual blight, incompatibility with existing land uses, attraction of disease infested rodents and other vermin, fire and other hazards,

depositing of hazardous or toxic substances in unapproved sites, and air, noise, light and water pollution. The County intends to remedy and eliminate the existence of nuisances," the county stated.

TRAIL

Continued from Page 1A

the recovery efforts the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has implemented for the Rio Grande sucker and the Gunnison's prairie dog that reside on the refuge.

Dani Robben with San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!), who led a hike along the Baca Nature and Heritage Trail on May 13 as part of an open house on the refuge told the Valley Courier the trail has been in the planning stages for several years and is part of a larger trail.

"In 2016 the Crestone Trails and Outdoor Open Space recreation plan was developed by the City of Crestone and that is when SLV Go! became involved and we convened the San Luis Valley Trails Coalition," she said.

The trail will eventually extend an additional mile to the Crestone Kiosk and is part of a plan the Eastern San Luis Valley Trail Coalition is working on. Ideally, an unbroken trail will connect the Baca National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado College Baca Campus, Crestone Charter School, Baca Grande Subdivision, and the Town of Crestone. The trail will offer non-motorized, multi-use recreation opportunities, according to Robben.

The 93,000-acre Baca National Wildlife Refuge was established in 2004 on what was the Baca Grant

Ranch and is a diverse combination of shrublands, grasslands, wet meadows, playa wetlands, and riparian areas. The refuge was set aside as a haven for migratory and resident wildlife, and also as an important piece in a broader conservation effort to protect the wildlife, habitat, and water of the north and eastern portions of the San Luis Valley. The refuge is a great place to view elk in the fall.

In describing the enthusiasm, the proposed network of trails has garnered, Robben said, "That is a special and unique characteristic of the Crestone community."

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Back to the old grindstone

Miss Trixie and I have arrived back at our digs in Colorful Colorado safe and sound albeit not without some struggle. Of course, it's like that with most things in life and so a person can only keep moving forward and work through things as they come.

We had quite a fiasco with a new set of tires but since we had gotten them at a National Chain store, they readily replaced them with no complaint and that was heaven-sent, let me tell you what. It did entail a trip to Durango, but we had a great day together and saw upwards of 200 elk on the return trip which is always exciting for us.

This past week also found Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie out fishing, and I believe it's probably been the most exciting time I have ever experienced. We caught fish on almost every cast on our flies and returned them unhurt to the crystal-clear waters of the streams. And best of all is that Miss Trixie is more than able to tie on her own flies and take off her own fish which in Ol' Dutch's book is prime material for marriage. Or something like that.

Since we got here some ten days ago, we have tried to jam as much fun into those days including a trip to the wonderful Amish bakery and stores that populate the area, a trip to Creede and seeing old friends.

And, boy, have they all aged a ton unlike Ol' Dutch who maintains his handsome youthfulness. Well, maybe not so much but at least my pictures online are not from my high school yearbook like many of the friends I do have.

But starting this week both Miss Trixie and I are going to be working for Mountain Man Rafting in South Fork delivering people up and down the river for rafting trips. Miss Trixie did this last year and her stories of great friends there and meeting hundreds of new people from all over the U.S. was enough to get Ol' Dutch on board for the season and so it's back to work I go after a nice 15-year hiatus from such things.

Someone said that a person should find a job they love and that if they do, they will never work a day in their life but will enjoy each day. And I cannot imagine anything better than spending the day with people having fun along the beautiful Rio Grande River.

In all my years of living I have never



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

tired of the drive between South Fork and Creede and so I do look forward to a daily dose of such medicine for my soul as I get to see the water below and the lofty palisade rocks above the scenic road.

Last year Miss Trixie shared her knowledge of the area with the guests as she interacted with them, and people really appreciated getting to know the area better. Living in the middle of the largest volcanic explosion to ever have occurred on earth here in South Fork gives her a lot of history to share about the mountains as currently seen as well as the mineralization that brought about the mining booms in the area.

I believe it's probably one of the least advertised assets that our area has and people seem to be a little more than interested in our ever-changing earth story.

So, it's Heigh-ho, Heigh-ho it's off to work I go, and that phrase made famous by some little folks that it's not politically correct to mention for some reason.

If you get a chance, come, and take a raft ride, hiking or rock climbing trip with Mountain Man Rafting in beautiful South Fork, Colorado this summer. And while you are there stop at 8200 Mountain Sports next door and find out all about the fishing in the area and connect with some tasty cold-water trout just waiting for you in the area waters.

Kevin Kirkpatrick and his Yorkie, Coper, fish, hunt, ATV, or hike daily. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at www.troutrepublic.com.



On first generation student success

By TONY FRANK
Chancellor, Colorado State University System

Of all the people I've worked with at Colorado State University, few embody the spirit of the land grant university like Paul Thayer. Soft-spoken and gentle, Paul is also an incredibly strong and persuasive person who always seems to use those powers for good. He is the exact opposite of whatever it means to be self-promotional. Instead, he has a gift for looking into other people, seeing their potential, and coaxing them into believing in themselves as much as he does.

Paul spent his career at CSU, knocking down obstacles and opening doors for students to enter in. He knew it was within his power to help them, even if it required him to push for systemic and cultural change. He retired as our associate vice president for student success in 2016, but there are educators, professionals, and community leaders all over Colorado who will tell you they owe a share of their success to Paul Thayer and his belief that they belonged and deserved to be in college.

Thanks largely to his leadership, CSU became the first university in the country to offer scholarships to First Generation students in 1984. The CSU model he helped create became the model that other universities around the country followed.

First Gen students are those who weren't raised by a parent with a bachelor's degree. Today, they are

the most rapidly growing student demographic and include many students of color, veterans, and rural students. They are the future of higher education, and as Paul would tell us, we need to do better by them.

And we know they need help. These students attend college at lower rates, and when they do attend, they graduate far less often — with a failure rate more than double that of those whose parents graduated college. These students borrow more and are forced to default on their loans more often than non-First Generation students.

Universities like CSU can be rightly proud of their support for First Generation students. But we also need to remember that providing access to education without also taking the steps needed to assure the success of these students is a cheat ... an illusion. It is beneath what we should expect of ourselves, and what Colorado should expect from its universities. Scholarships to attend are just the first step and must be paired with a robust menu of supportive services including mentorship, tutoring, connections, and high expectations.

Today, at CSU Pueblo, about 1,100 students — 44% of the total resident student population — are First Generation, and they have a track record of graduating at a higher rate than the student body as a whole. At CSU Global, our online university, 68% of our current students are First Gen. At CSU Fort Collins, more than

5,600 students are First Generation, about 25% of our total student population, and the graduation gap between these students and majority students at CSU is less than half the national average — but there's still a gap.

And as long as there's any gap, we have work to do. Additional support for First Gen students should be a part of how we, as a society, fund higher education because we know the success of First Generation students does, in fact, improve with resources that fund programs that are proven to help them graduate. As an example, at CSU, we are able to pair some First Generation Students with a Scholar Contact — a faculty or staff member who is there to answer questions and provide individualized support. Often, these Scholar Contacts were once First Generation students themselves, who know firsthand how disorienting and frightening it can be to travel a road that no one in your family has previously walked.

This type of support takes time, and it takes funding. We would like to be able to offer this support to every First Generation student because it has a real impact on whether they leave with a diploma in hand.

By the time a First Generation student applies to college, many of them have already had a lifetime of overcoming obstacles. They've charted a course for academic success, and we should do everything in our power to help them realize it. It's absolutely the moral thing to do, and it's within our power.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters are welcome and encouraged. They should be fewer than 300 words, unless arranged beforehand with the editor, and they are subject to editing for length and clarity.

All letters must be signed by the author and include a phone number and address where the author can be reached (these are not for publication). Letters forwarded from other organizations or sent to staff and not for print must be designated as such.

We will accept one letter per person, per subject, per four issues. We reserve the right to reject letters for reasons we believe are appropriate. Please send letters to Letter to the Editor c/o Valley Publishing, PO Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or e-mail to bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com (Attention: Letter to the Editor). Deadline for letters is 5 p.m. Friday.

Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.

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Unsuccessful hunt leads to new local business

'Ice Hunters' vending machines offer ice, water

BY KEITH R. CERNY
ALAMOSA — Two Texas archery hunters were perplexed when they came to the San Luis Valley last fall to hunt elk north of South Fork and couldn't find ice for their coolers after stops at three convenience stores.

Hence the creation of "Ice Hunters", a new company offering bulk ice and water through vending machines. Three machines are already offering the product at the Water Works car washes in Alamosa and Monte Vista, as well as the Super Charged car wash here.



Partners David Elwart and John Barndt, both from the Dallas area, hope their new venture is a success with plans to expand the service in the future.

Ice Hunters will have a grand opening Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Water Works car wash here at 418 Main St. Free ice and water will be offered as well as hot dogs and hamburgers while supplies last, and the first 15 attendees will earn a free car wash. Some prize giveaways will also be offered.

"We didn't fill an archery tag, but we did create Ice Hunters," Elwart told the Valley Courier. He said their ice/water vending machines are extremely efficient and waste very little water as excess water is recycled into the cooling

process. A five-stage, ultra-filtration system assures great tasting water and ice, Elwart said, and low oxygen levels in the ice help it stay frozen longer.

The ice machines store up to 500 pounds of ice and can produce 1,500 pounds of ice per day. Ice can be dispensed down a chute directly into a cooler or plastic bags are available at the machines. Water can be dispensed into small containers and up to five-gallon round jugs.

Elwart said the machines do not accept cash, but credit card transactions are escrowed in the system to allow for multiple dispersals.

Elwart is an electrical engineer and is currently an Analog Design manager in a Fortune 500 company working with prominent cell phone manufacturers. A decorated veteran, Barndt earned several medals while serving in the U.S. Air Force for 10 years before returning to earn a college degree and moving into the construction industry.



Courtesy photo
Owners David Elwart and John Barndt are shown with one of their 'Ice Hunters' ice and water vending machines, now found at two locations in Alamosa and one in Monte Vista.

CENTER

Continued from Page 1A

the recognition and presentation of the Class of 2023 alongside Superintendent Carrie Zimmerman and the Center Consolidated School District Board of Education.

The Class of 2023 listened to the salutatorian address from Kelly Gardea, who was also the senior class treasurer and recipient of \$27,700 in scholarships. Gardea thanked her fellow graduates and the support of family, friends, teachers, and faculty.

"It has been a rewarding experience getting to know each and every one of you," Gardea said. "But most of all I think about the incredible people I got to form these bonds with. I am thankful for the impact each has had on me. Today we are here to close one chapter of our lives and start a new one."

Gardea touched on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Class of 2023 were just freshmen in the Spring of 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic. At one point or another, these students dealt with virtual learning, precautions like masking and social distancing, isolating when sick, and felt the overall impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on their education. Despite those challenges, they bonded together through the shared experience.

"All of us have overcome unforeseen obstacles," she said. "All of us have gone through ups and downs throughout the years. From experiencing the unknown of COVID, unspoken hardships and even losing loved ones. For those who have lost loved ones, just know they are the ones cheering the loudest for you today as you walk across the stage and receive your diploma. Everyone here has gone through difficulties, but we still made it to this day."

Gardea wrapped up her address by asking her classmates to remember to "never be afraid to make mistakes...to be grateful for all the moments that brought us here. If you have a chance take it. Take it while you have the chance. And if you have dreams chase them, because a dream won't chase you back."

She plans to attend either Adams State University or Trinidad State College and study nursing.

The students then heard from the Class of 2023 valedictorian Cael Ruggles, who received \$20,200 in scholarships and plans to attend Adams State University and study mechanical engineering.

Ruggles began by acknowledging the bigger things in life each graduate is looking toward and inviting the students to think about the people they would like to thank most for helping them grow and



Center High School Valedictorian Cael Ruggles gives a speech during the graduation ceremony on May 27 at Center High School.



Center High School graduates showed their appreciation to family and friends with hugs and flowers during the commencement ceremony on May 27 at Center High School.



providing opportunities.

"I could not have asked for a better place to have grown up," Ruggles said. "We are who we are because of the people we met, the teachers, the school, and this town; this is just beginning."

Ruggles said playing sports and the lessons he learned on the field is something he will use in the future.

"There are things I learned in football that I will take with me for the rest of my life," he said. "Whether you are big or small you get knocked down over and over again. Every time you get knocked down, you must get back up and go again. Don't let the failures push you back. Don't be afraid to fail, always get back up. Never let it keep you down."

The Class of 2023 listened to the commencement address from Center Middle School Principal Linda Donaldson, who gave the commencement speech for this class four years ago. She talked about how the class had become a family and persevered.

"When things got tough you were able to lean on each other for comfort and support," Donaldson said. "Whether it was during classes, athletic competitions, or just personal issues

you always knew that your friends would always be there for you. You have also been there for each other's accomplishments — from continuing from middle school to high school you have all stuck together.

"There were so many obstacles that could have derailed you from your goal of graduating today, but here you are, and my heart is so very proud of all of you," she said.

Donaldson told the Class of 2023 to not forget where they come from and to let their dreams lead them.

"Don't be afraid of the unknown," she said. "You can overcome any obstacle. You have unlimited opportunities in your future. Don't let those opportunities escape you. Be proud, hold your heads up, and walk through those doors with all of the confidence and ability I know lies inside each of you."

Next, the Class of 2023 received their diplomas and gave flowers to family and friends before returning to their seats for a slideshow of the graduates. Class President Jenice Almeida ended the ceremony with the tassel exchange that was followed by the throwing of caps into the air.



Photos by Brian Williams
Center High School graduates take a silly selfie prior to their graduation ceremony on May 27 at Center High School.



Right: Center High School graduates decorated their caps for their graduation ceremony on May 27 at Center High School.

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La Puente ‘jump starts’ clients for the workplace

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — When the topic of La Puente — a large, local non-profit with a network of programs serving some of the Valley’s most vulnerable people — is brought up in a public forum, a question will sometimes come up regarding what efforts La Puente is making to help people who are unsheltered become more self-sufficient and independent.

The answer to that question is “a lot is being done and with increasingly good results,” as was indicated in a recent conversation with Callie Adams, director of outreach at La Puente Home, and Sean Weiland, a case manager with La Puente’s Employment Readiness program.

Employment Readiness currently consists of two case managers — the second was hired just two months ago — and is housed and operating under La Puente’s Crisis Prevention Resources, formerly known as “Outreach.”

The organizational structure makes sense. As stated on their website, “Crisis Prevention Resources currently aims to stabilize families on the brink of experiencing homelessness or assist families already experiencing homelessness with reintegration by providing financial and wrap-around support.” Being employed and earning an income is a key component in the continuum to sustaining a stable living situation.

“But it’s not just about getting a job,” Adams says. “That’s part of it, but it’s really about much more. There are programs that help people get a job but sometimes they have long waiting lists or are difficult to get into. And now a lot of that is online. When you talk about people who are unsheltered or in crisis more support is needed.”

Employment Readiness was designed to interact with people on an individual, in-person basis, learning about their situation and individual circumstances, what they need, and what can be done to support them in becoming successfully employed.

But how they initially connect with people happens in a variety of ways. Mostly, according to Weiland, people connect with the program when they come into Crisis Prevention Resources asking for help. Others are referred from the shelter or the Street Outreach program. But where things go from there varies from person to person and their skill set.

“When I ask people if they have a resume, some people don’t even know what that is,” Weiland says, “or they say they haven’t worked in years. So, I show them a resume and help them with that and how to look for jobs. And then some people come in with their resume already done and they just want to know who’s hiring.”

But, as he describes it, the process always begins with establishing a relationship with the person enrolled in the program, not just in the initial interaction but in the case management meetings that follow. And that’s where other issues become apparent.

“Sometimes people really just want to get a cell phone and they know the best way to do that is to say that they’re looking for a job. We can see that’s their motivation before we get too far. But, other times, some people really want to become employed but, the further along they go in the process, they realize that they need to deal with other issues first, like their substance abuse. In those cases, we refer them to other programs like behavioral health. And sometimes, people aren’t real sure they want to become employed but the more time we spend with them, the more confident they become.”

As he says, it varies from person to person.

Aside from the case management services, which average out at about 5.7 meetings per client, Employment

Readiness does those things necessary to “jumpstart” getting into employment, which can vary from buying non-slip shoes if they have gotten a job where that’s necessary or money to put gas in their cars until they get their first paycheck.

Now that there is a second case manager on board, additional support — such as coaching on maintaining a job once a person has been hired and building stronger partnerships with local businesses — will be more possible.

But, if the data is any indication, it is an approach that seems to be working.

Employment Readiness defines client progress, called “positive outcome data,” in three different categories — obtaining employment, maintaining employment, and improving employment by getting a better, perhaps better-paying, job.

The program began in 2020, just when the pandemic hit full force. Even against those odds, of the 96 clients they had enrolled in the program that first year, 35% of them obtained employment. In 2021, the number of enrollees increased to 108 with 31% of those people obtaining employment. In 2022, of 145 enrollees, 40% got a job.

And, so far in 2023, 50% of the 66 clients enrolled in their program have obtained a job, and it is still in the first half of the year. And, in one of the best

indicators, of those 66 clients, seven have transitioned from being unsheltered to being housed.

When asked for especially inspiring success stories, Adams did not hesitate. She speaks about a man who had been receiving services from La Puente and wanted to start his own business. After several case management meetings and discussion, Employment Readiness invested and bought the man the equipment he needed to get started. Not only was he successful in his venture, but he has also come back to Employment Readiness to hire enrollees who are in the program.

A second story was about a couple who had been unsheltered and living outside for 15 years. After becoming enrolled in the program, the couple both got jobs working together. Adams had not seen them for quite a while but, not long ago, passed them on the road.

“They were driving a car,” she says. “It was a clunker, yeah, but it was running. They never would have thought it was possible to be working and having a car a few years ago.

“This whole program is all about community investment,” she says. It not only benefits the people who enroll in the program and, with the support that is offered, become employed, it benefits the community where they live.



Photo courtesy of Sean Weiland

Sean Weiland, case manager with La Puente’s Employment Readiness program.



Saturday, June 10, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Pictures posted on our website.

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Directions: From Alamosa head South on HWY 285 to La Jara. Turn East on Hwy 136 towards Sanford. Just east of the Trading Post off the service road that parallels Highway 136.

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<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>		
<p>Auctioneer Notes: Selling the entire contents of the household many items not listed. See pictures on website. Please call Brady at 719-588-2573 with any questions.</p>		
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<p>Everything is sold “AS IS WHERE IS” no warranties expressed or implied. Announcements sale date take precedence over printed material.</p> <p><small>Terms: Cash or good check, ID & Bid Numbers required to buy. Nothing to be removed until paid for, NO EXCEPTIONS!</small></p> <p>NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOSS OR ACCIDENT!!</p>		

Sargent graduation



Sargent High School graduates pose for a photo on May 26.

Courtesy photos

FSWB names Esquibel as EVP, Chief Credit Officer

CONTRIBUTED
DURANGO — First Southwest Bank (FSWB), a locally owned, independent community bank, and one of two Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) banks in Colorado, recently named Kristy Esquibel as Chief Credit Officer, Executive Vice President.

An experienced banking professional, Esquibel will be responsible for managing FSWB's credit quality and policy, overseeing consumer and commercial underwriting, loan operations, and special assets. She will report directly to Kent Curtis, president and CEO, and will be part of the bank's executive leadership team. She is based out of FSWB's Alamosa branch. "I'm thrilled to have Kristy in this role," said Curtis, "her expertise within the bank and understanding of our mission as a CDFI will allow her to lead with a focus on providing responsible lending solutions to customers, including underserved rural communities while maintaining an acceptable level of risk."

Esquibel has worked at FSWB since 2013, serving in various roles including Credit Analyst, AVP/Credit Analyst Manager, VP/Credit

Administration Manager, SVP/Credit Administration Manager, and most recently as SVP/Lending Manager, where she was responsible for the overall management and performance, compliance, growth and strategic direction of the Lending Department.

"I'm beyond excited to support First Southwest Bank in my new role as Chief Credit Officer. Having worked for First Southwest Bank for 10 years, I have seen firsthand our impact in rural communities. Working for a mission-based CDFI bank allows me to support small businesses and contribute towards economic growth in rural communities which is my passion. I'm proud to work alongside an amazing team that has made a lasting impact on the communities we serve. My goal as CCO is to create a culture that is mission-focused with a strong expertise in creative financing and risk mitigation. I'm looking forward to the future we are creating and the impact I know we will have on our communities," said Esquibel.

Esquibel received her bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, her master's from Colorado State University, Pueblo,



and her banking certification from the Western States School of Banking.

She is president of the Alamosa Chamber of Commerce, serves on the local board for economic development, and enjoys using her experience and education to teach financial literacy courses to youth and small business owners.

FSWB Announces Appointment of Azarel Madrigal to Board of Directors

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — First Southwest Bank (FSWB), a locally owned, independent community bank, and one of two Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) banks in Colorado, announced that Azarel Madrigal has been appointed to its Board of Directors.

"I am pleased to welcome Azarel Madrigal to the FSWB Board," said Kent Curtis, FSWB CEO and president. "Her time at First Southwest Community Fund combined with her dedication to finding solutions to provide equitable access to capital resources for marginalized communities will allow her to contribute valuable insight to our board."

Madrigal is currently the Executive Director of First Southwest Community Fund (FSWCF), a non-profit created in 2015 by First Southwest Bank to provide inclusive and equitable access to financial capital and risk mitigating gap funding. In this role she oversees an impressive \$18 million impact loan fund aimed at supporting entrepreneurs and providing access to capital for underserved rural communities. Her leadership has been instrumental in driving positive change and creating opportunities for individuals who have historically faced barriers to financial resources. FSWCF is headquartered in Alamosa, though its programs extend to rural residents statewide.

Reflecting on her board appointment, Madrigal said "Throughout my career I have been



dedicated to promoting equitable access to resources and improving the lives of all members in our rural Colorado towns. I look forward to working alongside the other board members, sharing my knowledge and experience to better serve FSWB's customers and our communities."

Madrigal holds a master's in public administration from Adams State University (ASU) in Alamosa. As a student, she actively participated in student government and served on ASU's Board of Trustees. In recognition of her achievements, in 2022 Madrigal received the "Exceptional New Alumna" award. Also in 2022, she successfully completed the prestigious Boettcher Foundations Doers and Difference Makers Fellowship.

Under her leadership, the FSWCF received the 2023 Spirit of Alamosa Award from the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce.

Discover Your Advantage Over the Enemy

I went to church for years and never heard about the devil. It's not fun talking about him, and I don't ever want to put too much focus on him. But the truth is, we have an enemy. First Peter 5:8 (NIV) says, "...Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

If we're going to defeat our enemy, it's important for us to believe in the power and authority we have in Christ. That's the only way we can have the great life God wants us to have.

There are so many Christians who seem to be going through their daily life just hoping they can make it through the day. They go from one problem or crisis to the next, and they lack a confident, bold faith in God that can keep them stable, full of His peace and joy in the difficult circumstances of life.

The good news is, God doesn't want us to live in the emergency room of life all the time. He wants us to get to the point where we know what to do to have a great life and take responsibility for ourselves, trusting we can do whatever we need to do through the strength we have in Christ (Philippians 4:13). This means we know who we are in Christ and how to walk in the authority we have as believers in Jesus.

Do You Know What You Have in Christ?

John 10:10 tells us Jesus gave His life so we can "have life, and have it to the full." When we accept Christ as our Savior, we receive the assurance of eternal life, but we also become joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17) and are entitled to have everything He is and everything He has: grace, peace, righteousness, joy, power and authority over the enemy.

Matthew 10:1 says, "Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness." This authority has been given to every believer. It's important to understand that the devil has power, but we have power

and authority in Christ.

Our enemy only has the authority that we give him, and many times we give him the ability to attack us through ignorance.

The devil hates anyone who is trying to do any good in the world, and his influence can be seen in the evil things people do. For example, when I'm tempted to be selfish and complain, it's not God working in my life. James 1:13, 17 says, "...God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights..."

We need to learn how to be proactive and resist the devil immediately when temptation comes. First Peter 5:9 says to "withstand him; be firm in faith [against his onset—rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined]..." (AMPC). Notice this verse says to resist him at his onset.

Don't wait to see how bad things will get or how much you can get away with before you get in trouble. Be firm in your faith at all times, and resist the enemy immediately when he comes against you. God has a plan for your life, and walking in the authority you have in Christ is an important part of experiencing His will for you.

The Greatest Weapon You Have

The Word of God is an offensive weapon in our warfare against the enemy. It has the power to renew our mind, heal our brokenness and change our lives. The Word contains God's wisdom and the direction we need for every problem we face. Everything we need is found in the Word; it's God's love letter to us, our instruction book for life and reveals all of God's promises to us as His children.

The power and authority in God's Word equips you to go after the devil—he hates the Word and must bow down to it. But we must approach the Word with the attitude, "With God's help, I'm going to do what it says." That's the key



to operating in the authority we have in Christ.

I want to encourage you to make it a priority to spend time with God and study the Word. Go for quality, not quantity; meditate on Scripture so you really get it deep down in your heart. Make a predetermined decision to apply what you learn to your life. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you, and He will show you how to obey the Word in your daily life. You can also get more encouraging teaching or submit a prayer request by contacting our ministry at www.joycemeyer.org.

Remember that in Christ, you have everything you need to enjoy your life and overcome the enemy. God has equipped you to stand up to whatever comes against you. Through the power and authority you have in Christ, you can remain stable, full of peace and joy, and fulfill your God-given destiny. That's God's plan for you!

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.

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Forest Service appreciates volunteer trail work

By JOHN WATERS

SAGUACHE COUNTY —

The Rio Grande National Forest, Saguache Ranger District, extends its thanks to all the volunteers that helped conduct needed trail work on the Willow Lake Trail on Saturday, May 20. The volunteers spent six hours on National Public Lands Day, making the trail better for all.

Over the last decade, thousands of hours of volunteer trail work have been completed on the forest, contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars in labor.

The trail crew volunteers completed close to a mile of the trail, installing water bars and checking dams. The water bars are an essential component in preventing trail erosion and maintaining trail integrity.

The Willow Lake Trail is a 5-mile-long trail that begins at Forest Service Road 949 and ends at Upper Willow Lake. The trail is popular with climbers enroute to Challenger, Crestone, and Kit Carson peaks.



Photo courtesy Rio Grande National Forest

Trail crew volunteers work on May 20 along the Willow Lake Trail.

Medano Creek is in the flow

By JOHN WATERS

GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

— A favorite destination for many San Luis Valley residents and tourists this Memorial Day weekend will be Medano Creek.

Although mountain snowpack in many parts of Colorado is above average, the watershed in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains that constitutes Medano Creek is about 80% of average leaving the creek with less water than banner years.

The park service is forecasting the creek will reach peak flow in the next week and advises that due to below-average snowpack and flow, waves in the pulsing water, floating will be unlikely.

Medano Creek is one of the few places in the world where the phenomenon of surge flow can be experienced. Surge flow is a stream flowing in rhythmic waves on sand. Three elements are needed to produce the surge, a relatively steep gradient to give the stream a high velocity; a smooth, mobile creek bed,

in this case, sand, with little resistance; and sufficient water to create surges. In spring and early summer, these elements combine to make the waves.

As water flows across the sand, underwater sand ridges called antidunes form on the creek bed, gathering water. When the water pressure is too great, the dams break, sending down a wave, or surge about every 20 seconds.

According to the National Park Service:

Current Conditions as of May 24:

• Medano Creek is at the Dunes Parking Area with a wide but shallow flow of water. It flows in braided streams with a total width of about 60-90 feet wide, and 1-4 inches deep.

• Throughout the season, flow is normally highest at dawn, and lowest at dusk.

• Snowpack is 80% of average although heavy rain may temporarily boost flow.

• Check weather forecasts for environmental conditions at the creek.

Because of the creek's popularity,

late May and early June weekends can be crowded, with long lines of traffic, overflowing parking lots, a crowded beach, and full campgrounds.

June 2023 Forecast

June brings warmer temperatures for water play and generally pleasant conditions during the first week of June. Late May and early June are the best opportunities to experience surge flow.

When the creek becomes much lower around the second week of June, mosquitoes emerge. Move away from vegetation to the far side of the creek to

avoid the worst of the mosquitoes. They do not like open sand and prefer to be near shady bushes and trees. By late June, the water level will be fairly low, only 1 or 2 inches or may even be drying up.

July 2023 Forecast

In July, unless there are significant ongoing rains, the creek will be retreating toward the mountains and will be dried up at the main visitor area near the Dunes Parking Lot. It may continue to gently flow at less than an inch deep along the eastern edge of the dune field, near Castle Creek Picnic Area which is accessible

by high clearance 4WD vehicle on the Medano Pass Primitive Road. Visitors without 4WD may also access the creek

in late summer by hiking approximately 3 miles up the creek bed from the Dunes Parking Lot, or approximately 0.7 miles from the Point of No Return parking area. Mosquitoes are typically still present if there is low, warm water around the dunes in the first half of July but begin to disappear as the water retreats farther back toward the mountains. July is the warmest month at the park, with average highs in the low 80s.

Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Education of the Center Consolidated School Joint District Number 26 for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 and has been filed in the Office of the Superintendent located at 550 South Sylvester Avenue, Center, CO 81125 where it is available for public inspection. This budget is also available on the District's Website at: www.center.k12.co.us within the Financial Transparency module. Such proposed budget will be considered for adoption at a Regular or Special meeting of the Board of Education of said District on or before June 30, 2023.

Any person paying taxes in said District may at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget may file or register his/her objections hereto.

By: Enrique R. Aguilar, Board Secretary/Treasurer

No. 1670 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, June 1 and 8, 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.

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.



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Homelake Veterans Center holds Memorial Day ceremony

By Marie Mccolm

MONTEVISTA — A Memorial Day ceremony was held at the Homelake Veterans Community Living Center Cemetery on Monday, May 29. Approximately 100 people attended the ceremony, the first open to the public since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ceremony began with an introduction by USAir Force Rio Grande County Veteran Service Officer, Jack Rudder. The posting of the Colors by the Color Guard followed. The national anthem was sung by El Coro Alegre de San Jose from Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Monte Vista.

Steve Dunkel, of the US Army and pastor of the Methodist Church, gave an opening prayer and then Phillip Mackey, of the U.S. Army National Guard, introduced the Keynote Speaker, Eugene Farish.

Upon graduating from Vanderbilt University in 1963, Farish joined the Army as Private E1, Mackey said. After completing training in Louisiana, he attended infantry officer candidate school at Fort Benning, Ga., where he was commissioned the Second Lieutenant.

Farish was sent to Motor Officer School at Fort Knox, Ky., once he completed Jump School at Fort Benning. He was stationed at the last camp north in Korea. He volunteered for special forces upon completion of his Korean tour of duty. He was assigned to the 3rd specialist forces group at Fort Bragg North Carolina.

In 1967 at the end of his extended military duty, Farish was admitted to Law School at the University of Wyoming. He received his doctorate in June of 1970, and was admitted to the Wyoming State Bar. He then moved to Monte Vista and was admitted to the Colorado Bar. Farish has been practicing

law for over 50 years.

“There are few people today protecting our rights on the battlefield and in our court room,” Mackey said.

Farish thanked the Home Lake Veteran’s Community Center for the ceremony and the opportunity to speak about the history of Memorial Day.

On May 5, 1868, John Logan Commander and Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued general order number 11, designating May 30, as a day for decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country, in the Lake Pavilion. He was referring to the Civil War, explained Farish. During the next 100 years, the tradition of Memorial Day evolved to honor those Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and Coastguard

In 1968, congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May of each year to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. This change became effective in 1971.

This cemetery of over 1,600 gravesites, contains the bodies of two veterans of the Mexican American War of 1846-48, 548 union soldiers, nine confederate soldiers from the Civil War of 1861-65, 78 from the Spanish-American War in 1898, 128 from World War one in 1917 and 18, and 128 from World War two in 1941 to 45, 9 from Vietnam and 3 from Iraq.

“As I prepared this address, I saw an image which represents all the Sailors, Soldiers, Marines, and Airmen that have given their lives for this country,” Farish said. “Throughout its history my thoughts return to the inscription below the statue of the Lone Infantry Soldier the front of Officer Candidate school in Fort Benning, Georgia. ‘Hardship and Glory I have known. My bleeding feet stained the snow at Valley Forge. With



Photo by Marie Mccolm

Lawyer and Veteran Eugene Farish was the keynote speaker of the Memorial Day ceremony at the Homelake Veterans Community Living Center Cemetery.

Washington I crossed the Delaware, tasted victory at Yorktown and saw our Nation born. At New Orleans, I fought beyond the hostile hour, discovered the fury of my long rifle, and came of age. Westward I move with a covered wagon. March with the empire across the planes, in far flung outposts on the wild frontier.”

Farish continued to read the entire inscription and concluded by saying, “Wherever brave men and women fight and die for freedom, you will find me. I am always ready now and forever.”

Farish said that in the news lately there have been so many images that divide, making people all long for an image that unites for a common purpose. Farish stated that everyone there did not have to look further than 50 yards from where they were sitting to find the answer. Farish spoke of Marine Cpl. Randal Rosacker, Sgt. Glen E. Martinez, and Sgt. Faith Hinkley, stating that all three

were enigmatic to many others that had also been laid to rest in the cemetery. Reminding everyone of their love for their country and cause of freedom, with them laying down their lives for their country.

Farish concluded by saying, “God bless the souls of those who rest in eternal peace in this place. God bless this Home Lake Community. God bless the United States of America.”

There was a presentation of wreaths for the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and for the VFW. A remembrance of Homelake Veterans residents was then given by Mindy Montague. Montague read a list of residents that had passed away from 2019, to present.

The tolling of the USS General Patrick Bell was held. Pat Rosacker and John and Joan Cavaliere, tolled the bell for Cpl. Randal Rosacker.

Ron and Carol Martinez tolled the



Photos by Marie Mccolm

The Memorial Day ceremony at the Homelake Veterans Community Living Center Cemetery included tolling of the USS General Patrick Bell.



Phillip Mackey, of the U.S. Army National Guard, introduced the Memorial Day ceremony Keynote Speaker, Eugene Farish.

bell for Sgt. Glen Martinez and David and Annavee Hinkley tolled the bell for Sgt. Faith Hinkley. A rifle salute was also held shortly after the tolling.



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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 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.



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

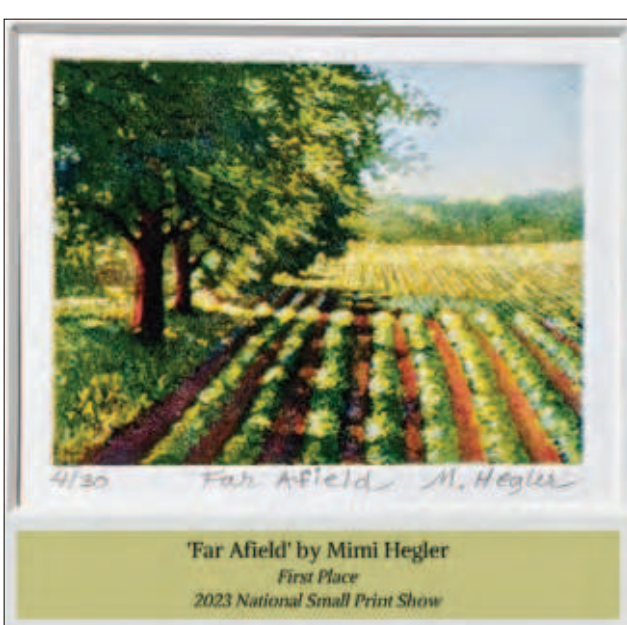
2023 National Small Print Show winners announced

CONTRIBUTED

CREEDE — The public is invited to join the Creede Arts Council (CAC) for its exhibition of the National Small Print Show. This is the 22nd anniversary of the National Small Print Show, a juried art show of hand-pulled prints created by artists from across the country and Canada. This year, master printmaker AnaMaria Samaniego from Santa Fe, N.M., judged the prints.

“Far Afield” by Mimi Hegler of Ashton, MD, won first place. “Scratch” by Allison Quiller of Creede was awarded second place. “Nadiyah” by Janet Badger of Houston, Texas, won third place. Two Honorable Mentioned prints were also chosen to receive awards — “Fence” by Dawn Daisley of Oak Beach, NY and “In the Air” by Dagan Sherman of Odessa, Texas.

The CAC will be hosting an in-person show, opening from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 27 at the Creede Repertory Theatre. **Please see PRINT on Page 2**



Courtesy photo

‘Far Afield’ by Mimi Hegler of Ashton, MD, won first place in the National Small Print Show.

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.



Courtesy photo

ALMA will once again offer a series of free live summer concerts in Cole Park along the Rio Grande.

ALMA releases lineup for summer concert series

ALAMOSA — Alamosa Live Music Association’s 2023 Sundays at Six lineup was recently released. ALMA will once again offer a series of free live summer concerts in Cole Park along the Rio Grande.

“And the eight concerts this summer, in addition to the return of Battle of the Bands, will have a lot to offer everyone,” ALMA stated.

- Here is the lineup:
- June 2: Five bands will compete

live — and free — at Cole Park, in collaboration with Summerfest on the Rio from 5 to 8 p.m. Come out and vote for your favorite band.

- June 25: The Sundays at Six season kicks off with the winner of the ALMA Battle of the Bands.

- July 9: The amazing Alysia Kraft and her band from northern Colorado will visit the Valley for the first time. When asked by Two Story Melody’s

Please see ALMA on Page 2

Little Free Libraries coming to Monte Vista this summer

CONTRIBUTED
MONTE VISTA — The LOR foundation, City of Monte Vista, and several local citizens are working together on the installation of three Little Free Libraries (LFL) in the city's local parks this summer.

Imagine being able to bike or walk over to Chapman Park and pick up a copy of the "Wimpy Kids Diary." There might be a copy of "Crazy Rich Asians" or a wildlife viewing guide to Colorado. Libraries with new and used books will be located at Chapman Park, Sanchez Park off of Clay and Pennsylvania streets, and Marsh Park on Darwin and Alameda Streets.

The LFL organization's motto is "Take a Book. Share a Book." The organization supports over 150,000 libraries in the United States and overseas and has documented over 3 million shares of books.

Several residents thought it was time for the folks of Monte Vista

to enjoy around the clock access to books. The rules are simple. People can take a book from any of the libraries, read it and return it for someone else to read or, people can keep the book, but are asked to put another book in the library in its place. Community members will monitor the libraries and keep them full of books.

The LOR foundation, which works with rural communities in the mountain west to enhance livability and prosperity while preserving the character that makes each community unique, funded two of the libraries by purchasing books and supplies. The City of Monte Vista is providing labor and materials for securing the libraries in the parks.

Cathy Armstrong initiated the libraries and Michael Blenden designed and built them. One of the libraries will be dedicated to his wife Peggy, a long-time resident of Monte Vista and avid reader.

ALMA

Continued from Page 1

April-Rose Desalegn, "What are you most excited for this year?" Kraft replied, "To fall in love with playing live all over again and curate newer, weirder experiences around live music." Do not miss this. For a deeper look at the artist and her music, visit <https://coloradosound.org/alyasia-kraft-colorado-singer-songwriter-7-questions/>.

• July 16: Voted Best Reggae Band in Albuquerque, Innastate is dedicated to creating community through positive messages and energy expressed through their Indigenous reggae music straight from the desert southwest. For just a taste of this wonder of a band, visit <https://iaia.edu/innastate-band-video-filmed-at-mocna/>.

• July 23: Blue Canyon Boys call themselves "High Octane Colorado Bluegrass". They are true to Bluegrass roots while reimagining their relationship to the tradition. "The result is a toe-tapping mix of haunting standards, genre-bending arrangements, and catchy originals." Learn more about the band at <https://bluecanyon-boys.com/>.

• July 30: Returning to Cole Park by popular demand (it has been a couple years) Uz Band brings unique Spanish influences to Rock and Roll. This little ole band from Taos is a

Valley favorite. Check out their 2021 Sundays at Six concert for a trip down memory lane: www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_ydzhvuzgY&t=100s.

• Aug. 13: "Born out of the 2020 quarantine, Hand Turkey is a 9-piece funk outfit from Fort Collins, Colorado." This tight band will provide the kind of workout you'll really, really enjoy. Sample this from them www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7yrtFGuqIM&t=224s

• Aug. 20: Welcome the return of local music legends, The Riffers featuring Don Richmond.

• Aug. 27: Last but not least will be the Valley's own SLV Big Band, who will be playing a variety of jazz and Big Band favorites.

All Sundays at Six concerts are free, live and open to the public. At each concert everyone is invited to contribute a non-perishable item to a food drive.

"In addition to the music and merch, we are also pleased to announce that we will have food and drinks available for sale at every concert via Papa Murphy's food truck," organizers stated.

For more information about upcoming events, or how to become a member of ALMA or its board, visit www.almaonline.org.

PRINT

Continued from Page 1

The prints will remain on display in the theatre until June 22. An online print auction sale through www.32auctions.com will begin on

May 28 and continue until June 22. The CAC will be sharing the link for the online event on its website as well as its Facebook (Creede

Arts Council) and Instagram (@credearts) pages.

For more information, visit www.credeartsCouncil.com.



Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society

www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org

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Visit Our Facebook Page 

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

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26 - 50 lbs.	\$140.00		Small-Medium Vessel needed
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101 lbs. & up	Animals over 101 lbs. are ineligible for Group fee	\$300.00	Extra Large Vessel Needed

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 Animal may be dropped off during business hours only.
 Please allow 7 working days from drop off date for animal's return.
 Ashes not picked up after 60 days will respectfully be spread over our Conour Garden.

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Mountain Pizza & Taproom

Just went here with the kids. Everything came out amazingly delicious. Paul also took care of making a Supreme combo for my pregnant wife. Definitely the best thin crust in this area. Also bone in wings came out perfect, crispy yet saucy. Would recommend anyone passing through to try out this place.
 ~ Daniel O., Google Reviews

May is Pasta Month!

May special ends on Wednesday

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 ~ B.Gullette

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SLV GO! combats excess waste on trail with new program

By LYNSIE FERRELL
CREEDE — The San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!) has launched a new program to help combat excess human waste on local trails and natural areas by supplying bathroom kits to adventurers throughout the region. Through this program, the organization hopes to educate the public on best practices in public areas and encourage users to pick up their waste and dispose of it properly.

Over the last several years the San Luis Valley along with several other locations across the state have seen an increase in tourism and with that has come its own new set of issues. From the lack of housing to an increase in short-term rentals to excess waste and trash in and around natural areas, the changes have been apparent and though the increase in activity is mostly welcome, the plea for best practices has been loud and clear.

According to the press release submitted by SLV GO!, "In an effort to reduce human waste left behind by hikers, campers, and other outdoor enthusiasts in Colorado's wilderness areas, over 3,500 PACT Kits (bathroom kits for outdoor adventures) will be distributed and available for free at visitors' centers and trail organizations that interact with backcountry visitors across the state."

Colorado has several tips and tricks on how a person can dispose

of their waster without leaving it behind on trails, near water ways or on the surface for others to find. Through this program, PACT Kits encourage the Leave No Trace initiative that began several years ago to encourage people to leave natural places the way they found them and pack out what they brought in.

San Luis Valley Great Outdoors in Creede is one of the trail organizations distributing the free PACT Kits.

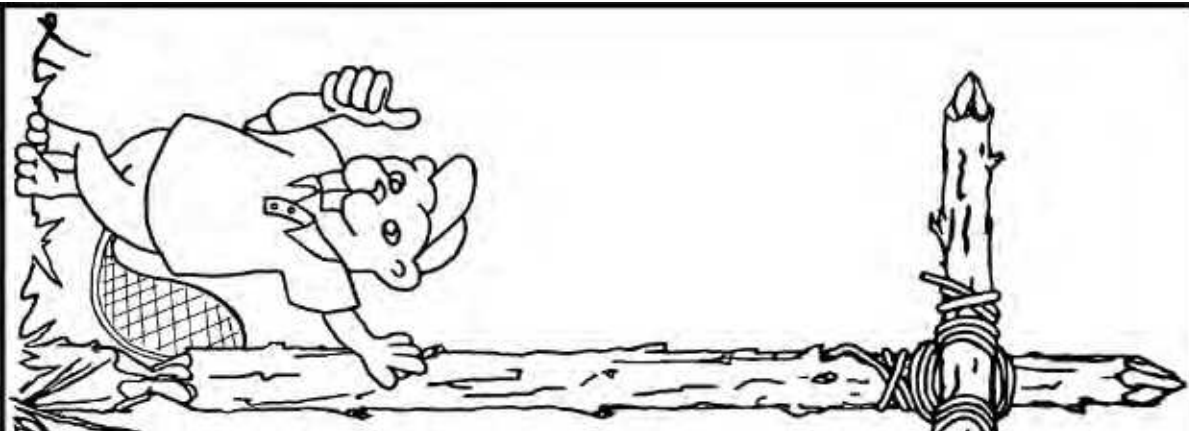
"We're very excited to partner with SLVGO on this initiative. As you know SLVGO is a vital asset to the local Creede community, as it helps to promote outdoor recreation, support economic development, and protect the natural beauty of the San Luis Valley," PACT Kit organizers stated.

"Doo" Colorado Right is an initiative by PACT Outdoors, Colorado Tourism Office (CTO), and Gunnison Crested Butte. PACT created the PACT Kit. They noticed that with more people using the outdoors, poop was becoming a bigger problem — causing serious environmental and health risks — and there was a lack of infrastructure and resources available to address it."

So "Doo" the right thing and stop by your local visitor center before heading out to have fun. For more information, visit <https://gunnison-crestedbutte.com/doo-colorado-right/>.



Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyPublishing>



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.

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2 Restroom/Shower Houses

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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.

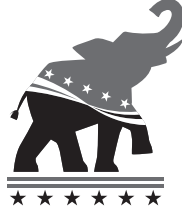
SLV Trout Unlimited 2023 fundraiser June 3

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.tulocalevents.org/slvtt>.

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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.

www.beavercreekcamp.org

Information & Registration

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!

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05 Notices

WE BUY ANTLER: Spring Prices!
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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 addi-

tions 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 rgadministrator@riograndecounty.org for additional Request For Proposals (RFP) details. (6-21)

07 Help Wanted

Now hiring. Log truck drivers. Class A CDL. Starting at \$23/hr. Benefits available. Call 719-379-4066 or visit JTTimber.com to apply. (6-21)

Ecodynamics Inc is hiring a general shop and field worker. Tasks include inventory, loading customer orders, shop cleaning, pump tech. assistant in the field. Please drop off resume in person at 5492 US Hwy 160 E, M.V. For more info, call 719/852-2662 (6-21)

Position of POLICE CHIEF: The Town of South Fork, The Chief will

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

All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.

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Valley Wide Classifieds

be held accountable for providing a professional functioning police department to the community. Candidates who are seeking a short-term commitment to the Town of South Fork need not apply. The Chief of Police provides oversight of all activities of the Police Department including, but not limited to administration, communication, investigation, patrol, and supervision. The Police Chief also actively participates in routine daily patrol shifts and provides 24 hour on call police coverage for the Town. Qualifications: Colorado POST Certification or ability to obtain POST Certification is required and minimum of five (5) years of supervisory level law enforcement experience for a similar or larger organization, with command

level experience preferred. High School graduate or equivalent required and a Bachelor degree is preferred. Applicants must be willing to undergo; an Oral Board, Psychological Evaluation, Background Investigation, Drug Testing, and a Physical Exam. Salary range is \$58,000 to \$62,000 DOQ. The Town of South Fork offers an attractive benefits package and assigned police vehicle. The Town participates in the Fire and Police Pension Association of Colorado (FPPA). The application and position information is available at www.colorado.gov/southforkcolorado. Questions should be directed via email to townadministrator@southfork.org. The Town will accept applications until June 29th, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. The Town

of South Fork is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (6-21)

Saguache County Land Use Department is accepting applications for a full time second Code Enforcement Officer. Salary to be determined on experience starting at \$35,000/year. Applicants must have a valid Colorado Drivers License, must pass a criminal background check as well as a pre-employment drug test. The County Employee benefit package includes vision, dental and health insurance coverage, paid time off, and a generous 401k retirement plan. The employment application and job description can be found on www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov, picked up at the Saguache County Administration Office, 505 3rd

Street, Saguache, CO or can be emailed to you, please contact April Quintana at 719-655-2231. Completed applications can be hand delivered to the Saguache County Land Use Department, Attention Amber Wilson, 505 3rd Street, mailed to PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or emailed to atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov. Applications will be accepted until filled. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (6-7)

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

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PRICE REDUCED



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

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

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



SOLD

Majestic Custom-Built Log Home! Fabulous 7 bed, 5 bath 4,619 Sq. Ft. Home with attached garage on 9.04 acres in Beautiful gated Bear Creek. This Home has several outdoor entertainment areas with wrap around decks too enjoy the 360 views of the San Juan Mountains. The main level has an open floor plan with great room and grand fireplace with vaulted ceiling opening into the dining and kitchen area. Entertain in this beautiful large kitchen with large island, custom cabinetry, granite countertops and state of the art stainless steel appliances. The Master bedroom suite is located on main floor with walk out patio, your perfect place to enjoy that hot cup of morning coffee. From here you can access your private boardwalk leading to your entertainment area with fire ring and Jacuzzi. Upstairs beautiful reading sitting loft with additional guest bedrooms, bath and great bunk room for additional family and guest. Lower level of this home includes a large family room with fireplace and pool table. Great for all your entertainment needs, additional bedrooms, and office. Beautiful furniture, furnishings and accessories are all included with this home. Bear Creek also offers a wonderful river adventure for rafting, gold medal fly fishing with a 20-acre area on the Rio Grande River exclusive to Bear Creek property owners. Minutes away from everything outdoors - gold medal fly fishing, hunting, four wheeling and thousands of acres of public land. Start your Adventure! Don't wait, Call, and schedule your showing today! \$1,650,000 MLS #792162
2951 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
(719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com




PRICE REDUCED

Must See Custom-Built 5,350 sq. ft. Commercial Property in Fabulous South Fork, CO. Great Highway 160 exposure!! This building is extremely well built. The building was built for retail with many amenities. The environment is warm and welcoming. The 3,000 sq. ft. main floor consist of large receiving office, full kitchen and bath and several large open spaces and two additional design show rooms and large 1,000 sq. ft. heated warehouse with plenty of shelves for storage and 12-foot overhead door. Lovely concrete outdoor patio with new vinyl fencing wired for low voltage lights this property sits on two lots with wiring running outside for lighting off outside signage. 1,350 sq. ft. Spacious upstairs with large open space, several large storage closets two additional offices, New ¾ custom tile bathroom and large storage over warehouse. This well-built property has radiant floor heating downstairs and upstairs baseboard hot water heat. Property is wired for Cat 5 telephone jack in all offices, design rooms, kitchen bar, receiving office - etc. Cable tv jack, upstairs big room. There are 3 gas fireplaces, 2 wall thermostats with remote control. Wired for speakers though out the building for music. Swamp cooler and wired for electric dryer, set up for washer and has a Propane fired boiler and propane hot water heater. This property is a blank canvas with so much POTENTIAL for the right builder or person. Because there is no existing business at the present time, this makes this building available for a variety of Business opportunities: Professional Work Environment for Professionals, Restaurant, Brew Pub, Events Center, Lodge or Cottage hotel, Retail etc. Come Paint your Canvas and start Your Business Adventure, Call and schedule your personal showing today! \$975,000 MLS #794078
173 W Frontage Road • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
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PRICE REDUCED

Darling authentic 1,232 Sq. Ft. 2-bedroom 2 bath log cabin with upgrades galore! Located in Log Haven. Tucked along the mountain side backing up to national forest with beautiful views of the surrounding cliffs. Open living room, dining, kitchen area with new propane Vermont Casting stove to keep you cozy and warm all winter long. Kitchen is quaint and bright with custom granite countertops. This cabin has a covered front porch and wonderful back deck. The perfect place to enjoy the wildlife, peace and quiet and that first hot cup of morning coffee. Nice fence back yard with gate opening to the national forest. Hike for miles out your own back door. Downstairs has a master bedroom and a full bath. Upstairs additional bedroom, bathroom and nice size sitting nook, great space to enjoy that best-selling book or use for your office den. This cabin comes complete with one car garage, storage shed, central well and town sewer. Cabin can be used as a full-time residence, or home-away-from-home winter or summer get-a-way! Rentals are not allowed in this subdivision. Don't wait! Start your adventure today! Only a short 17-mile drive from Wolf Creek Ski area. The mighty South Fork and Rio Grande River, Beaver Mountain reservoir & Million reservoir are just moments away. Bring your fishing pole and enjoy hours of world class fishing. Ski Wolf Creek, go 4 wheeling, hike, camp, hunt, Enjoying everything outdoors! Let's get started call /text and schedule your showing today! \$325,000 MLS #800364
31517 Us Highway 160 • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
(719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com



Valley Publishing CALL TODAY!
719-852-3531

Sandra Marquez — smarquez@valleypublishinginc.com
Brian Williams — bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com

This South Fork Beauty checks all the boxes, both his and hers - and is a fun place for family and friends. Custom built Log home tucked in the trees and backs up to the National Forest. The main floor has a fireplace and a Mighty Rio Grande with world class fishing. The property has a large area with beautiful carved mantel stone fireplace, ceiling, stunning entrance to behold! 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 Rinnai on-demand water tanks. Light touch lighting system and electrical in the floor. Master bedroom is on the main floor with sitting area with luscious mountain views. Master bath with beautiful large tiled walk-in shower. Guest bedroom and bath on main floor with elegant soaking antique tub. Upstairs spacious loft with two electronic skylights with rain sensors that will close automatically with additional sleeping areas including office space and additional large size bedroom with barn door and bath. Enjoy your 3-car garage with large workshop and more than enough room for all your mountain toys. Your family and friends will love the upstairs bungalow above the garage with kitchenette, living area, built-in beds additional bedroom and bath. Bring your family and friends to gather to enjoy the great outdoors! Boarders National Forest, with streams, creeks, lakes rolling topography, open fields, pine, fir, aspen trees, mountain views and abundant wildlife! Beautifully designed home tucked peacefully into the woods and easily accessible to town, Wolf Creek Ski Area and the Rio Grande Golf Course Resort. Once in a lifetime Opportunity! This property perfectly captures the best of both worlds between outdoor recreation and exceptional entertainment. Start your dream and Call/Text me to schedule your personal showing today! \$1,395,000 MLS #796960
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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 triograndehospital.org, Send Resumes to Human Resources, 310 County Road 14, Del Norte, CO 81132. (6-14)

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, energetic 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)

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

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

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 5/25 (inches)				
		5/25	5/24	5/23	5/22	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
Moravian 69	04/05	0.22	0.18	0.20	0.16	0.41	0.60	0.76	0.88	1.11
Moravian 69	05/05	0.10	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.18	0.26	0.32	0.36	0.44
Early Wheat	04/05	0.22	0.18	0.20	0.16	0.41	0.60	0.76	0.88	1.11
Early Wheat	05/05	0.10	0.07	0.07	0.05	0.17	0.24	0.30	0.33	0.40
White Wheat	04/05	0.22	0.18	0.20	0.16	0.41	0.60	0.76	0.88	1.11
White Wheat	05/05	0.10	0.07	0.07	0.05	0.17	0.24	0.30	0.33	0.40
WinterWheat	10/01	0.22	0.18	0.20	0.16	0.41	0.60	0.76	0.88	1.11
Potatoes										
Norkotah	05/05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.08	0.12	0.15	0.17	0.21
Centennial	05/05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.08	0.12	0.15	0.17	0.21
Nugget	05/05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.08	0.12	0.15	0.17	0.21
Alfalfa	Est.	0.26	0.21	0.22	0.18	0.47	0.69	0.87	1.00	1.27
Lawnglass	Est.	0.21	0.18	0.19	0.15	0.39	0.58	0.73	0.84	1.06

For the latest ET information, call 754-3494 extension x40 for Center, x36 for Center #2, and x38 for La Jara. Use the crop maturity and planting data and weather station closest to your own. Find this upJune 8d table each day at this web address: <http://aes-slvrc.agsci.colostate.edu/daily-crop-water-use-report/>
 This information is provided by the SLV Research Center (Colorado State University) and the Colorado Potato Certification Service. For info, call 754-3494 x26 or e-mail: andrew.houser@colostate.edu

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- Survival, Edible & Medicinal Rocky Mountain Plants** JULY 15
- Primitive Arrows** JULY 21-24
- AtlAtl and Darts** JULY 28-31
- Fire! Fiber! Flint! Survival Basics** AUG. 12- 13
- Homestead, Blacksmith & Butcher Tools Repair and Maintenance** OCT. (dba)
- Earth Knack Outdoor Living Immersion 3 options:** JUNE 5 - 30 * JULY 1 - 31 * AUGUST 8 - 24

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SAN LUIS VALLEY SERVICE DIRECTORY

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)

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.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)

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17 Real Estate For Sale
Beautiful well maintained mostly furnished cabin at HERMIT LAKES, app 1700 sq. feet, 2 bath, sleeps 10, log sided \$389,000 FIRM. TEXT ONLY 719-850-0863 for further information. (6-21)

House for sale: 2 1/2 acres, 5bdrm, 2 bath, 4 car garage in Alamosa \$275,000 OBO 2 1/2 Miles West Walnut Hwy 160 720-217-7886 (6-14)

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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 (5-31)

23 Lawn and Garden Sprinkler repair. Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. TFN

28 Household Goods Dining Room Set American Drew, Large table 6 padded-chairs, Large Hutch Beveled Glass on top Doors Drawers and Shelves on bottom (like

new) Call Wilbur 719-580-4400 (6-21)

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)

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

U	N	A	R	M		S	S	R		V	E	D	A		
S	A	N	A	A		R	Y	A	N		A	L	A	N	
S	P	I	V		C	A	N	N	A		L	E	F	T	
R	E	L	E	V	A	N	C	E		R	I	A	L	S	
			N	A	R	C	S		R	A	D		A	Y	
T	H	P		R	A	H		N	A	W	A	B			
A	E	R	O		T	E	L	E	M	E	T	E	R		
R	A	I	L	S		R	A	Y		R	E	A	C	H	
P	S	E	U	D	O	N	Y	M		S	E	U	M	O	
			M	O	R	E	S		O	A	F		S	P	F
T	H		R	A	G		O	R	C	A	S				
R	A	C	E	S		N	A	K	E	D	N	E	S	S	
A	G	A	S		R	A	K	E	R		E	L	L	I	
S	U	F	I		E	D	E	R		R	A	D	A	R	
S	E	E	N		B	A	N			A	D	A	G	E	