

Shorts

Senior Wellness and Resource Fair set for May 6

ALAMOSA — Shooting Stars and San Luis Valley Health are providing a Senior Wellness and Resource Fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 6, at 807 Ross Ave., Alamosa. Free lunch provided. The Keynote Speaker is Geriatric Medicine Specialist Dr. Kelsey Walker.

COVID vaccine bus scheduled for SLV

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The COVID-19 mobile vaccine bus returns this week to the San Luis Valley. The bus offers free COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters.

- Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Alamosa Public Library
- Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Rain Brews in Monte Vista
- Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Blanca Fort Garland Community Center
- Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Simple Foods in Del Norte.
- April 18, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club in Alamosa
- April 19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Silver Thread Public Health-Mineral office in Creede
- April 20, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Ramon's Restaurant in South Fork (This is a change - previously scheduled in Alamosa for this date.)

Information about COVID-19 data, testing, and vaccination in the San Luis Valley can be found at www.slvphp.com/slv-covid-19-information.

Del Norte Community Dinner set for April 14

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Christian Association-Knights of Columbus is having a Pulled-Pork Community Dinner that is open to everyone beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 14 at 595 Pine St., Del Norte.

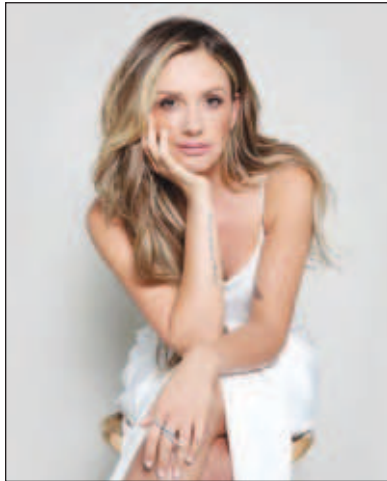
Free diapers available at three locations in DN

DEL NORTE — The San Luis Valley Early Childhood Council recently announced that it received a grant and will be offering free diapers to anyone needing help this spring.

There are free pickup locations throughout the Valley including three in Del Norte. Rio Grande Department of Social Services, Rio Grande Department of Public Health and the Del Norte Public Library will have diapers available for pick up by April 17.

For more information or a list of pickup locations, visit eccslv.org.

Carly Pearce performing at 101st Ski-Hi Stampede



Carly Pearce

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Carly Pearce will perform July 27 to kick off the 101st Ski-Hi Stampede in Monte Vista. Frank Ray will be opening for Pearce at the Ski-Hi Complex.

Pearce, 32, will heat up the stage with hits like "Never Wanted To Be That Girl," "Hide the Wine," "Next Girl" and her latest chart-topper, "What He Didn't Do."

Pearce is a three-time Country Music Association Award winner, a four-time Academy of Country Music Award winner, has received one CMT Music Award and one Grammy Award.

She became a member of the Grand Ole Opry in 2021.

Pearce and Ashley McBryde earned a Grammy in February. They are the first female pairing to win the Grammy with their chart-topping hit "Never Wanted To Be That Girl."

Pearce was touring earlier this year with Blake Shelton as part of the "Back to the Honky Tonk" tour and in late March released her first live album, "29: Written in Stone (Live from Music City)." Gwen Stefani, who is married to Shelton, and Pearce delivered '90s nostalgia at the CMT Music Awards on April 2. The singers teamed up to perform No Doubt's 1995 hit "Just a Girl" during the ceremony.

Pearce is known to be fiercely rooted in the classics. The girl who left her Kentucky home and high school at 16 to take a job at Dollywood has grown into a woman who embraces the genre's forward progression. Honored as one of Country Music Television's 2022 Artists of the Year, the 2021 Country Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year and reigning Academy of Country Music Awards Female Artist of the Year, Pearce is living out her childhood dream.

Pearce first gained major recognition in 2017 when her self-penned "Every Little Thing" found an audience on satellite radio. The

Please see PEARCE on Page 2A

Center town board draws crowd

BY PATRICK SHEA

CENTER — More than two dozen Center residents attended the Town Board meeting on April 11, voicing concerns about water quality, utility rates, and the board's donation policy.

The 2nd Annual C-town Drag Races are scheduled for May 6. Early in the afternoon, the Saguache County Commissioners approved the second running of the event at Leach Field.

Racers and fans can learn more about the competition at the Second Annual C-Town Classic and Custom Car Show at Center Community Park on April 15. Running from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the event will likely draw the same enthusiasts who turned out for

Please see BOARD on Page 2A



Photo by Patrick Shea

Center residents and trustees prepare to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of the Town Board meeting April 11.

Center water safe despite violations

BY PATRICK SHEA

CENTER — Center residents received notice at the end of February following water system inspections from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) on Jan. 4.

The inspector found one Significant Deficiency and four violations. The town's west well did not have a screen over a vent line on the well's air relief valve, a potential threat to drinking water safety. Center Public Works staff resolved the deficiency immediately after the inspection,

and they proposed an action plan to address violations.

A letter from CDPHE Senior Field Engineer Kristina Quick on April 7 granted approval for the action plan that Center officials proposed. The department had already begun addressing problems when they hired a Certified Cross-Connection Control Technician in the middle of 2022. Before the new hire, the process for reporting backflow assemblies and cross-connections fell to plumbers and contractors. They

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Photo by Patrick Shea

During a Center Town Board meeting on April 11, Center Public Works Director David Mehaffie explains how Center water is safe to drink from the faucet.

Boebert's staff listens to constituents

BY PATRICK SHEA

SAGUACHE — Congressional Representative Lauren Boebert rotates mobile office visits for her staff to hear from constituents throughout District 3. On April 11, Cathy Garcia gathered input for Boebert from residents at the Saguache County Road and Bridge meeting room. Garcia also conducted other meetings in the San Luis Valley.

Saguache County Department of Social Services Director Christina Wilson was one of five constituents meeting with Garcia. Wilson shared the challenges her department faces with staffing, funding, and meeting demand. With experience at the state level, Garcia recognized the differences in state and federal funding, but she said, "If we need more money, then I can get the congresswoman to push for more money."

Garcia said house representatives want to finalize the federal budget before Oct. 1.

"We don't want a last-minute budget like we had

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Photo by Patrick Shea

Collecting input for Congressional Representative Lauren Boebert, Cathy Garcia (white-black top near head of table) made multiple stops in the San Luis Valley.

WATER

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did not report faithfully, resulting in a low “Backflow Assembly Testing Compliance Ratio.” CDPHE requires annual inspections of all backflow assemblies. The perfect ratio for inspecting all assemblies would be 1.0. In 2021, the ratio was 0.09 (five of 56 assemblies tested). For cross-connections in 2021 and 2022, the department achieved a ratio of 0.69. CDPHE accepted Center’s target ratio of 0.8 by the end of 2023 and 1.0 for 2024 (and every year after that).

Upon reading the notices, many

Center residents registered concerns about water quality, not paperwork. The results are better than many residents realize. Every month, the department takes samples on the east and west sides of town. Available at town hall, the sample reports date back to Jan. 20, 2022. For example, to test for Coliform (total count, fecal, and E. Coli), crews visited more than a dozen break rooms and sinks in Center. For all 30 sampling reports over the past 15 months, they found no Coliform of any kind. The

water from faucets is safe to drink, according to the results.

Public Works staff also measure alkalinity, chloride, fluoride, nitrates, phosphates, sodium, sulfate, and total dissolved solids. Metals under the microscope include arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, iron, and manganese.

According to the plan, Public Works staff are inspecting every backflow assembly and cross-connection, possibly reaching the 2024 target this year.

BOARD

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the drag races in August.

Center Police Chief Aaron Fresquez estimated that at least 250 people showed up to watch the races last year, and he said a little more than 200 people have reached out for this year. He also said, “Cpl. Fresquez has already contacted six or seven vendors who want to participate. He set up another committee meeting to talk about vendors.”

Fresquez added, “It sounds like it’s already going to be a hit. I hope we can continue on with it. It put us on the map, as far as community relations go.”

Fresquez also noted that Center Police Officer Kendra Adolph invited everyone to come to the Community Park on Earth Day, April 22. Staff from the Town of Center, Center Emergency Medical Services and Fire Department personnel, and people from the San Luis Valley Area Health Education Center will assist with the clean-up. They will start at the park at 10 a.m. Everyone will tidy up until 1 p.m. and then return to the park with a side dish for a town barbecue. For more information, contact Officer Adolph at 719-696-4913.

Fresquez noted how the department’s newly hired School Resource Officer Eric Martinez is working well with staff and students at Center Schools. Jumping in with both feet, Martinez has already initiated projects with the students, starting with logistics for the Car Show on April 15. At the end of the school year, Martinez will start his police academy training, and another graduate of the program will join the force. Fresquez said he wants to recruit other certified graduates to fill open positions.



Photo by Patrick Shea

Drivers race through the finish line during the first running of the Center Drag Races at Leach Field in 2022.

Bobby Woelz, Director of the Office of Emergency Management for Saguache County, addressed trustees to gain approval of the six-county San Luis Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan. Although the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) already approved the plan, Woelz said it is always a work in progress between updates every five years.

Public Works Director David Mehaffie fielded questions from trustees and residents, and he assured everyone that Center water is safe to drink. Waving a binder with sample test results, Mehaffie encouraged people to look at the data. The full history of reports from Center is available on the CDPHE website.

Mehaffie also explained how they need to replace a backup transformer for compatibility, but the town can repurpose the existing transformer as a backup elsewhere in the electrical system. The new version costs less than the sale price of the current transformer, which represents savings

over the life of the equipment systemwide.

A junior from Center High School requested a donation from the board for after-prom celebrations on May 6 at the Sand Dunes Recreation pool. The board receives donation requests throughout the year, capped at \$500. When a motion carried and the board agreed to give \$300 for the after-prom, a man in the audience shouted, “That’s a disgrace.” He then offered to match the donation with \$300 of his own, earning applause from the crowd. Then the board voted unanimously to also give \$300 for the school’s Athletic Association Banquet.

Resident Mitch Garcia closed out the meeting with comments and questions about water quality, high utility bills, and communication with the community. Garcia enlisted help from other residents and directed questions at the board and Mehaffie.

The board is scheduled to meet on April 27 to discuss Planning Commission appointments.

LISTENS

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last year,” Garcia noted.

The 2023 Farm Bill is one of the biggest items with direct effects on the Valley.

“As I understand it, they’re talking about it,” Garcia explained. “I’m sure they’ll start finalizing things like they did before, towards the middle of the summer.”

Approximately 80 percent of the Farm Bill money goes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). When COVID-19 hit, legislators maximized monthly SNAP payments. But at the start of March this year, they reduced the benefit

level to a lower rate from 2019.

Wilson relayed a story of one older man she knew who received \$18 a month in SNAP benefits when she was working food assistance.

The older man told Wilson, “‘That’s OK. I just save it up for Thanksgiving or Christmas.’ He wanted to make sure it would be there. So, he would just have to buy a candy bar every three months or so to keep the benefit.”

In addition to insufficient funding, Wilson also noted how some older recipients have dietary restrictions, so they can’t always eat what they receive.

On a brighter note, Wilson told

Garcia and the group that Saguache County, “received Elder Justice Funds, which have been helping out.” The money goes toward projects like fixing a well or solving another problem so that residents can remain on their property. The funds also support Internet installations to enhance elder communication and safety.

Garcia filled her notepad with input. Until she returns for more in-person visits, constituents can contact Representative Boebert in Washington D.C. — 202-225-4761 — or call 719-696-6970 to reach the Pueblo District Office.

PEARCE

Continued from Page 1A

song helped Pearce secure a major label recording contract and became a major hit, reaching number one on the Billboard country chart. Her debut album of the same name debuted in the top five of the Billboard Top Country Albums chart.

Pearce has since released new material, including the 2020 single “Next Girl” from “29,” an EP released on Feb. 19, 2021. On Sept. 17, 2021, she released her third studio album,

“29: Written in Stone.”

Ray, 36, is a relative newcomer to the country music scene. In 2021, Ray signed with BBR Music Group and released his debut single “Streetlights.” The song features Ray singing in both English and Spanish. Later in 2021, he issued another single, “Country’d Look Good on You.” This was followed in January 2022 by his first performance on the Grand Ole Opry. The same month, “Country’d

Look Good on You” entered the top 40 on the Billboard Country Airplay charts.

Tickets for the kickoff concert featuring Pearce with special guest Ray were not available for purchase as of press time. For more information, visit www.skihistampede.com.

Colorado’s Oldest Pro Rodeo is celebrating its 101st anniversary in 2023. The San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede will be July 27-30.

OBITUARIES

John Ardeth Wardell

John Ardeth Wardell died peacefully at UC Memorial Hospital North in Colorado Springs on April 3, 2023.

John was born in Cowley, Wyo., in May of 1939. He and his brothers Gene and Bob moved to Creede, Colo., in the 1940s. John often described an idyllic small-town childhood in which the local kids would often trek 12 miles from Creede to Antelope Warm Springs for an afternoon swim. As a teenager and young adult, he and Gene teamed up for the annual Creede Raft Races and became known as reigning champions and forces to be reckoned with.

John married Tyleen Poxson in 1963, and they had two children, Mark and Audrey. John served in the U.S. Army reserves and was a hard rock miner in Creede.

He enjoyed Creede, the mountains, and the pace of



small-town living. He and Tyleen would have celebrated their 60th anniversary this October.

John is survived by his wife, Tyleen Wardell, his son, Mark Wardell, daughter-in-law Jennifer Wardell and his grandchildren, Brittany Kohlruss, Dion Wardell, and Kyle Wardell.

Rev. Armin Stolp

Rev. Armin F. Stolp, 93, of Canon City, Colo., was called to his eternal home with his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on March 14, 2023. Armin was born in Greenleaf, Kan., on March 11, 1930; the first of five children born to Rev. Theodore Stolp and his wife Lisette (VonLehe) Stolp.

While still a young man, Armin felt called to serve his Lord by following in the footsteps of his father and his father’s father to become a minister in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. After graduating from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., in 1957, Armin accepted his first call to Hope Lutheran Church in Westcliffe, Colo., where he was ordained as a minister in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and installed as their Pastor. While serving there, he met and married his beloved wife, Arlene Hanssen. Together they celebrated over 62 years of marriage and raised three sons.

After serving as Pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in Westcliffe for several years, Armin went on to serve churches in Hudson and Fort Lupton, Colo.; Shelton and Lowell, Neb.; Monte Vista, Colo.; Hunter, Kan.; and Grants, N.M. In 2004, after 47 years in the ministry, Armin retired and moved back to Monte Vista. Even in retirement Armin continued to fill in as a substitute preacher when needed until failing eyesight forced him to quit completely.

In 2019, Armin and Arlene



moved to Canon City. Armin passed away peacefully in his sleep at home on the evening of March 14, 2023.

Armin is survived by his wife Arlene of Canon City; sons Allen and Wanda of Del Norte, Colo.; Alex and Lara of Monte Vista, Colo., and Albert and Barbara of Mesa, Ariz. He is also survived by one sister, Harriet Wilkens, three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and by numerous nieces and nephews.

Armin was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters Theresa Gremel and Dorothy Goff, his brother Werner Stolp, and two nephews, Paul Hanssen and John Wilkens.

Jesus said, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die.”

— John 11:25-26

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HIS ONLY SON

Kids (6-16) \$4 • Adults \$6 • Seniors (65+) \$5

OPINION & EDITORIAL

Men to the left because women are always right

The Bunny came and went here without so much as a dyed egg as that tradition seems to have passed the way of all things messy for moms. Nowadays of course we have multicolored plastic eggs that can be filled with all sorts of things like candy and toys and even coins.

Miss Trixie and I attended church with the Grand's, and they had an Easter Egg hunt before church and all the little shavers came, not dressed in their finest attire, but with track shoes and shorts to best collect the maximum amount of plastic.

The service was fine although Ol' Dutch was a tad disappointed as the program did say that Mrs. McGullicuddy was going to come forward and lay an egg on the altar. I had waited with bated breath to see just how that was to be accomplished but when the appointed time came, she simply placed one there with her hands.

But as normal for an Easter service the preacher got Jesus on the cross, buried and resurrected in the allotted time and since Ol' Dutch didn't have his hearing aids in, it was a time of inner reflection for me. Now most of you might think that it may have been a good thing and a much-needed time whereby I would decide on some changes in my own personal life, and you are correct in that regard.

After much reflection on past deeds and experiences I decided that I have neglected some things in life and vowed then and there to make the necessary corrections starting today. So, no more will I put off fishing until another day when chores are not so pressing. From now on I will answer the call of my inner man and partake of said activities just like Peter the fisherman who just so happens to have been one of Jesus' Disciples.

And as for hunting, I realized that I have really neglected doing more of that also and will not let things get in the way of that time ever again in my life.

Ol' Dutch had to use the facilities during a break, and they at least had the men's restroom on left and women's facilities on the right. I don't know if you ever noticed but this is pretty much how it is wherever you go out in public except at Walmart where they have of late been mixing it up. This causes no little confusion for us folks used to a certain location for said porcelain fixtures and more than once Ol' Dutch has caught himself just before entering the wrong restroom.

It's pretty easy to remember where you are supposed to go when the need calls but whoever is designing these new buildings has never heard that "men go to the left because women are always right." Which leads to seeing old men exiting women's



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

private rooms shaking their heads and complaining about there being no urinals due to political correctness gone amok.

But getting back to the church facilities, the doors were on the correct sides at least and in fact there were no doors but just a wide-open area with a right-angle turn to hide said users from public view.

The men's room was packed with little boys waiting in line at one of the two urinals and I could not figure out why they didn't use the second one standing empty of any little pee'ers. But Ol' Dutch bellied up to the bar so to speak and in doing so soon found out why they didn't use it.

Now Ol' Dutch still stands pretty close to 6 feet tall, so I am not a short man by any means, but this urinal was set high enough up the wall that I almost had to stand on my tiptoes to hit the target. And I don't know if this church is heavy on ex-basketball players or what, but I guessed that set height probably took out a good 70% of the men in attendance.

But it did give me something to think about for the rest of the service and watching the people leave afterward I was able to quickly calculate that my numbers were probably just about right from the height of the men in attendance. Easter is about improving ourselves and so Ol' Dutch hit it big this year with some personal resolutions and also did some math calculations which helps to ward off Alzheimer's disease.

So, wherever life finds you this Spring, take the time to stop and smell the roses. Just make sure that it's not near the left door room as it smelled of pine scent to me in there.

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

'Children Need Heroes, Be One'

By FRANCISCA ARCHULETA

When I decided to become a counselor, I did not think I wanted to counsel children. I had previously worked at Tu Casa, Inc., with the Children's Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley (CAC) under its umbrella. Even though I did not work directly with the children at the CAC, I did occasionally work with the family in one way or another.

If I said the emotional weight some cases carried didn't bother me, I would be lying. However, fate has its way of making changes. After I graduated with my Master's Degree in Counseling, I was hired to be a counselor for an elementary school. I agreed and embraced the challenge; I also wanted to get out of my comfort zone.

Truth be told, I was not ready for what was in store. I am thankful for the guidance I received from the other counselors who had been working in the district for many years. I learned everything from family history, dynamic roles, current living situations, any type of behavior I should be aware of, and whatever else was needed to help students.

As a counselor, I am determined to establish a trusting relationship with the students. It is my job to let students know what they tell me is private and confidential unless it involves them being hurt, hurting someone else, or hurting themselves. Many of the students took that information with a grain of salt. Some students talked about certain forms of abuse as if they

were talking to me about their favorite movie, very nonchalantly.

Recent statistics from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration indicates 1 in 7 children have experienced abuse. Those statistics range in smaller counties in the San Luis Valley, but they do not change drastically. Abuse can be defined in many forms such as, sexual, physical, emotional, neglect, witness to violence, and drug endangerment. In some cases around the San Luis Valley, abuse is generational.

Children growing up around or with abuse can lead them to become jaded or nonresponsive to certain situations. Unbeknownst to them however, they are becoming victims to underlying trauma that can have many negative effects. The impact of childhood trauma can lead to learning problems leading to lower grades, increased need of mental health services, increased involvement with child welfare, and possible long-term health problems.

I recall the day I was faced with how daunting child abuse can be on a student and how important it was to be a counselor and unite with a strong team. A student I had previously met with, arrived at school with scratches and bruises on their face. I pulled them into my office to discuss what happened. Like many times before, they described the event as if it was just another day. Hearing details of what the student had endured really tested my training on not showing emotions — especially because they were not showing any

signs of emotion.

Getting all the details was necessary to make a report to the Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline, 844-CO-4-Kids (844-264-5437). I made the report. I spoke to all necessary team members to alert them of the abuse that occurred and shared my extreme concern for the safety of the student. I was informed by the local Department of Social Services that a caseworker would contact me before the end of the day.

Due to the county's large caseload the day was coming to an end and there was still no word. I did not feel comfortable letting that student go home. I could not keep the student at school so I consulted with my team and made the decision to contact law enforcement. That call changed everything. I am now happy to say that this student is in a safe environment, thriving, and as happy as can be.

The theme of this year's Child Abuse Prevention Month is "Children Need Heroes, Be One." The partnership I had with local law enforcement, the counseling team, and school administrators, we became one big hero. Our job is to be the heroes children need to feel safe. You do not need to be a professional to help a child. If you see something, be a hero and report what you see to the Colorado Child Abuse Hotline (844) 264-5437.

Francisca Archuleta is a counselor with the Bill Metz Elementary School. She can be reached at franciscaba@monte.k12.co.us.

Patience, respect are essential to debating difficult issues

By MARK HILLMAN

Capitol Review

For the past two weeks, Democrats and Republicans have engaged in a test of wills in the Colorado House of Representatives. Democrats are using their 46-19 majority to pass bills which they consider essential to address shootings in public places and to establish Colorado as a regional refuge for "reproductive health care."

Republicans know they cannot stop these bills, but because they view them as a threat to citizens' constitutional freedoms, they have chosen to inconvenience the majority by filibustering these controversial bills. Filibustering — making prolonged speeches to delay legislative action — is not easy. If you don't believe me, try talking non-stop in front of a crowd for an hour. It's even harder under legislative rules which require comments to pertain to the bill; reading weather forecasts is not allowed.

So, I respect the decision of House Republicans because their most effective recourse is to make passing these bills time-consuming, thereby counting against the legislature's 120-day clock. Democrats control the legislative calendar, but by allowing their own members to procrastinate on difficult bills, they give Republicans leverage.

An old adage at the Capitol says, "The majority gets its way, but the minority gets its say." That is, serving in the majority requires the forbearance to endure the speeches of the minority, knowing that you will eventually prevail. After two days of Republican

filibustering on gun bills, wearied Democrats invoked a seldom-used legislative rule to limit debate and proceed to vote. They subsequently employed this maneuver on six separate bills. Democrats were surely inconvenienced when the legislature did not recess for the weekend, but Republicans gave up their weekend, too, all the while knowing they would ultimately lose.

It is not unprecedented to use legislative rules to end debate, but it rarely ends well because it takes away the only deliberative recourse available to opponents. If endured, a filibuster will eventually run out of steam. But to curtail debate by majority vote is to inflame and re-invigorate the minority, whose only choices in response are to surrender or fight back. Predictably, the Republican minority fought back using other procedural delays.

If Republicans were in control and brought bills to ban abortion and allow frivolous lawsuits against abortion providers, Democrats would hurl themselves in front of that train using every available tactic. No one should be surprised that Republicans do the same to defend principles and constituents which they see being trampled by Democrat-sponsored bills on guns, abortion, gender-identity and property rights.

Certain Democrats deride Republicans for supposedly loving guns more than people. That's cynical and thoughtless. I cannot conceive that anyone in either party is immune to the heart-felt sickness that washes over me each time I hear

about a school shooting.

Consider that if Republicans genuinely believed one of these bills would stop a deranged killer, they would indeed weigh those lives heavily when considering whether "shall not be infringed" means "shall not be inconvenienced."

Instead, consider that Republicans genuinely believe that these bills will be ineffective, that their inefficacy will lead to more severe restrictions in the future, and that any crimes these bills might prevent are offset by additional crimes against honest citizens who are rendered defenseless by these laws. Disagree with those beliefs if you will, but don't call them irrational.

No doubt, many Democrats earnestly believe these bills will save lives. Republicans usually do not share Democrats' faith in the power of government to conquer human nature. Instead, Republicans face the unpleasant reality that some awful tragedies do not have a public-policy solution.

Still, both parties should respond with grace to those who sincerely seek solutions even as they debate the practicality of those solutions.

Good people can disagree on difficult issues. But it's imperative that leaders recognize that our system of government requires vigorous, sometimes-exhausting and always-respectful debate.

Mark Hillman served as Senate Majority Leader and State Treasurer. To read more or comment, go to www.MarkHillman.com.

CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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Hopping good fun



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell
From bag races to a mad dash for hundreds of colorful plastic eggs, people who attended the annual South Fork Easter Egg Hunt at the Rio Grande Club and Resort enjoyed a day of hopping good fun on Saturday, April 8.

MV Cemetery seeking help for spring cleanup

MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista Cemetery Board of Directors is asking the public for help in cleaning the cemetery for spring. Due to the large number of tumbleweeds that have inundated the cemetery grounds, it is more important than ever that cemetery's spring cleaning rules are followed.

People that have personal items such as Christmas trees, gifts, fake flowers or any other items on graves are being asked to come and clean the plots prior to the start of spring weather and high wind. Any items left are subject to damage when work to clear the tumbleweeds and summer mowing operations resume.

Drug abuse prevention at Centauri HS on April 13

LA JARA — The La Jara Rotary Club has organized a drug abuse presentation at Centauri High School on April 13. Several people will talk about surviving loss, living with addiction and recovery — Jimmy Johnson lost his son to drug abuse; Justin

Armijo will relate his story being raised by parents who had problems with addiction; and William Stewart will give testimony that recovery is possible. There will be two sessions on April 13 — 2 p.m. for the students and at 6:30 p.m. for adults.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between April 3 and 8, 2023. Sheriff staff conducted welfare checks in Moffat and Crestone, monitored nine controlled burns, and responded to two reports of suspicious activity in remote areas of the county. They patrolled Saguache eight times and Crestone once. In addition to three thefts, staff handled two animal problems, two fires, and a gas leak in Crestone. Officers filed one REDDI Report

(Report Every Drunk Driver Immediately) and issued three speeding tickets. They also assisted motorists, responded to a traffic complaint in Saguache, and inspected vehicle identification numbers. Deputies checked on an abandoned vehicle west of Crestone and a crash resulting in injury, and they helped with three ambulance rides.

ARRESTS

- A 32-year-old Center man was arrested and detained for harassment, domestic violence, and violating a protection order twice.



A park ranger and students explore an archeological site in the forest of Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. Some students are crouched over the ground, while others are recording data.

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve offers Youth Archaeology Expeditions

CONTRIBUTED
ALAMOSA — Are you an uprising middle or high school student in the San Luis Valley and excited to learn about your local history? Have we got an event for you! This summer, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve is excited to host two free Youth Archaeology Expeditions throughout the San Luis Valley. The Youth Archaeology Expeditions

will be held in the form of week-long day camps from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The local middle school session will run from June 19 through June 24 and the local high school session will run from July 10 through July 15. Participating students must be pre-registered by April 17 to attend. During these two six-day Expeditions, students will visit and

learn about archaeological sites, artifacts, and events throughout the San Luis Valley by doing field research and projects with park rangers from Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. For more information and registration, please contact us at grsa_education@nps.gov or visit our park website www.nps.gov/.../youth-archeology-expedition.htm.

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Elk at sunset



Elk gather near water as the sun sets on the Sangre de Cristo Range.

Photo by Patrick Shea

Respawn Game Room and VR Lounge opens in Del Norte

By LYNSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — After changing directions, local business owner and Del Norte Town Trustee Brenton Williams has dedicated his time to opening a new entertainment opportunity in town and the results have been nothing short of fun for the entire family.

Williams and his wife previously owned a mechanic shop in town and after deciding to cut their losses and change directions, Williams said that he wanted to see about bringing something new to

the area that would not only provide a place to host birthday parties and family gatherings, but entertainment for local children and adults alike.

“There just wasn’t anything to do here for local youth and I wanted to see what I could do to help change that. We had a driving simulator at the mechanic shop I owned, and my wife suggested I find another location to put it and that was when we came up with the idea for this place,” said Williams.

Since the idea took form, Williams has

been busy moving into the old chapel in the old hospital that was bought by local entrepreneur Stan Johnson. Johnson has since rented space in the old hospital to several businesses including Napa Auto Parts, an art gallery, an antique store, Salon SLV and Respawn with plans to bring in even more businesses, creating a culturally diverse and economically sustainable business district of sorts.

Having four children himself and working on the town board, Williams approached this new business venture with a unique understanding of how little there was to do in Del Norte, especially when it came to having a place to throw a birthday party.

“We always had to leave the Valley to

do something fun for birthdays. I wanted something in Del Norte, for Del Norte to bring people to Del Norte. So now we have the arcade and a space that can be rented for birthday parties or other gatherings like our Dungeons and Dragons group,” explained Williams.

The arcade features booths where guests can play games on different gaming consoles including Nintendo Switch and PlayStation as well as three joystick consoles that have thousands of games uploaded such as Packman and other vintage games, two driving simulators that offer a very realistic driving experience with force feedback steering and finally, a Virtual Reality section, for those wanting an escape

from reality.

The building where the arcade and VR Lounge is located is a story all its own having served as the old hospital’s chapel. Williams has spent considerable time and effort with the help of Johnson to remodel the room without losing the charm of the building.

Williams has plans to expand his business as time and money allow but for the time being he is just ecstatic to be able to offer something fun to the greater Del Norte community and beyond.

“We have something really great here and I am doing this for Del Norte,” Williams said.

Respawn is open Wednesday through Sunday from 2 to 8 p.m.



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

Respawn Game Room and VR Lounge is a new business in Del Norte. Owner Brenton Williams is looking to offer a fun and interactive option to adults and youth in Del Norte.

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RG BANK appoints Cox to its board of directors

CONTRIBUTED
MONTE VISTA — Pagosa Springs resident and business owner Jason Cox has been appointed to the RG BANK Board of Directors.

Cox owns and operates Riff Raff Brewing Company in Pagosa Springs with his wife Shelly and two other partners. He moved to Pagosa Springs in 2008 after earning his undergraduate degree at Texas Tech University and a master's in computer information systems from the University of Denver.

"We are excited to welcome Jason to our Board at RG BANK," said RG BANK Board of Director Chair Mark Lounsbury. "Jason brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding of not only Pagosa Springs but all of Archuleta County. He is heavily involved in many community organizations and has served on several boards. His dedication to the community makes him a great asset to RG Bank and our customers."

Cox currently serves on the Board of the Upper San Juan Health Service District (Pagosa Springs Medical Center) and has previously served on

the boards of the Archuleta County Fair, Archuleta Housing Corporation and Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation. His interests beyond brewing extend into property management, broadband connectivity, software engineering, skiing and snow removal.

"I look forward to working with RG BANK to help residents and businesses in Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County," Cox said. "We want to hook up people to capital to realize their dreams in the beautiful mountains of Southwest Colorado."

RG BANK is headquartered in Monte Vista with branches in Alamosa and Pagosa Springs. Established in 1905, RG BANK is a mutual and is still driven by the tenet "neighbors helping neighbors."



Jason Cox

CDOT and local law enforcement spring into action with DUI patrols

An average of 71 people are arrested for DUI every day in Colorado

worth the effort." A 2022 driving behavior survey showed that about one out of five Colorado drivers said they drove within two hours of drinking alcoholic beverages. A recent CSP report shows that, on average, 5,500 impaired-driving citations were given yearly from 2-6 p.m. — the typical happy hour at many bars.

"If you're planning to consume alcohol or marijuana, driving shouldn't be an option," said CDOT's Office of Transportation Safety Director Darrell Lingk. "Getting behind the wheel while impaired can mean the difference between making it home alive or not at all. Have a designated driver or a sober ride planned before you head to your destination."

The recent St. Patrick's Day Weekend enforcement period concluded with 247 DUI arrests across 78 participating agencies. The agencies with the highest number of arrests were Colorado Springs Police Department (25), Thornton Police Department (14) and Larimer County Sheriff's Office (13). CSP arrested 64 impaired drivers.

For yearly impaired driving crash and fatality data in Colorado, visit codot.gov/safety/traffic-safety/data-analysis/fatal-crash-data. For local law enforcement agency plans, visit codot.gov/safety/traffic-safety-reporting-portal.

CONTRIBUTED
STATEWIDE — Spring is here and so is the opportunity to make way for new habits and leave impaired driving behind. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), Colorado State Patrol (CSP) and 73 law enforcement agencies kick off their joint effort in keeping Colorado roads safe with the 18-day Spring Events enforcement period, April 7-24.

Last April, 31 people were killed in impaired driving related crashes. In total, 278 people were killed last year in such crashes.

Law enforcement is proactive in reducing DUI crashes through enforcement efforts. An average of 71 people are arrested each day for DUI in Colorado. A majority of these arrests happen before a crash occurs.

"We want our communities to enjoy the longer daylight hours and spring activities while also committing to designate a sober driver," said Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "No one heads out thinking that today a DUI or a crash is going to happen to me. Make a plan to get home safe, it's

Denver Business Journal names SLV local Jim Ehrlich to agriculture Who's Who

BY JOHN WATERS
DENVER — The Denver Business Journal has named Jim Ehrlich, executive director of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee, to its 2023 Who's Who in Agriculture program.

In a statement to the Valley Courier, Ehrlich said, "I am grateful and humbled to be selected for this honor. It is my privilege to work for the amazing potato growers in the San Luis Valley and in agriculture. I am extremely fortunate because I truly love agriculture. I have been blessed with a lifetime of great relationships and experiences through my work, and I have tried hard to have a positive impact for the potato industry."

At a gala in Denver on March 30, Denver Business Journal's fifth annual Who's Who in Agriculture program honored the Coloradans making an impact in agriculture.

According to the Colorado Foundation for Agriculture, the state has nearly 34,000 farms and ranches, encompassing over 31 million acres that generate \$40 billion in economic activity and employs 170,000 people.

The journal named James Pritchett, Ph.D., the dean of Colorado State University's College of Agricultural Sciences (CSU) for its Trailblazer award. CSU teaches the next generation of agricultural professionals and searches for solutions to the industry's most significant challenges. Among those

challenges are the global food crisis and climate change.

Pritchett, a land grant economist, is also the director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at CSU, which researches the economics and environmental impacts of farming, land management, and more. He was honored in the DBJ's 2020 Who's Who in Agriculture program and is returning to accept our highest award.

Jo Smeby, a CSU College of Agricultural Sciences student studying equine science and agricultural education, is the Rising Star award winner. Smeby hopes to become a high school or collegiate agriculture teacher.

Listed below, in alphabetical order by last name, are the 2023 Who's Who in Agriculture honorees.

- Dr. Maggie Baldwin, state veterinarian and director of the Animal Health Division, Colorado Department of Agriculture
- Jordan Beezley, deputy commissioner of external affairs, Colorado Department of Agriculture
- Jim Bradeen, associate vice president for Spur strategy, Colorado State University Spur
- Robyn Carlson, owner, Cowgirl Publications
- Jim Chambers, SVP and general manager of the agriculture division, Trimble
- Dr. Hayley Chouinard, department head of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Colorado State University College of



Jim Ehrlich

- Agricultural Sciences
- Joel Currier, partner, Currier Ranch
- Katy Dickey, SVP and relationship manager, First Southwest Bank
- Jim Ehrlich, executive director, Colorado Potato Administrative Committee
- Chris and Mark Frasier, owners and operators, Frasier Ranch
- Rod Hahn, owner, Rod Hahn Farms
- Josh Hasart, owner, Colorado Soy
- Erin Karney, EVP, Colorado Cattlemen's Association
- Paul Klees, general manager, C Lazy U Ranch
- Julie Lerner, CEO and founder, PanXchange
- Brian J. McFarlane, head of food safety and quality assurance, JBS Foods USA

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Life-changing Hope for the Wounded Soul

The most important message I can ever share with people is that God loves them and has good plans for them through life in Christ. We all need to have a revelation about God's love for us, because until we do, we'll struggle to have true, lasting love, joy and peace in our everyday lives.

The world is full of heartbroken people, who have been mistreated or abused in some way. And they're pretending to be okay, desperately hoping other people will think they've got it all together.

The truth is, none of us are perfect, and we all go through hard times and get hurt by someone or something. It's astounding the hurtful things people can do to others, but it has helped me to understand that hurting people hurt people. And many times when people abuse others, they are acting out of their own pain, so it goes on from generation to generation.

But I have good news: If you've been hurt in the past, you don't have to spend your life being miserable, angry, bitter, resentful or full of self-pity, hurting others. Through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, you can receive complete healing in your soul—your mind, will and emotions. God can restore your life and make it better than it was before you were wounded.

Going Through the Healing Process
I know what it's like to hurt so much you don't think you can stand it anymore and you feel hopeless about the future. For most of my childhood, my father abused me and I never knew growing up what it was like to feel safe, secure and loved. As a result, I became an angry, suspicious, critical, judgmental adult.

When I left home at 18, I thought I was leaving my problems behind me, but I came to realize there were many problems in my soul because of the abuse I had endured. I desperately needed the

healing love of God to restore my life.

Isaiah 61:1-3 (NKJV) says Jesus came "to preach good tidings to the poor...to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn...to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness..."

Thank God for His promise to heal the brokenhearted, comfort those who mourn, and set the captives free! Now, I'm not going to tell you it's easy to go through the healing process; it takes time, diligence in studying the Word, and lots of prayer to walk out the healing that is yours by virtue of the blood of Christ. But as believers in Jesus, we have the authority of His name to overcome sin and access the power of God in our lives so we can experience the promises in His Word.

And the promises of God belong to anyone who is born again!

Making the Divine Exchange

When we come into a relationship with Christ, a divine exchange happens. He takes our sin and the messes in our lives and gives us His righteousness, peace and joy (see Romans 14:17). He gives us joy for mourning, beauty for ashes, praise instead of depression, forgiveness instead of blame, righteousness instead of guilt, hope instead of despair...and on and on. All we have to do is give up our ashes and receive God's beauty.

A good place to start is admitting you need God's help. *It's okay to not be okay*—God helps the humble! (See 1 Peter 5:5-7.) We need to pray, "I love You, Lord, and I appreciate my salvation, but I am a mess! I want the truth in Your Word to set me free from deception, the bondage of sin, and pain in my soul. Please help me...open my eyes in any area where I am deceived



and teach me Your truth."

Then we need to commit ourselves to study the Word and grow in our faith in Christ. As we renew our minds according to the Word, we will trust God more completely and believe what He says more than what others say to us, more than our feelings, and more than our circumstances. That's when we live in His beauty...filled with His love, free from the prison of our past, and healed in our soul.

I want to encourage you today to humble yourself before God and take Him at His Word. He loves you more than you can comprehend, and He wants you to be free to walk in His good plans for your life. Take time every day to study His Word, pray and cast your cares on Him because He cares about you and wants what is best for you. When you do, you'll find that life becomes a beautiful, wonderful, amazing journey!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's teaching resource *Healing the Soul of a Woman Action Plan*. 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 LOVING PEOPLE WHO ARE HARD TO LOVE (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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Trinidad State Employees of the Year lead busy lives

CONTRIBUTED
ALAMOSA — Even on paper, it's hard to keep track of all Tate Kindschuh does. Police officer, K-9 handler and college instructor with an action-packed home life, Kindschuh never stops.

Every year, in each of the 13 Colorado Community colleges, peers nominate and select deserving dedicated staff members to be honored as employees of the year. Four were selected from Trinidad State College — one from the Alamosa Campus and three from the Trinidad Campus.

Kindschuh, 35, is a Patrol Sergeant at the Alamosa Police Department and is their K-9 handler. APD purchased Sammy in 2015 and Kindschuh was her handler. On the first day of the job, when backup help was requested at a traffic stop, Kindschuh took Sammy and had the dog check a Camaro. She "indicated on it so we seized the vehicle and towed it."



Tate Kindschuh

The police recovered 70 grams of heroin, some meth, and \$5,000 in cash. The car was sold through their asset forfeiture program.

"We paid for all her training in the first bust. She was a good investment and proved her worth the very first day," Kindschuh said with a smile. Sammy was retired in January after serving seven years and has been adopted by the Kindschuh family.

Kindschuh, who was raised in Nebraska and got his training at the Pueblo Community College Law Enforcement Academy (2010), has been with the Alamosa Police Department since 2011 and has been teaching at the college since 2013. This is his first year as the Director of the Law Enforcement Training Academy on the Alamosa Campus.

"I love being able to help prepare our Cadets for their future in Law Enforcement," he said. "Being able to help our local agencies obtain qualified officers to protect our communities is a big part of why I accepted this position."

It is his job to "ensure the cadets are taught and trained on the most up-to-date standards that the Colorado POST (Peace Officer Standards

and Training) board holds."

Not only is Kindschuh a Patrol Sergeant and the K-9 handler; he is also the SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) Team Leader and the Field Training Officer for the Alamosa Police Department. When the regular patrol needs assistance with high-risk warrants, barricaded suspects or hostage situations, the SWAT team, wearing their heavily armored suits, is deployed. Kindschuh supervises the team's training, and he directs their emergency responses.

At home Kindschuh gets great support from his girlfriend Yestly and his 5-year-old son, Jaxon, who helps to care for their menagerie as part of his chores. A chihuahua named Taco, a cat, three chickens and a duck keep Jaxon busy, but his favorite, by far, is his buddy, Sammy.

Laura Gowen, Leslie Hollingsworth and Cindy Clements were selected from the Trinidad Campus.



Laura Gowen

Gowen has worked on the Trinidad Campus for 11 years and is currently the Administrative Assistant to Lynette Bates, the Vice President of Academic Affairs. She is responsible for classroom scheduling, is a Perkins Assistant, and offers support for Career and Technical Education.

"The scheduling part is really an ongoing project in itself," said Gowen. "The day usually consists of lots of communication between me and the deans and division chairs. They are my lifeline for keeping the schedule running smoothly."

Gowen addresses equipment needs with the Perkins Grant which is federally funded — the purpose being to provide up-to-date equipment to teach Career and Technical students the latest in technology.

"For instance, in automotive, a student nowadays must be able to use scanners and electronic devices for diagnostics with the newer computerized vehicles," Gowen explained.

"As much as I dearly loved working with the elderly at the nursing home prior (to working at TS), the students are a breath of fresh air here at the college. I love their energy and drive,"

she said. "And I love my co-workers."

God, children, grandchildren, dogs and chickens are her support group.... in that order. Outside of work Gowen enjoys experimenting with art materials, building simple furniture and gardening. She has made a fireplace surround, some bowed psalteries (stringed musical instruments), tables and stools and more. Her still-life paintings are impressive.

"Whether it is building something or creating a piece of artwork, I feel that process offsets some of the stress day-to-day living produces. It is my version of therapy," she said.

Trinidad High School graduate, Hollingsworth, began working at Trinidad State in 1988 after working several years in a Denver area school district and then at a bank. She has worked in the Financial Aid Office since 1990. She is the Classified Staff Member selected for employee of the year and is familiar with every aspect of financial aid from collecting and tracking required paperwork, setting up student loans, awarding scholarships and reviewing financial aid appeals.



Leslie Hollingsworth

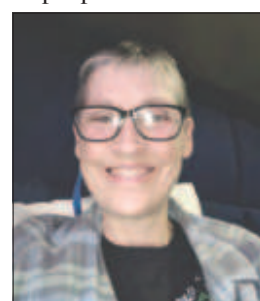
"It's a lot of detail work but I never run out of things to do," Hollingsworth said. "The best part of my job is the satisfaction that comes from being able to help students pay their student bills and in knowing my job and how things work because I've been doing it for a long time."

She is grateful for the many years

she has worked at the college. Had she not worked there, she never would have met her husband who worked for 30 years at Trinidad State in the maintenance department and is now retired. He has "always had my back," said Hollingsworth, "We are each other's sounding board."

She says her greatest enjoyment after work is "not working!" She loves old movies from the 30's and 40's and enjoys her home, her yard and her pets. With the loss of her dad a year ago, she feels blessed to still have her mom. She appreciates family, her health and the people she loves.

Mathematics Instructor, Clements, has been teaching at the college since 2006. She has a master's in theoretical mathematics which includes coursework in computer science and statistics. She has written two activity books, one for Calculus and one for Statistics and was the mathematics editor for a Statistics book. She teaches all levels of math as well as computer science and engineering courses.



Cindy Clements

"Math is my passion," she said. Beginning in 2013, Clements has been the affiliate director at Trinidad State for NASA's space grant through the Colorado Space Grant Consortium which sponsors the robot challenge at the Great Sand Dunes National Park. This year the event is scheduled for Saturday, April 15.

Clements has overseen the robotics program since 2009. Colorado college

students will participate in the challenge to better their performances of the previous year. The robots must be able to operate on their own without an operator. Trinidad State students want their robot to flip over and then continue its run.

Recently Clements ordered another truck load of sand from the San Luis Valley to allow the students to practice on the fine sand from that area in preparation for their annual robotic challenge. She is grateful to Cooley and Sons Excavating Inc. for supplying the sand.

"The best part of my job is interacting with students and watching them grow. For the students in engineering, I enjoy watching them learn how to be part of a team or how to lead and then watching where they take that in the careers and their lives," said Clements.

On Saturday, April 1, Clements' students successfully launched two high altitude balloon experiments. In this instance, scientific experiments meant to gather data are safely boxed and then attached, one at a time, to a long cord which is attached to a big balloon. Twelve to 15 experiments ascended to 107,000 feet, the balloon popped one or two hours later and landed near Colorado's eastern border. The students are now analyzing the data. In addition, two nursing students are testing wearable technology like watches that are taking vital signs. Clements is the main advisor for these teams.

Outside of work she enjoys her cats, reading, walking, and jumping on the train.

"My main thing on my bucket list is to take Canada's train from Prince Rupert (or Vancouver Island) to Prince Edward Island, with a little side trip to Churchill," she said.

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Plaintiff: BABYLON HOLDINGS LLC, a New York limited liability company	▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲
v.	
Defendants: ELVA ENDICOTT, DOUGLAS KOSS, and ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM UNDER OR THROUGH THE NAMED DEFENDANTS AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION	
Attorneys for Plaintiffs: Zachary A. Grey, Atty. Reg. 49269 Frascona, Joiner, Goodman and Greenstein P.C. 4750 Table Mesa Drive Boulder, CO 80305 Telephone: 303-494-3000 Facsimile: 303-494-6309 Email: zac@frascona.com	Case Number: 2022CV030034 Division: C Courtroom
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 You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within **21** or **35** days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within **21** or **35** days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.

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Frascona, Joiner, Goodman and Greenstein, P.C.
 /s/ Zachary A. Grey
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Mountainfilm on Tour to screen in Monte Vista April 28

CONTRIBUTED
MONTEVISTA — Mountainfilm on Tour brings a selection of culturally rich, adventure-packed and incredibly inspiring documentary films curated from the Mountainfilm festival in Telluride. The tour will visit Monte Vista at the Vali 3 Theater on April 28 with films that explore themes connected to Mountainfilm’s mission of using the power of film, art and ideas to inspire audiences to create a better world.

Mountainfilm on Tour in Monte Vista is hosted by San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!) in partnership with Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce, The Law Office of Mark Loy, LLC, Rio Grande Bank, Sweetgrass Therapeutics, and San Luis Valley Health.

SLV GO! has been organizing Mountainfilm on Tour for three years and has been working to provide residents and visitors throughout the San Luis Valley with accessible and inclusive outdoor recreation opportunities that balance conservation, connect communities, improve wellness, encourage stewardship, and contribute to the

economic vitality of the region for 10 years.

SLV GO! believes that by practicing a collective impact model and bringing stakeholders together they can provide leadership for effective collaboration among partners with shared goals that reflect the organization’s mission and the SLV vision.

While hosting an inspiring collection of films, the show is also an opportunity to raise funds for SLV GO! to support ongoing projects to inspire conservation efforts of Dark Sky. SLV GO! has gathered a unique bundle of locally made items as part of the fundraising giveaway, learn more by stopping by Rain Brews starting at 4:30 p.m. on April 28 to donate to the cause and put your name in a hat to win.

The show kicks off at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 28. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets for Mountainfilm on Tour in Monte Vista are on sale now online at eventbrite.com, search mountainfilm Monte Vista. Tickets will also be available the day of the event at Vali 3 Theater on Adams Street in Monte Vista. The cost for each show is \$15 for general admission.



Courtesy photo

‘This is Beth’ will be shown during the Mountainfilm on Tour on April 28 at the Vali 3 Theater in Monte Vista. Seven short-film documentaries will be shown.

See the complete playlist at www.mountainfilm.org/tour-show/monte-vista-co/.

Mountainfilm is a documentary film festival that showcases stories about environmental, cultural, climbing, political and social

justice issues. Mountainfilm is held every Memorial Day weekend in Telluride. Along with exceptional documentaries, the festival goes beyond the film medium by bringing together world-class athletes, change makers and visionary

artists for a multi-dimensional celebration of indomitable spirit. Mountainfilm’s mission is to use the power of film, art and ideas to inspire audiences to create a better world. To learn more about Mountainfilm, visit www.mountainfilm.org.

SLV Area Extension organizes Money Smark Week events

CONTRIBUTED
MONTE VISTA — Colorado State University SLV Area Extension’s Janae Naranjo has scheduled



free virtual programs for Money Smart Week — Saturday, April 15 through Friday, April 21. This program aims to help people better

manage their personal finances with a focus on tools for low and moderate-income communities.

This year’s line-up includes:

- Family Budgeting at 1 p.m. on Monday, April 17. Presented by Katie Cullum of the

University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture.

- Spanish language session: Instituciones Financieras at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18. Presented by Vanessa Arita Reyes of the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions

- Debt Relief at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19. Presented by Bruce McCleary of the

National Foundation for Credit Counseling

- Employer Retirement Plans at 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 20. Presented by Kimberly Johnson of the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration

For more information and application, contact Naranjo at 719-852-7138 or janae.naranjo@colostate.edu.

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Family food truck opens in Center



BY PATRICK SHEA

CENTER — Since the middle of March, town residents and travelers along Highway 112 west of Center have been pulling into the old truck scale parking lot to visit La Guayabita Tacos y Tortas.

Center Town Board Trustee Miriam Gonzales partnered with her oldest daughter Natalia Hernandez to open the food truck on March 8, but only on the weekends for now.

The mother-daughter duo also works

Miriam Gonzales (right) partnered with her daughter Natalia (far left) to open La Guayabita Tacos y Tortas. Sister Dulce helps run the food truck.

Photo by Patrick Shea

together five days a week for Valley-Wide Health Systems.

“I work as a dental assistant in the back, and she works in the front, so we have a lot of communication,” Miriam said. They carpool, too.

Noting their team chemistry, Natalia said, “There’s certain stuff I think about that my mom won’t, and some stuff she’ll think about that I won’t. So, we bring our ideas together.”

Natalia said she thought about opening a food truck in 2020 “during COVID, when people weren’t sitting in” to dine. After careful planning, they followed business registration procedures and passed inspections. Since having their sales tax license issued on March 14, they operate from noon to 8:30 p.m. on

Please see FAMILY on Page 3



Marcus Gutierrez family is asking for help

Gutierrez found with 3 inoperable brain tumors

BY MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — On Jan. 23, Renate Scott received the devastating news about her 21-year-old son, Marcus Gutierrez. He was diagnosed with three inoperable brain tumors that were malignant. Gutierrez’s family was just devastated. Scott stated that Gutierrez had begun having symptoms about two years ago from the tumors, but they never imagined that tumors could be what were causing his symptoms.

“He had been sick from his thyroid and was diagnosed with fatty liver disease,” Scott said. “Marcus had been put on thyroid medication, but the medication seemed to make him feel worse. He would take it for a while then he would stop taking it. We thought his symptoms might be coming from going back and forth on the medication. I will never forget the phone call, when he called me at one in the morning in January to tell me that he didn’t feel good. He said mom I can’t see; I don’t feel good; I think I need to go to the doctor. I think I need to be seen when I get out of work. His vision had gotten to that point because of the tumors. He was also filled with fluid, his hands, and his feet. He felt terrible. At the time he was only twenty at the beginning of the year. We never thought that tumors could

be the cause of everything.” Scott said they got him to emergency care in La Jara and were grateful for the doctors that took care of him there.

“The doctors were so good to him. When we took him in, his blood sugar was 400, his sodium level was dangerous too, the doctors told us that a fatal sodium level could be 160 and his was 164. After a few hours of trying to get his sodium and blood sugar down the doctors determined that they needed to move him. They ended up flying him to Parker, putting him in the hospital there. They flew him on a jet. We were in the hospital there for about 32 hours, before they determined he needed to be moved to ICU. He was falling quickly,” Scott said with tears in her voice. “I remember thinking how could this happen. I was so worried for my son.”

Marcus’s sister Ashley Archuleta also spoke about her brother’s condition.

“I was thankful for my mom, that she stayed there with my brother,” Archuleta said. “Marcus did not know what was going on, he was so sick. He tried to pull his IV lines out, he was so scared. We were scared for him; we did not know what was going on either. My mom told us they were going to give him an MRI and they were going to check him for tumors. That’s when we found out that he had those tumors. We also found out that he had a rare condition called diabetes insipidus. Only about 20,000 people

are diagnosed with this a year. It affects your salt and water in your body. We were just heartbroken.”

Scott said the tumors found were on the stem of his brain, and there were three tumors total.

“There was so much going on at that time, the tumors had gotten big enough that they were affecting

Please see HELP on Page 2

Renate Scott says her son Marcus Gutierrez is a fighter and will get better. Gutierrez has three inoperable brain tumors.

Courtesy photo



Partners in Stewardship Land, Water and People

BY KELLY DEFAYE

Having grown up in the San Luis Valley, I kind of consider the Rio Grande National Forest as my back yard. My parents would load us up and we’d head up into the mountains. Although I have fond memories of riding in the bed of the pickup with my siblings, and sometimes our cousins or friends, I couldn’t tell you where we were or what road we were on. I just remember cool breezes, warm sunshine, and the occasional downpour. We’d cut Christmas trees and firewood, wade in the water, or just admire the view.

Now as an adult, I tell myself every season, “Why don’t I get out into the mountains more? I really need to spend more time

out there.” These days I count myself lucky to go camping a couple times a year. If I’m really lucky, my dirt bike happens to be running at the time and I can ride some motorcycle trails. I make it a point to get a Christmas tree from the forest every year. With so many ways to use the National Forest, that’s really not a lot. But then I found a help wanted ad in the newspaper for an organization I never heard of, and here I am, working for the San Juan Mountains Association.

If you, like me, have never

heard of them, let me introduce you.

The Forest Service manages about 47% of Colorado’s forests, but they can’t do it alone. That really is a lot of ground to cover! They rely upon users to help steward the land, as well as other cooperative organizations, like interpretive associations. Interpretive associations support and provide education, programs, and information to visitors and users of public lands. These non-profit organizations provide grants,

Please see LAND on Page 2

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HELP

Continued from Page 1

everything,” Scott said. “He was no longer breathing right; his adrenal glands were affected by them. His head started filling with spinal fluid. They had to intubate him and put him in a medically induced coma to save him. They told us that his body was shutting down. They had to put in a tube to drain the fluid from his brain. He also had to be fully restrained.”

Archuleta stated that for a whole month, nobody could touch her brother, because of him being restrained and the fluid being taken out of his head, as it would build up, they would have to remove it again. Archuleta said they learned the tumors were also inoperable when they did the MRI.

Scott stated while Gutierrez was intubated, he also caught pneumonia and his right lung also collapsed. Scott stated her son was a fighter though it all, but it was the scariest experience that she has ever had in her life.

“When it’s your son there, you just don’t know how to feel you feel helpless, you want to do anything you can to help. The whole experience was so horrible,” Scott said.

Scott stated that eventually Gutierrez started getting better, but before he did, he lost the ability to walk, to talk, he was also put on a

feeding tube, Scott stated that her son went through so much but came out of it fighting.

“No matter what he has been through, he is so full of hope though,” Scott said. “He came out of his coma, he has had chemotherapy, he is on 24 pills a day, still going through so much, but there is a little bit of a rainbow here. I call him my comeback kid; he is my comeback kid. His tumors are shrinking, they have shrunk from his treatments. We are so grateful for the prayers; the phone calls, the text, everything. Marcus’s tumors have shrunk so we are hoping for the best, but he still has a long road ahead of him.”

Archuleta created a GoFundMe page, and the family is asking for donations to help with his medical expenses and treatments. Gutierrez is doing better but still has treatments and more expenses. Things are hard as he is currently unable to work and has to be watched at all times.

Scott believes that her son will continue to get better with his positive attitude aside from everything he has been through.

“He remains positive despite everything and that’s truly all we can ask for and be thankful for,” Scott said.

LAND

Continued from Page 1

staff, research funding, and many other educational activities to our public lands. Organizations like the San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) support public lands through memberships, donations, and sale of books, maps, and gifts. Without the public’s support, their work would not be possible.

Founded in 1988, the San Juan Mountains Association promotes the exploration and protection of public lands in Southwest Colorado through stewardship and conservation education for people of all ages. SJMA partners with the Rio Grande National Forest, the San Juan National Forest, and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests. Across all of these Forests, SJMA staff and volunteers host a variety of programs. SJMA’s wilderness steward crew assists the San Juan and Rio Grande National Forests in educating visitors on “Leave No Trace” practices and maintaining many trails throughout the Forest. This summer, Forest and Alpine Ambassadors will hike and drive to popular locations to promote proper use and stewardship of high use trails and educate visitors. There are also school and summer programs, homeschoolers too, and even educational programs for all ages.

So, if they’ve got all this going on, why haven’t you heard of them? While the organization was founded in 1988, they didn’t partner with the Rio Grande National Forest until early 2020. And then, you know, COVID happened, and just like everyone else, all efforts were focused on how to navigate a pandemic. At present, we have two Visitor Information Specialists, in the RGNF offices in Del Norte and Saguache. We’re hoping to grow that number, and you may run into a stewardship crew working on trails this summer.

The San Juan Mountains Association was created to educate and encourage stewardship of the San Juan Mountains. What does that

look like here in the Rio Grande National Forest? What kind of events or programs would RGNF users want? How can we all work together to better take care of our public lands? These are questions we are working to answer to connect with our valuable communities.

Look for us at community events or drop in and say hello at one of our Visitor Information Centers. I’d love to see you. And in the meantime, check us out virtually at sjma.org.

While not technically a native, Kelly grew up in the San Luis Valley. She’s a Colorado girl at heart.

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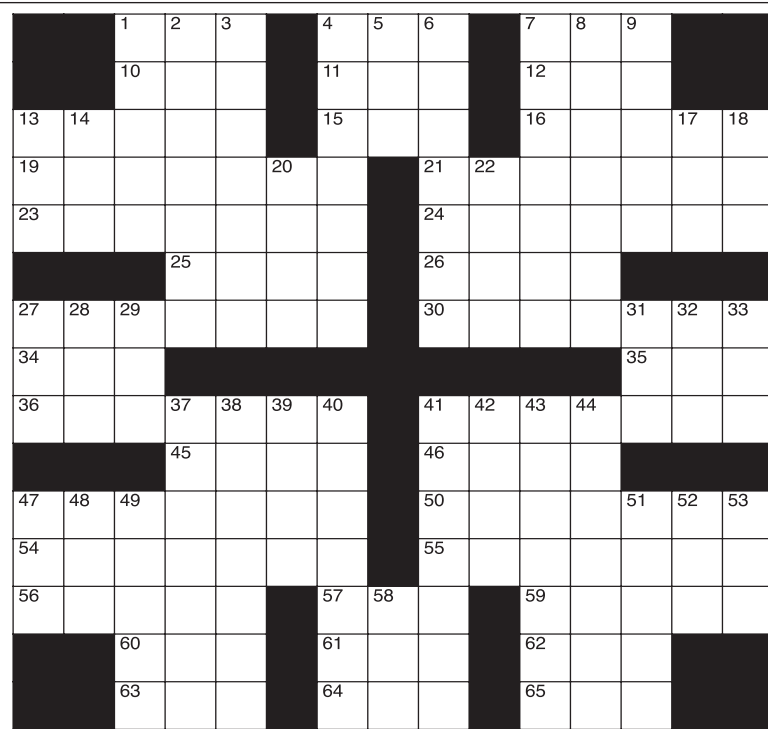
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Single Lens Reflex
4. People of southern Benin
7. One who is learned (abbr.)
10. Neckwear
11. Solid water
12. A way to work the soil
13. Inspiring
15. Pick up
16. It wakes you up
19. Parcel
21. Popular dog breed
23. Lets out a sigh
24. Embedded into the surface
25. Hard liquors
26. One from Scotland
27. Satisfy
30. Used to introduce a contrasting statement
34. Antidepressant drug type (abbr.)
35. Similar
36. Winged horse
41. Soft drink maker
45. One who doesn't live up to expectations
46. Nursemaid
47. Inheritor
50. Hot, often dusty wind
54. Serves as an introduction
55. Earned top billing
56. Mansion
57. A partner to a carrot
59. War-horse
60. Midway between

Solution to last week's puzzle

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



- northeast and east
61. It checks the heartbeat
62. Aquatic salamander
63. CNN's founder
64. Being precisely suitable and right
65. Strongly alkaline solution

27. Small European viper
28. Indicates before
29. Birth swine
31. 7
32. Useful keyboard key
33. Letter of the Greek alphabet
37. Edible mollusk
38. Stitched up
39. Utilized
40. ___ in tradition
41. A way to get through
42. Let off
43. Fashionable source of shade
44. In due time
47. Printing speed
48. A major division of geological time
49. Nocturnal, cat-like mammal
51. ___ de la ___
52. After B
53. Unusual
58. Former money of the EU

CLUES DOWN

1. Pinochle trick
2. A system of connections
3. Emblems of royalty
4. Work with a soft hand
5. Plant cultivated in Peru
6. A timid man
7. Lacking intellectual depth
8. A way to order
9. Intoxicating
13. Mimic
14. Surfers use it
17. Small Eurasian deer
18. Popular Miller beer
20. Finds out about
22. Unusual

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Photo by Patrick Shea

Bright yellow, the La Guayabita Tacos y Tortas food truck has been drawing drivers off Highway 112 in Center since opening on March 8.

FAMILY

Continued from Page 1

Saturdays and Sundays.

Miriam and Natalia work the grill, and younger daughter Dulce Gonzales runs the register. Although he claims he's not important, Miriam's husband Raul swaps out propane and helps keep the operation running. Born in Monte Vista, Raul was raised in Center, and like his daughters he was a Viking.

During the wrestling tournament at the school on April 1, Miriam and her team easily managed multiple orders from hungry athletes and fans. Then they moved the truck downtown, attracted music lovers, and remained open until around midnight.

The name La Guayabita Tacos y Tortas is a mouthful, a lot like the burritos, tacos, and sandwiches on the menu. Natalia petitioned for "Tacos Contento" to reflect happiness, but she had to settle for putting "Burrito Contento" on the menu because her mom wanted to pay tribute to her hometown.

One of five siblings, Miriam was born and raised in Calvillo, Aguascalientes, considered by many to be the guava capital of the world. Guavas have more vitamin C than oranges, as well as other nutrients. Miriam said people back home use the entire fruit for sauces, teas, candies, and more.

"I even have earrings made from guava," Miriam added.

"Here, you see the fields with potatoes and other products," Miriam explained. "Over there, the main thing you see is guava."

La Guayabita refers to a smaller guava. The company logo shows a guava crafted into a taco (or torta) with a knife and fork attached above "La Guayabita Tacos y Tortas."

Now 21 and married, Natalia Hernandez said she started working at Leonardo's Restaurant in Center when she was 14 years old. Moving between the kitchen and

the dining room, she observed different restaurant processes. As a Center Viking, she also completed her Capstone project in cooperation with town hall officials. She is currently on the Center Planning Committee for the North 90 project.

"I told my mom," Natalia explained, "it's important for the young crowd to be active in the community."

Dulce is now 16, and Natalia said helping with the food truck is her sister's first job.

"This will teach her a lot of skills, social skills," Natalia added.

Miriam is part of the morning crew driving buses for Center Schools, and she also works a couple days a week at Cesar Chavez Family Medical Center.

"So, I'm a busy woman," Miriam said.

Although opening full-time and traveling to other locations for special events may be on the calendar in the future, La Guayabita Tacos y Tortas will be a weekend operation in town for now.

"I'm enjoying what I'm doing," Miriam said. "And I enjoy being around my kids and the community."

Looking ahead, the Second Annual C-Town Classic and Custom Car Show will take place at Center Community Park April 15 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is \$20, but admission is free to the public. Call 719-239-4726 or 719-480-0400, for more information. Although food and music are part of the celebration at the park, La Guayabita Tacos y Tortas will be open.

SLVH hosting health fairs in Monte Vista and La Jara

San Luis Valley Health will be hosting two health fairs at their locations in La Jara and Monte Vista in April. The blood draw information can be found on the slvh.org website under the page for the Lab. All prices are found on the Direct To Consumer page.

Walk in, all payment forms accepted, 8 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 15, at Conejos County Hospital or Saturday, April 22, at the Monte Vista Community Clinic.

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05 Notices

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

07 Help Wanted

The Upper Rio Grande School District has received a grant for a full time K-12 School Counselor - for the next 3 years, starting in the 2023-2024 school year. Applicants must have a Master's Degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain an appropriate Colorado school counselor license. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Amy Duda, DNES Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Amy at 719-657-4050. Applications for certified staff positions can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co. (4-26)

K - 8th Grade Music Teacher needed at the Upper Rio Grande School District for the 2023-2024 school year. We are seeking an experienced, 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, Elementary Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Duda at 719-657-4050. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (4-26)

Del Norte Elementary School Teacher needed at the URGSD. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team for the 2023-2024 school year. 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. (4-26)

Center School District is now accepting applications for the position of Preschool/Toddler Teacher for the 2023-2024 School Year. Center Consolidated School District 26Jt is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Qualifications; AA in Early Childhood Education preferred or willing to obtain qualifications. Experience working with Preschool/Toddler Age Children in an educational environment, or, such alternative as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. All candidates must pass background checks. Current or former Head Start or Early Head Start parents

encouraged to apply. 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 (4-26)

Center School District is now accepting applications for the position of BOE Secretary Administrative Office Assistant beginning May 2023. Center Consolidated School District 26Jt is paying single health insurance benefits, beginning salary \$36,154.00. Qualifications; Post-secondary education preferred, with experience in office management, bilingual, computer use, word processing and book-keeping, 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: 4/20/23. EOE

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Valley Wide Classifieds

Rio Grande County Public Health Department is seeking a Health Equity Program Specialist. Grant-funded position addresses health access and information issues, related com-

municable diseases and health equity. Starting at \$20.96 - \$21.80 per hour DOE. Benefits include healthcare, retirement, paid holidays. within the Rio Grande County. Pre-employment drug testing, including marijuana screening, and a background check required. Application and full job description available at www.riograndecounty.org or Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Application deadline: Until filled. (4-12)

Rio Grande County is seeking a 3/4-time Airport Manager, 30 hours per week, starting at

\$20.99 - \$22.43 per hour. Potential to develop into a full-time position. Includes retirement and paid holidays. Plans, coordinates, and monitors activities related to the operations and maintenance of the county airport. HS diploma required. Bachelor's degree in Aviation Management, Business Administration, or a related field, and two years of experience in the aviation industry preferred. Pre-employment drug testing, including marijuana screening, and a background check required. Application and job description available at www.riograndecounty.org or Human Resources, 925

6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Application deadline: Until filled. (4-12)

Rio Grande County, Colorado is seeking a part-time Assistant Airport Manager. 20 hours per week, \$17.18 - \$18.34 per hour. Includes retirement and paid holidays. Assists with airport operations, maintenance, and regulatory compliance. Some weekends and evenings required. HS diploma required. Pre-employment drug testing, including marijuana screening, and a background check required. Application and job description available at www.riograndecounty.org

or Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Application deadline: Until filled.

Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office seeking Jail Commander. Assists Sheriff in planning and administering jail activities. Establishes procedures, equipment needs, and manpower requirements. Must be 21 years of age, with min. 3 years of Supervisory/leadership training and/or experience, pass extensive background check, possess valid driver's license and HS diploma or GED. Salary range \$51,979 - \$54,059 DOE. Pick up/submit

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2023

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Valley Wide Classifieds

applications: Human Resource Office: 925 6th St., Room 200, Del Norte, CO or on-line at www.riograndecounty.org. Deadline Until filled.

Rio Grande County Public Health Department is seeking a full-time Office Assistant, starting at \$17.18 - \$17.86 per hour DOE. The Public Health Office Assistant provides support to front office operations, Director and Operations Manager, and programmatic support for general public health work. HS diploma or GED required. Pre-employment drug testing, including marijuana screening, and a background check required. Application and job description available at www.riograndecounty.org or Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Application deadline: Until filled.

The Rio Grande County Assessor's Office is seeking a full-time Assessor's Office Clerk. 40 hours per week, starting at \$17.18 per hour. Benefits include health care, retirement and paid holidays. Assists the County Assessor by performing a variety of clerical duties including the maintenance of real estate and/or ownership records and assisting the public by telephone or in person at the Assessor's office. High school diploma or GED and valid driver's license required. Pre-employment drug testing, including marijuana screening, and a background check required. Application and job description available at www.riograndecounty.org or Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Application deadline: Until filled. (4-19)

Rio Grande County Administration seeking full-time Office Assistant, starting at \$16.08 - \$16.73 per hour DOE. Benefits include healthcare, retirement, paid holidays. Office Assistant provides front office operations support and assists with administrative support to the County Commissioners, the County Administrator, and the Chief Financial Officer. HS diploma or GED required. Pre-employment drug testing, including marijuana screening, and a background check required. Application and job description available at www.riograndecounty.org or Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Application deadline: Until filled. (4-12)

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12 Houses for Rent

Available May 1, a remodeled charming two bedroom/1.75 bath home in Del Norte. Pets are prohibited. One year lease. Credit report required. \$850/month. Please leave a message at 719-850-0750. (4-12)

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17 Real Estate For Sale

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

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

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

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

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47 Horses & Cattle

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48 Pets and Supplies

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LOST & FOUND



Deckland is our 8 month old Lab mix who's STILL HERE! He's great with other dogs, kids, people, cats, etc. Wonderful on leash, very playful but knows when it's time to relax. Deckland is a very intelligent young man and will be very easy to get into your routine. Come take him home today!



Justice is a wonderful Pittie mix who's about 4 years old and is ready for her furever home! She's a little rough on the dogs she plays with so meet and greets are definitely required, but she's an absolute sweetheart! Justice loves to chew on her tennis balls and play with her people, but is a truly strong girl. Come meet her today!



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It's warming up, so that means playtime outside is longer, and we have more time for training exercises with them. If you could help us out with treats, snuffle mats, lick mats, or other enrichment items we would really appreciate it!

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



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\$375,000
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Fabulous 7 bed, 5 bath 4,619 Sq. Ft. Home with attached garage on 9.04 acres in Beautiful gated Bear Creek.

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

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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 throughout the building for music. Swamp cooler and wired for electric dryer, set up for washer and has a Propane fired boiler and propane hot water heater. This property is a blank canvas with so much POTENTIAL for the right builder or person. Because there is no existing business at the present time, this makes this building available for a variety of Business opportunities: Professional Work Environment for Professionals, Restaurant, Brew Pub, Events Center, Lodge or Cottage hotel, Retail etc. Come Paint your Canvas and start Your Business Adventure. Call and schedule your personal showing today! **\$1,250,000** MLS #794078
173 W Frontage Road • South Fork

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

FARM REDUCED!



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

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

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FOR SALE!

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



with beautiful furnishing, accessories and decor. The kitchen with eat in counter, gorgeous custom cabinetry, granite countertops and butler pantry is your dream kitchen for entertaining your family and friends. Separate office space off the dining area with patio door leads out to the great outdoors. There are two guest rooms one with private bath could be considered a separate master bedroom. Large master bedroom with large walk-in closet, fireplace gorgeous walk-in shower and access to deck with hot tub. Take in the stunning views from the main floor outdoor balcony. Your perfect place for that hot morning cup of coffee or relaxing evening glass of wine. This is a luxurious home located with private access to the national forest in The Timbers subdivision of South Fork Ranches. All this, just moments from Rio Grande Golf Club, Rio Grande River gold medal fishing and world class skiing at Wolf Creek Ski area. Don't wait call and schedule your private showing today! **\$1,250,000** MLS #798101
497 Timberline Drive • South Fork

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FOR SALE!

Darling authentic 1,232 Sq. Ft. 2-bedroom 2 bath log cabin with upgrades galore! Located in Log Haven. Tucked along the mountain side backing up to national forest with beautiful views of the surrounding cliffs. Open living room, dining, kitchen area with new propane Vermont Casting stove to keep you cozy and warm all winter long. Kitchen is quaint and bright with custom granite countertops. This cabin has a covered front porch and wonderful back deck. The perfect place to enjoy the wildlife, peace and quiet and that first hot cup of morning coffee. Nice fence back yard with gate opening to the national forest. Hike for miles off 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! **\$345,000** MLS #800364
31517 Us Highway 160 • South Fork



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



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