

Shorts

Community Good Friday Service set for April 7

MONTE VISTA — The congregants of St. Stephen the Martyr Episcopal Church located at 3rd and Washington streets in Monte Vista are hosting the Community Good Friday Service at noon on April 7. The service will be conducted by the church's Lay Pastoral Leader and members of the community.

Del Norte Easter Egg Hunt is April 8

DEL NORTE — The De Norte Christian Association/Knights of Columbus Council No. 2688 are sponsoring the Second Annual Easter Egg Hunt for youth at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 8 at the town's North Park in Del Norte.

SLVH hosting health fairs in MV 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.

365 Health Fair set for April 15 in Fort Garland

BY DIANE DREKMANN
FORT GARLAND — With spring around the corner, there has been a focus on health. It is time again for 365 Health Fair, formerly the 9 Health Fair. This year's event is from 7 to 11 a.m. on April 15 at the Fort Garland-Blanca community center and is being hosted by the Costilla County Public Health Agency.

Amber Maestas of CCPHA encourages everyone to attend this free event.

"People are getting back to a regular routine," she said.

There will be several free screenings, Maestas said.

"For vision, cholesterol, A1C for diabetes, and testing for Hepatitis C," she said.

Lab tests are available and provided by Quest Diagnostics, but they require a nominal fee. A person does not need to fast before lab work. But registration is required to have lab tests done, either online at 365Health.org or at the Health Fair.

Maestas wants the community to learn about resources that are available. The 365 Health Fair is also offering free COVID vaccines. People who get a vaccine will receive a gift card.

Many community partners joined with Costilla County Public Health Agency to put on the event. Local restaurants provided gift certificates for raffle-door prizes.

ASU AS&F President Villagomez recognized for leadership skills



Jose Villagomez

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — Once again, Jose Villagomez, Class of 2023, received recognition for his achievements as an Adams State University student leader. He was selected as the recipient of the Colorado Coalition for the Educational Advancement of Latinxs (CoCEAL) Student Impact Practice Award for his work as president of Adams State Associated Students and Faculty (AS&F).

"Something I always say is that the title of president doesn't make you a great president," Villagomez said. "You must work hard and show that you are a good president and not expect rewards in return."

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, AS&F lost momentum and Villagomez was determined to return AS&F back to a working government for all students.

"I brought concerns to the Adams State administration and made those who feel like they don't have a voice on campus feel like they do once again," he said.

Villagomez appreciates the entire student government E-Team, including Amanda Sparks, chief justice; Jovanna Arroyo, VP of finance; Madison (Lizzie) Wilson, executive secretary; and Keaton Gregg, VP of internal.

"I am just so proud that AS&F

has grown as a group of individuals and has adapted as a whole to all these changes after the pandemic. If it wasn't for my AS&F E-team, I wouldn't be able to have been this successful," Villagomez said.

He will receive the award on March 31, at the CoCEAL spring membership meeting at Colorado School of Mines. A sociology major, Villagomez graduated from Center High School.

"I would also like to thank my parents because without them I would not be who I am today. Gracias mamá y papa," he said.

For more information about CoCEAL, visit <http://coceal.org/wp/>.

Local food ideas sprout at SLV Seed Exchange

BY PATRICK SHEA

MOFFAT — The 13th annual San Luis Valley Seed Exchange at Joyful Journey April 1-2 drew farmers, gardeners, and an enthusiastic audience to discuss local food management and share seeds.

Between Villa Grove and Moffat on Highway 17, Joyful Journey opened the doors for vendors, presenters, and free of charge to the public. Staff also prepared food, leveraging Valley Roots Food Hub like they do year-round. Also, Tacos Martinez out of Alamosa served meals. On both days, people swarmed the seed swap in the main event center.

In the Green Yurt, TerraMedia out *Please see SEED on Page 5A*



Photos by Patrick Shea

Tylor Berreth presented fundamental mushroom cultivation concepts on the second day of the 13th Annual San Luis Valley Seed Exchange at Joyful Journey April 2.



In her fifth year helping run the San Luis Valley Seed Exchange, Jae Sanders introduced speakers and concluded the two-day event with a presentation called, "Proactive model for healthy food access in small, rural, and frontier communities."

State-level land-use codes loom

BY PATRICK SHEA

SAGUACHE COUNTY — As the state steps in with local land use requirements, Saguache and Conejos counties are two of five in Colorado that are currently functioning

Please see CODES on Page 2A

A sparse crowd attended what might be the fastest Saguache County Planning Commission meeting in history on March 30.

Photo by Patrick Shea



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 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 *Please see TRUCK on Page 8A*



Photo by Patrick Shea

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

A proper farewell



Photo by John Waters

About 50 people attended the memorial service held on April 1 at the Alamosa Cemetery for longtime San Luis Valley resident and Vietnam War veteran Creed de Avanzar. De Avanzar died in January 2022 and was cremated. Recently, the cremains were obtained by Alamosa County Veterans Service Officer Bill Brown, who organized the military funeral service, including the honor guard pictured here folding the American flag. Proper flag folding etiquette calls for the flag to be folded 13 times. After being folded, the flag was presented to de Avanzar's longtime friend and business partner, Sandra Goodwin. Per his request, the cremains of de Avanzar will be scattered, according to Goodwin.

OBITUARY

Gladys Eilene Duncan

Gladys Eilene Duncan, 98, passed away peacefully on March 24, 2023, at River Valley Rehabilitation Healthcare Center. Her daughter Judy was by her side.

Gladys was born on May 27, 1924, in Ukiah, Calif., to Daniel McClaws and Edna Black McClaws.

Gladys lived an extraordinary life. She worked the wee morning hours at Harold's Club as a pastry chef, played bingo whenever she could and cross-country skied into her 80's. She lived in California, Nevada, Hawaii, North Carolina and Colorado.

She is survived by daughters Judy (Lloyd) Wright of Del Norte, Colo., and Ann Monter of Monte Vista, Colo.; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who all loved her very much.

Memorial Service will be held May 27, 2023, 2 p.m. at the Pioneer United Church in Del Norte, Colo.

Arrangements in Care of Strohmayer's Funeral Home of Monte Vista.



SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between March 27 and April 1, 2023.

Sheriff staff searched for a person missing along Highway 285 a few miles south of Saguache. They presided over a civil standby in Saguache, a civil dispute in Moffat, three controlled burns, and harassment in Crestone. They also helped during the wrestling tournament at Center Schools on April 1.

Staff patrolled Saguache six times, and they responded to two reports of suspicious activity, an animal problem

in Moffat, and theft in Crestone. They conducted a welfare check near Bonanza.

Staff assisted motorists and issued six speeding tickets (\$1,080 in total fines). They also issued one REDDI Report (Report Every Drunk Driver Immediately) and made 13 traffic stops.

ARRESTS

• A 30-year-old Monte Vista man was arrested and held on \$1,000 bail for failing to appear in court.

• A 31-year-old Alamosa man was arrested and held on \$500 bail for failing to appear in court.

Coroner releases name of man killed in MVPD officer-involved shooting

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

MONTE VISTA — The 18-year-old man who was killed in a Monte Vista Police Department officer-involved shooting has been identified by the Rio Grande County coroner as Xavier E. Sanchez. According to a statement from Stephen Hunzeker, Rio Grande County coroner, the cause of death is still under investigation pending completion of the medical examiner's autopsy report.

A March 29 press release from the

Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) stated that, on Tuesday, March 21, MVPD officers Sgt. Michael Martinez and Cpl. David Pino responded to a residence at 1007 S. Broadway St. in Monte Vista on a call from an individual inside the house saying, "a man had two knives."

According to CBI, upon the officers' arrival at the residence's front door, Sanchez jumped from a front window and ran at both officers, "swinging both knives" and "barely missing the officers."

Cpl. Pino deployed his taser and Sgt. Martinez fired his handgun. Upon retreating backward from Sanchez, Cpl. Pino fell and then fired his handgun.

Sanchez was declared deceased at the scene.

CBI continues investigating the shooting and will submit its findings to 12th Judicial District Attorney Anne Kelly when completed. No further information from either CBI or the Rio Grande coroner's office is available at this time.

CODES

Continued from Page 1A

without building codes. Without declaring which code to use — 2018 or 2021 — Saguache County would be forced to follow the strictest standards in 2026.

Before the state requirement forced action this year, Saguache County Planning Commissioners and property owners were already addressing code compliance challenges. At the same time, the towns of Moffat and Center have been rejuvenating and creating new planning commissions and boards of adjustment.

The focus on building and planning across the county is overbooked. While the Planning Commission met at the Road and Bridge Building in Saguache on March 30, for example, another gathering of concerned citizens touched on many of the same considerations at the Elephant Cloud in Crestone. From 4 to 5 p.m. the Crestone group held a free-wheeling discussion. Promptly at 5 p.m., they started the meeting, which turned out to be more productive because many people had already shared information and perspective for an hour.

With 14 people attending via Zoom, 29 who signed the sheet in person, and an estimated eight people who didn't sign in, roughly 50 participated at the Elephant Cloud. Among the many questions raised, the participants wondered about the impact on alternative building practices. Will the codes require a technical tie-in to the grid? How will the code apply to alternative septic systems? In practical terms, they also wondered about alternative building materials, specifications for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), and the code's effect on remodeling projects. Participants also asked how they can take part when hiring building inspectors. Currently, only a handful of qualified inspectors are operating in the Valley.

The Saguache County Planning Commission efficiently approved

the requests before them and finished in roughly 30 minutes. Now supported by alternate Rebecca Brian, Jeff Shook asked if Brian's interview with commissioners a few weeks ago represented a template for the future.

Land Use Director Amber Wilson did not know, but she noted that the topic is on the agenda for the April 27 Planning Commission meeting with the three county commissioners, starting at 9 a.m. at the Road and Bridge room. The commissioners extended invitations to Alamosa and Chaffee counties' building inspection professionals to discuss their codes during the meeting.

When asked if the state is offering help with the current push for code compliance, Wilson said, "Xcel Energy is funding a firm to help people try to adopt the codes. We have been working with a woman named Hope Medina, and she is working with the entire San Luis Valley to get something adopted — to at least the 2018 code. That's where we're aiming."

Separate from the state-defined building codes, the Saguache County Land Use Department has already published a number of documents over the years. The department handles conditional-use requests, special-use permit requests, special-event permits, subdivision exemptions, septic documentation, and the far-ranging "variance request."

Under "Cause for Variance" on the request form, five categories include property condition, circumstances in the district, source of hardship, special exemption for solar access, and a detailed section for mobile homes.

For "source of hardship," the regulation states, "Whether such unnecessary hardship has not been created by the applicant." The hardship for a property owner whose trailer roof blew off, for example, might be insufficient funds to pay for repairs. This same applicant may

not have the minimum of \$1,000 required to make the request.

Applying for a variance requires 80 days at a minimum, from start to finish. Approved applicants have a year to meet all requirements before the approval expires. The first step includes submitting the application 45 days ahead of an eligible Saguache County Planning Commission hearing. This essentially skips a monthly meeting to give board members time to evaluate the request and enable meaningful discussion when the meeting finally occurs.

Meanwhile, the property owner must gather documentation and come prepared with money for certified mailing costs to reach all adjacent property owners. Bigger, non-refundable fees might become a deal-breaker for some variance requests. If the applicant still owes taxes, they need to zero out the account and then pay a \$20 fee to certify the balance. If inspections are required, they need to reimburse mileage at 32 cents per mile. The board will not review the request until the applicant pays all taxes due.

As Wilson noted, the April 27 Planning Commission meeting will feature all three county commissioners and building code specialists in nearby counties, starting at the Road and Bridge Room at 9 a.m.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Never seen a wedding at a boat ramp

Spring has sprung down here in Texas where Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie spend our winters. In fact, it may have just sprung right past Spring and headed into an early summer as temperatures today are going to be North of 90 degrees. One thing you will find wherever you are on the Great Plains is that if you do not like the weather, you can wait 24 hours and it will usually change. And that can mean using the heater one day and air conditioning the next, which is what has occurred here where we are.

Many of you know Miss Trixie has been stuck in Amarillo for going on 13 weeks now taking care of her dad who had open heart surgery and complications. And that left Ol' Dutch to fend for himself. So far there has not been one casserole dropped off at my door by the eligible widow women around the area so I guess they still think Miss Trixie will return and claim my pension.

I think the hardest part of all about having Trixie gone is I have a hard time filling my days without someone telling me what to think and what to do. So, I have had to resort back to bachelor day thinking and that of course meant more fishing.

Number one son Bub's and Grand #1 and #2 have been going to the lake recently and Ol' Dutch is lucky enough to get to tag along. What is best of all is we have gone full circle as now all I have to do is show up and he has lunch, snacks, drinks, fishing rods, tackle, and a boat. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would be able to get even for all the days I took him afield when he was growing up, providing all his gear and food and boat for the day but here I am, enjoying being old.

If you have ever had a boat, you understand just what exactly that world stands for. BOAT is "break out another thousand" as they are cranky to crank and temperamental requiring vast inputs of cash and time. Bubs finally has a good boat unlike the ones we had in his youth and so it is nice to be able to go back on the lake and have it start on the first try.

This means a person can spend time fishing instead of swearing and working on the boat at the ramp. And there is not a time that goes by when we arrive that I am not thankful for that. But one thing



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

you will notice if you sit at a boat ramp long enough is it is a real insight into people's mental state. Just last week was a prime example of that as I arrived early at the lake and got to watch the loading and unloading of boats from the water.

Of course, some went off without a hitch, but others turned into full blown family fights, accidents, trying to fix them, swearing, yelling, and a few spankings of naughty children. There is nothing more stressful to a marriage I do not believe than a husband and wife trying to back a trailer into the lake. Usually this entails the husband sitting in the boat hollering at the wife as she tries her best to guide a boat into the water.

Of course, this could be avoided if the husband backs the trailer in and lets his wife drive the boat, but that would border on mutiny as he sees himself as the captain of the ship. Eventually they get the darned thing in the water and head out for a day on the lake with the kids spanked and cross looks on their faces. Oh, the joys of family time.

And while we have seen weddings take place anywhere from mountain tops, to streamside, to even the local Walmart store, I can honestly say I have never heard of a wedding occurring at said public venue. But if you are getting weary of the one you are with, I recommend buying a boat this weekend as more divorces start at a boat ramp than anywhere else in the world. Get out there, enjoy the sun and take an attorney along.

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.

Silence is toxic

By DAVID JAMES HARGIS

We do not prevent child abuse by accepting it. We do not prevent it by being shy, embarrassed, or quiet about it. We prevent it by speaking out, asking questions, finding answers, and advocating for those who need us most, our kids. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and we need to talk about it. We need to talk about what is happening to kids in our communities and beyond. We need to talk about why some parents mistreat the ones they love the most. We need to talk about why we, as a community, must remain vigilant in protecting all our children.

Not talking about child abuse is not a solution. Not acting to prevent child abuse is not an option. Every time we accept child abuse as being a part of life, kids suffer. Kids die. Families are damaged, often beyond repair, and futures are destroyed. We can do better, if we chose to listen, learn, and speak out in defense of kids, teens, and families everywhere. We cannot rely on politicians or experts alone. Everyone needs to take a stand to protect children from abuse and neglect. It takes the united voices of our communities to enact real change. It takes a village is a cliché for a reason because it is true.

The foremost thing we can do is become informed about both the problems and the potential solutions. The information is out there, strewn across the internet, but many just do not know the questions to ask or where to look. We are also trapped into an ideology that abusive parents are more criminal than misguided. Granted, criminal abuse does exist and should be dealt with, but for most, things are often more complicated.

Unfortunately, many parents and caregivers are not well versed in parenting and do not always understand or accept the harm they are doing or allowing to be done. They often rely on past experiences of how they were raised or the advice of other caregivers who lack a modern understanding of contemporary child-rearing strategies and techniques. Many are trapped by fear of consequences or the actions of others. This often leads to generational damage to families that not only harm kids but teaches them lessons they may carry forward into their own adult lives.

Additionally, many families exist under social and economic conditions that lay unprecedented levels of stress on caregivers, who often do not know how to cope with the situations they find themselves in or the raw emotions that grow out of the events and circumstances of their lives. Children frequently become innocent victims when parents, unable to cope, lash out. While unacceptable, we need to find solutions that deliver meaningful healing to families desperately in need of empathy and guidance.

According to Cassidy Meehan, Director of Social-Emotional Learning at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley, "Research has definitively shown that children have better life outcomes when they can remain home with their parents. We are in a time where professionals are working to find a balance between keeping the children in our communities safe, while also honoring and supporting parents. More and more, professional communities are acknowledging that parenting is hard. It can be

frustrating, time consuming, and exhausting." Punitive consequences alone seldom create positive change. A more proactive approach is long overdue.

We need to educate ourselves about child abuse and the solutions we can create that will minimize the problems that allow it to manifest in troubled families. Web-based resources like www.childwelfare.gov and www.healthychildren.org are a good first step towards being better informed. Websites like www.cdc.gov/parents and www.childdevelopmentinfo.com provide strategies and support for parents who need help.

Reach out. Ask questions. Call for help. Parents Helping Parents has a 24/7 Parent Stress Line at 1-800-632-8188 and the San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group's Emergency Service Line is 719-589-3671. Use them to get the help you need. Local organizations like the Boys & Girls Clubs, Tu Casa, Inc., and others, help community members find local resources that help those in need. If there is harm or the threat of harm, always call 911.

When our children suffer, we all suffer. By providing families with resources, be it job training, food assistance, or warm winter coats, we strengthen our community and create the potential for positive futures for generations to come. Ask questions that matter. Advocate for kids, families, and communities. Do not let silence win. Start talking.

David James Hargis is a Marketing & Resource Development Specialist with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley. He can be reached at marketing@bgcslv.org.

LETTERS

Losing too many children to horrific and preventable deaths

Editor,

I am writing to you with a heavy heart. It has now been over a week since our community experienced a very tragic event. It was reported that the police took down and killed a "man" who charged at them with knives during a wellness check. An awful picture was published from the officer's body cam portraying this individual as a monster.

I am a member of this community, I am a wife and mother, and I am also an educator from the DELTA Center where this "man" was a student. No one mentioned his name! No one mentioned that he was a student. No one mentioned that he was a brother. No one mentioned how intelligent and artistic he was. No one mentioned that

people loved and cared about him. No one mentioned that he had a soul that was extremely traumatized and was battling mental health issues. My heart hurts and I am not alone. I am wishing things could have been different for this teen, not a man as stated in the paper.

I think we as humans need to stop for a moment and do a little self-reflection on what it is to be compassionate. We as a society have seemed to have gotten hardened and eager to point the finger, even when we don't have all the facts or answers. Rarely are things ever black and white. It feels that our existence is one of imbalance. We all feel a sense of injustice about so many things.

My wish is for us to be more productive on how WE can help make our community better. We all

need to do our part. We need more support in every aspect. Behavioral health, the police, the community, the educators, and medical workers are all in such high demand and are facing issues that are causing severe exhaustion and burnout. We need to support everyone and have productive conversations on how we all can do better to make our community become a safer place. Not only do we, but our youth deserve to feel safe, stable, loved, and have a sense of worth. We have so much healing to do. We are losing too many children to horrific and preventable deaths. It should never be considered normal, deserved or acceptable.

*Jenny Noonan
Monte Vista*

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THE CENTER POST-DISPATCH (USPS 775-900) Published weekly (every Thursday) by Valley Publishing. (719) 852-3531 at 835 First Ave., Monte Vista, Colorado 81144-1423. Official newspaper of the Town of Center, and a legal newspaper in Saguache County.
Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144
Main office, Want ads and Subscriptions: (719) 852-3531
Periodical postage paid at Monte Vista, Colo., 81144
POSTMASTER: Send change of address to P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144
Subscriptions: \$45 one year in the San Luis Valley; \$40 one year seniors (65 and older) in the San Luis Valley; and \$55 one year out of the San Luis Valley. (719) 852-3531
News Media Corporation website: <http://www.newsmediacorporation.com>

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April is Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month

CONTRIBUTED

DEL NORTE — April is Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month, a time to educate the community about limb preservation and emphasize the importance of early evaluation and treatment to prevent amputations.

Of the estimated 150,000 lower limb amputations performed in the U.S. each year, approximately 82 percent stem from a diabetic foot ulcer. When a patient with diabetes fails to keep blood glucose levels under control, a lack of blood flow to the lower limbs can result in the development of ulcerations or open sores. Symptoms include redness, increased warmth or firmness around the wound, swelling, extra

drainage, pus or odor.

Some patients with diabetes also develop peripheral neuropathy, or a loss of sensation in the lower limbs and feet. A simple cut or scrape can remain undetected and quickly develop into a severely infected wound. Patients often find themselves in the



ER with a systemic infection and need urgent treatment.

It's important for anyone with diabetes or cardiovascular disease to examine their feet and legs daily. If a wound does not heal on its own within 30 days, the risk of amputation and early

death increases. In fact, a recent study shows that lower limb amputations have a three-year mortality risk of 71 percent.

"A chronic diabetic foot ulcer is one of

the most common conditions we treat and early evaluation is critical to help avoid limb loss," said Dr. Tiffany Ward, Rio Grande Hospital's Wound Care Center. "With proper intervention, most chronic wounds can be healed within four to six weeks and in most cases, amputation can be avoided."

Wound treatment typically includes debridement, or the removal of dead tissue, management of the infection with the application of advanced wound care dressings or medications, off-loading or taking pressure off the area, and of course, keeping blood glucose levels under control. When a wound still does not respond to standard treatment, hyperbaric oxygen therapy may be indicated.

It's important to be proactive and examine the feet and legs every day. Here are four tips for limb preservation, particularly for individuals with diabetes:

• Be on the lookout for early warning signs of a diabetic foot ulcer including

cuts, sores or blisters on the feet or toes that won't heal.

• Wear appropriate shoes. Since diabetic neuropathy can prevent you from feeling very hot pavement or other items that could injure the feet, it's important to not walk around barefoot and wear properly fitted footwear.

• Keep the feet clean, moisturized, and covered! Safely trim your toenails and if you have difficulty caring for your own nails, seek help.

• Manage blood glucose levels. For diabetics, the best way to prevent foot problems is to keep glucose levels under control. It will also help wounds heal more quickly.

The Rio Grande Hospital's Wound Care Center consists of a multidisciplinary team of specialists dedicated to healing wounds, saving limbs, and improving the lives of our patients. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 719-657-3277.

Andrew Kelher promoted to Acting Forest Supervisor

Temporary promotion to last 4 months

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — The Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) announced Thursday, March 30, that Andrew Kelher was appointed to serve as the Acting Forest Supervisor for the Forest.

Kelher has served as the Deputy Forest Supervisor since February 2022. Previously, he served in both District Ranger and Deputy District Ranger positions on the Kaibab National Forest in Arizona. Kelher holds degrees in Rangeland Management and Crop and Soil Science from Oregon State University in La Grande.

"I am pleased that Regional Forester, Frank Beum, selected Andy to serve in the position in my absence," said Forest Supervisor, Dan Dallas. "Over

the past year, Andy has displayed exemplary leadership skills during a challenging time as we worked tirelessly to fill numerous vacant positions. This should be an easy transition for him."

Kelher added, "It has been a pleasure getting to know the employees of the Forest and meeting so many members and leaders of the communities we serve. I am excited to take on this new role and work with even more people in this new and different capacity."

Kelher will be in the position until late July when Dallas returns from his temporary assignment as the Director of Renewable Resources for the Rocky Mountain Region of the Forest Service.

In his spare time, Kelher likes to spend time outdoors always seeking new places to fish. When not fishing, he spends time with his wife at home, tending vegetable gardens and reading science fiction.

Moran to serve as acting RGNF Divide District Ranger

CONTRIBUTED

DEL NORTE — The Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) announced Monday, April 3, that Patrick Moran has begun serving as the acting District Ranger on the Divide Ranger District based out of Del Norte. Moran is returning to the RGNF after serving as the Forest's Soil Science/Ecologist/Climate Change Coordinator on the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire since July 2021. Prior to that appointment, Moran was the Watershed, Soils and Minerals Program Manager on the Rio Grande.

"I look forward to working with Patrick Moran as he serves in this leadership position on the Divide Ranger District," said Acting Forest Supervisor, Andy Kelher. "Patrick's

knowledge of the Forest will be advantageous to the District, Forest and the community."

Moran added, "I am excited to return to the San Luis Valley and serve the communities as the Acting District Ranger. I look forward to working with colleagues I've known for years and the communities that have a special place in my heart."

Moran steps into the position behind Martha Williamson, who has served in the role since 2014 and is leaving the RGNF for a new position in the Forest Service's international Disaster Assistance Support Program. Moran will serve a four-month appointment.

In their free time, Moran and his family enjoy riding bikes, playing



Patrick Moran

board games and exploring the outdoors with their dogs.

Easter Services

Happy **Creede Baptist Church**
Easter Services
 Sunday, April 9, 2023
 9:45 a.m. Bibles Studies
 11:00 a.m. Worship & Children's Church
 12:15 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt
 600 La Garita St. • Creede

Gateway Church
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Helitack, firefighters, and Jaws of life descend on Adams State

By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA — The Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) and its partners were on the campus of Adams State University on Tuesday, March 28, as part of Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Week.

Community Risk Reduction is a process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by the integrated and strategic investment of resources to reduce their occurrence and impact. CRR Week aims to raise awareness of local risks across Colorado and teach communities how they can reduce those risks.

Numerous agencies and organizations were on campus for the event, including The Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Alamosa Fire Department, Alamosa County Fire Protection District, Colorado State Patrol, and Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue.



Photos by John Waters

Brian Crowley, manager at Canon Helitack with the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (lower right) is with his crew in front of this Bell 205-A1++ Helicopter on Tuesday at Adams State University as part of Community Risk Reduction Week. According to Crowley, the helicopter and crew primarily provide initial attack on wildfires utilizing a crew of 12.



Members of the Alamosa Fire Department use the Jaws of Life, a hydraulic rescue tool, to dissect this vehicle on Tuesday at Adams State University as part of Community Risk Reduction Week. According to the Smithsonian Museum, the original Jaws of Life in the 1960s weighed 350 pounds. The one used here weighs about 54 pounds.



Photos by Patrick Shea

Vendors at Joyful Journey shared information and products during the 13th Annual San Luis Valley Seed Exchange April 2.



SEED

Continued from Page 1A

of Crestone filmed the speaker series on both days, including live Spanish translation. The recordings will be posted on the Crestone Energy Fair YouTube channel and the SLV Seed Exchange website www.slvse.org. The 34th Annual Crestone Energy Fair will take place Sept. 16-17.

Employed by the San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition, Jae Sanders introduced speakers and gave the final talk called, "Proactive model for healthy food access in small, rural, and frontier communities."

The Saguache County population in towns and unincorporated areas congregates in 11 separate regions. Throughout the county, only five grocery stores serve residents seven days a week. This adds the cost of gas to people's food budgets. A loophole denies access to many grant-funding opportunities because Saguache County is considered a "Frontier Community," a designation for sparsely populated areas.

Before Sanders guided the final discussion and Laura Parker from High Desert Seed + Garden in Montrose described seed stewardship, Tylor Berreth presented "Backyard Gardening with Mushrooms."

Co-owner of Breads and Botanicals in Saguache with his wife Danielle, Berreth said he is expanding mushroom cultivation at their Saguache location.

When Sanders introduced Berreth, she said, "They are growing so many mushrooms, and there is such a demand for local mushrooms, that they are turning the whole shop into mushroom production. And they will be wholesaling through Valley Roots Food Hub where you can buy those mushrooms."

Berreth prefaced his presentation by warning the audience about the flood of information, but he said, "hopefully, this will be so applicable

that each of you will walk away with some knowledge about how you can literally inoculate your garden this year."

Berreth said he likes to call himself a "citizen mycologist, and I'm a promoter of citizen science." Throughout his talk, Berreth emphasized the balance between art and science with mushroom cultivation. He described a variety of experiments, ultimately concluding that fungi know what they are doing.

"This is a really cool style of farming," Berreth said. "It can be done indoors or outdoors. It's low-water usage, low-energy usage.

Pretty passive, but the implications are massive."

Berreth described bioremediation projects, building soil faster with fungal help, sequestering carbon, and producing biodiesel with mushrooms.

"I have a massive bioremediation project in mind," Berreth said. "Before they start this new cell in the [Saguache County] landfill, I really want to inoculate the bottom of it with oyster mushrooms."

To access all the presentations from the weekend, check the Crestone Energy Fair YouTube channel, as well as the SLV Seed Exchange website www.slvse.org.

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If you plan to attend, please let us know an estimate of your group size.



Crews from the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control and Alamosa County Fire Protection District are ready to extinguish this demonstration fire on Tuesday at Adams State University as part of Community Risk Reduction Week. The National Fire Sprinkler Association sponsored the demonstration.

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April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month



Courtesy photo

Sun River will be leading a free workshop on nonviolence.

Free workshop on nonviolence set for April 15 at ASU

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — What can anyone do about the violence in our country? Are there any solutions? Is there any hope?

A group of people are sponsoring a workshop to help address this topic: “Change the Story Through Nonviolent Action: What You Can Do.”

Workshop presenter, Rivera Sun, a former resident of Taos, N.M., is the editor of Nonviolent News and program coordinator for Campaign Nonviolence.

In the workshop, which Sun will conduct via zoom, participants will learn over 300 ways of acting nonviolently and hear dozens of stories about how people are making changes in their communities. She will lead participants through activities that can help build new systems, tap into creativity, resist injustice, and help heal.

Sun’s workshop is designed to give participants a sense of power and potential for building a better

world.

This workshop is free. Registration is appreciated by following the link at <https://qrco.de/suntalk>, but everyone is invited. It will take place April 15, from 3-5 p.m., at Adams State University, McDaniel Hall, Room 301.

Sun is also the author of numerous books and novels, including the fantasy “YA series: Ari Ara.” Many people are reading her novel, “The Dandelion Insurrection,” before the workshop and holding discussion groups. If you are interested in participating or hosting a group, text Elise at 719-480-3847.

Sponsoring organizations include: First United Methodist Church of Alamosa, ASU Women of Higher Education, Alamosa Presbyterian Church; Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Alamosa; Anabaptist Fellowship of Alamosa (MCUSA), Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and Adams State University, Department of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Political Science.

CONTRIBUTED

STATEWIDE — Responding to a text message, turning to talk to a passenger, or reaching for a french fry may seem harmless, but this dangerous driving behavior accounted for 65 fatal crashes across Colorado in 2021. April marks Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and the Colorado Department of Transportation is urging Coloradans to drop distractions behind the wheel and focus on the road instead.

Among the 65 fatal distracted driving crashes in 2021, the leading cause of distractions in those incidents were:

- Other passengers (18%)
- Talking, listening, dialing or other activities on a cell phone (18%)
- Inattention (15%)
- An outside person, object or event (12%)
- Eating food or drinking beverages (8%)

“Driving is a group activity and other motorists and pedestrians are counting on you to make good choices behind the wheel,” stated Col. Matthew Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “As you close a door getting into a vehicle, regroup and take responsibility for the choices you make when you’re on the road. If your phone is a temptation, put it out of reach before you start the car. Eat before you drive. And, focus on the most important task at hand at that moment — driving.”

A 2022 driver behavior survey conducted by CDOT found that the distraction that drivers engaged in most often was eating and drinking. The full list of distractions that drivers engaged in most often are:

- Ate food/drank beverage (36%)

- Selecting entertainment on a cell phone, CD player, radio or other device (21%)

- Talking on a hands-free phone (15%)

- Reading a text or social media message on a phone (7%)

In CDOT’s survey, an alarming three out of four Colorado drivers reported using their cell phones (hands-free or handheld) while driving a moving vehicle. Male respondents were more likely to say they used their phone while driving on the highway (71%) than female respondents (60%).

“Looking away for just a few seconds can be deadly,” said Darrell Lingk, director of CDOT’s highway safety office. “You can’t predict other drivers’ behavior or rely on luck. When you are behind the wheel you have to be ready to respond to a sudden situation. Seconds matter. So put the phone away and set that playlist before you hit the road.”

Amid an increase in younger drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2022, CDOT recently launched its distracted driving contest, which invites high school students across the state to create a compelling public service announcement about distracted driving. The most creative PSAs will win \$5,000 in prizes. This effort is part of a grant CDOT received from the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) and General Motors to decrease distracted driving-related fatalities and injuries. CDOT will announce the contest winners during Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

Turn on Do Not Disturb While Driving

Only 29% of behavior survey

respondents used the “Do Not Disturb” feature on their phones rarely or more often, while 34% never used the feature, and 37% were unaware of the feature. CDOT recommends turning on Do Not Disturb while driving on your phone to avoid the temptation. On Apple devices:

- Go to Settings
- Within Settings, go to Focus
- Click on Driving
- On the Driving page, scroll down to “Turn on Automatically” to have Do Not Disturb While Driving automatically activate or deactivate when connected to car Bluetooth

Distracted Driving Law

Adult drivers in Colorado are prohibited from manual data entry and transmission on a cell phone (i.e., to send a text message or browse the internet) while behind the wheel. Any driver under 18 years of age is prohibited from using a cell phone while driving. The prohibition includes phone calls, text messaging, or similar forms of manual data entry and transmission.

The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) is a nonprofit association representing the highway safety offices of states, territories, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. GHSA provides leadership and representation for the states and territories to improve traffic safety, influence national policy, enhance program management and promote best practices. Its members are appointed by their Governors to administer federal and state highway safety funds and implement state highway safety plans. Visit ghsa.org, for more information or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

The Key to True, Lasting Stability in Life

Have you ever put your trust in someone who ended up disappointing you or hurting you? Maybe you put your trust in your money but then something happened and suddenly you didn’t have it anymore. Or maybe you’ve wasted years of your life trusting yourself.

There are many things people put their trust in that are not stable. But God loves us so much, and He wants us to understand that we can’t keep our trust in other things and simultaneously have a great relationship with Him. The truth is, God is the only One we can really trust all the time, in every situation.

I remember how I learned this lesson. Many years ago when my ministry was just beginning, there was a group of ladies helping me that I considered to be my best friends; I thought they would never hurt me. But eventually, I found out they were talking about me behind my back and telling lies about me. I was devastated and heartbroken.

My world was shaken and I didn’t understand what was going on. The pain in my soul was so deep. But looking back, I understand now that God was getting ready to promote me to a new level of ministry, and I couldn’t take those people with me. I also learned that we set ourselves up for a lot of pain if we think there are people in our lives who will never hurt us.

You know, we’re all human and we make mistakes. I don’t believe those women were intentionally mean; they were just imperfect people who made their own mistakes.

Two Ways You Need to Trust God

Another thing I learned is that it’s one thing to trust God FOR something — such as changing something or someone in your life — but it’s another thing entirely to trust God THROUGH something. I’m talking about continuing to trust God when He’s not doing what you think He should do and everything around you is shaking...when you don’t understand why.

I can tell you from personal experience that when everything in your life is shaking, the only real answer is to trust God and keep on trusting Him. I know it’s difficult to do this when you don’t understand what’s going on and the situation is not fair. It’s hard when you feel like you’re doing what you should be doing and you’re not getting a right result. And it’s especially hard when you see someone who is not doing the right thing, yet they are seemingly getting a better result than you are.

But I want to say it again: When you get into trouble that you don’t understand, that’s when you have to choose to keep trusting God — no matter what you think or feel, and no matter what your circumstances look like.

Let Go of Everything That Can Be Shaken

Hebrews 12:26-27 (NIV) says, “... [God] has promised, ‘Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.’ The words ‘once more’ indicate the removing of what can be shaken — that is, created things — so that what cannot be shaken may remain.”

God wants to shake things in our lives until only the things that cannot be shaken remain. He wants to work with us until we let go of all the unstable things so we’re only hanging on to the rock of our salvation — Jesus Christ — who cannot be moved or shaken.

It’s difficult when something is stripped out of your life that you’re not ready to give up, like a relationship or a position at work. But if you will trust God when hard things come, you’ll find later on that situations you thought were terrible were actually good in the end. All things are possible with God, and He can take things that aren’t good and work them out for our good. (See Matthew 19:26 and Romans 8:28.)

The key is understanding that you are a partner with God as you walk out His purpose and plan for you. He doesn’t just automatically work things out for good;



we choose to trust Him and do what He shows us to do, and He works on our behalf so we come out on top when all is said and done.

If you feel like everything in your world is shaking, there are probably things in your life that you don’t need or that aren’t good for you and God wants to remove them. If you will trust Him and let Him do what HE wants to do, He will give you something stable. He’ll give you more of Himself!

I want to encourage you to make a determined decision to trust God with every single part of your life. Pray: “God, I invite You to shake everything in my life that can be shaken so only the things of You will remain in me.” He loves you, and no matter what condition your life is in right now, with God’s help, you can trust Him. You can relax and be at peace, not anxious, worried or frustrated. Choose to believe God is taking care of your situation, and simply let go of it and let God be God!

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s four-teaching resource **Trust God and Do-Teach**. 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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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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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 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."

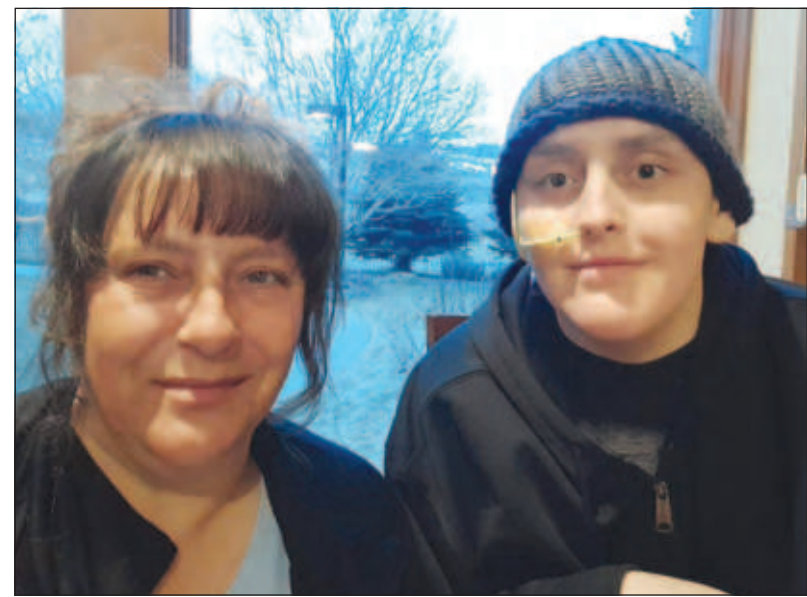
Archuleta stated that for a whole month, nobody could touch her brother, because of him being restrained and the fluid being taken out of his head, as it would build up, they would have to remove it again. Archuleta said they learned the tumors were also inoperable when they did the MRI.

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;



Courtesy photos

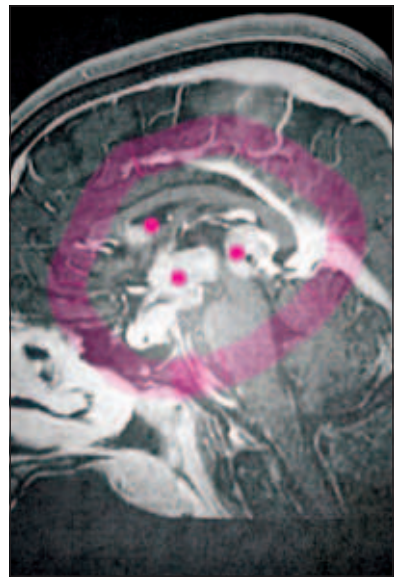
Renate Scott says her son Marcus Gutierrez is a fighter and will get better. Gutierrez has three inoperable brain tumors.

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.



An scan of Marcus Gutierrez's brain shows three tumors.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ATTENTION GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The Saguache County Board of County Commissioners are accepting scholarship applications for graduating seniors who will be graduating high school in 2023. Commissioners will be awarding graduating seniors' college scholarships that will be paid through the Marijuana Excise Tax funds. Scholarships may be used at a trade school, college or university but you must reside in Saguache County to apply and possibly receive scholarship funds. Applications are due by April 14, 2023 and are available through our website at www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov to download the application or by contacting Wendi Maez at 719-655-2231 or by email at wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov.

No. 1662 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, February 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6, 2023.

DISTRICT COURT, SAGUACHE COUNTY, COLORADO Court Address: 501 4th Street Saguache, CO 81149 (719) 855-2522	
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

SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT(S):
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.

Dated: April 6, 2023
Published in the Center Post Dispatch Newspaper.
First Publication: Thursday April 6, 2023
Last Publication: Thursday May 4, 2023

Frascona, Joiner, Goodman and Greenstein, P.C.
/s/Zachary A. Grey
Attorney for Plaintiff

No. 1667 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, April 6, 13, 20 and 27 and May 4, 2023.

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Why you need dental insurance in retirement.

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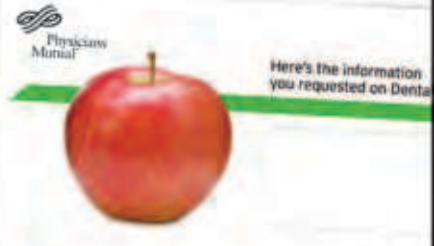
1 "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2021. 2 "How might my oral and dental health change as I age?," www.usnews.com, 11/30/2018. 3 American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2018 Survey of Dental Fees, Copyright 2018, American Dental Association.

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6247-0121



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.

TRUCK

Continued from Page 1A

procedures and passed inspections. Since having their sales tax license issued on March 14, they operate from noon to 8:30 p.m. on 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.

We Love Our National Park block party is April 7 in Alamosa

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — First Fridays with Visit Alamosa will host a block party starting at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 7, on San Juan Avenue. This special edition of First Fridays will feature live entertainment by Adams State University ensembles, Rocky Mountain Panhandlers, and the Grizzly Samba followed by local group, the Celtic (K)nots, and a roaming performance by the Salida Circus.

Visit Alamosa will host a libation station, free mini golf, and give away We Love Our National Park swag, and \$20 gift vouchers. Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Rangers will host a BARK Ranger table for four-legged friends, a Dark Sky Preservation booth, and a Jr. Ranger booth.

Other activities and information booths on San Juan Avenue include: Painting with the Wet Paintbrush, create-your-own constellations with San Luis Valley Great Outdoors, cornhole courtesy of Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue, photo ops with ASU's Billy and Russet, Adams State University Admissions Office, Sangre de

Cristo National Heritage Area, and the Friends of the Dunes.

The Market on Main will feature Lobato Woodworks, Cosita's by Michelle, Nealan's Snack Attack, Poetry to Go by Ink and Vein Writing and Mindfulness Services, Rocky Mountain Home Health, and Comedy at the Roast, Narrow Gauge Book Coop, Big Valley HobbyTown, SLV Apothecary, Kreative Kraftworks, Wild Boots by Olivias, Y and E Dress Code, Wild Roses, Shear Madness Hair Studio, Happy Mountain Antiques, The San Luis Valley Museum, White Shell Mountain Ranch, and Treasure Alley will all be open late and will be showcasing their love for the Great Sand Dunes National Park with specials, and themed merchandise. Look for dining deals from Woody's Q Shack, San Luis Valley Brewing Co, The Purple Pig Pizzeria and Pub, and My Brother's Place.

For more information about the We Love Our National Park celebration, visit alamosa.org/love. Follow First Fridays with Visit Alamosa on Facebook for the most up-to-date First Fridays information.



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Lifestyles

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Courtesy photo

New for the Cinco de Mayo Street Festival in Monte Vista is live music. Mariachi San Luis is scheduled to perform.

Preparations underway for Cinco de Mayo Street Festival

BY MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — The 3rd annual Cinco de Mayo Street Festival will soon be dancing into Monte Vista. The OptiMystics Citizens Action Network is again organizing the festival, complete with food trucks, a beer garden, craft vendors, a car show and much more.

For the past two years the Cinco de Mayo Street Festival has been held on Adams Street, with crowds of people gathering to enjoy the festivities.

"I would love to see 2,000-plus people this year," said OptiMystics

member Adam Lock. "Given it's a Friday and we have live music in the evening, we may very well achieve that. I would like to thank the LOR Foundation for their help with the live music this year, it is so appreciated. I am also looking forward to trying to break last year's goal of more than 40 vendors. We have 24 confirmed vendors and still plenty of time to get more."

New this year is the addition of live music. Starting around 5 p.m. the Moonshadow Marauders will begin their maraca-shaking music,

Please see FEST on Page 2

Fort Garland Museum is a finalist for National Medal

CONTRIBUTED

DENVER — The Institute of Museum and Library Services announced Tuesday, March 28, that History Colorado's Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center is among 15 museum finalists for the 2023 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries that demonstrate significant impact in their communities.

Located in the San Luis Valley, Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center is a community museum of History Colorado, and the only institution in Colorado to be selected as a finalist for this award in 2023.

Originally built in 1858, 10 years after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Fort Garland has traditionally allowed visitors to explore life in a nineteenth century military fort by walking the parade grounds and touring five of the original adobe buildings. Recently, Fort Garland has begun a reimagining funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities which gives History Colorado the opportunity to explore the complex and difficult histories of westward expansion and colonization.

"Fort Garland is a beautiful and immersive historic site that has made meaningful strides in just a few years to engage local communities and share histories that are representative of the people who called Colorado home long before it was part of the United States," said Dawn DiPrince, executive director of History Colorado. "Fort Garland perfectly reflects the work-in-progress at History Colorado and demonstrates how vital authentic his-



tory is to people's lives, how museums can use resources to meet community needs, and the patient power of historic reconciliation and healing."

The dedication of Fort Garland's staff has allowed the museum to better serve the surrounding community, and resulted in the creation of exhibitions and programs that have garnered considerable attention, met community needs, and better represented the rich and diverse history of the San Luis Valley.

Specific examples of Fort Garland's work include:

- Unsilenced: Indigenous Enslavement in Southern Colorado by artist Chip Thomas, which explores an often ignored chapter of American History
- Gregg Deal (Pyramid Lake Paiute): "Merciless Indian Savages"—an Indigenous exploration of what American Democracy means in Indian Country
- Leading efforts to incorporate the history of the San Luis Valley into local school district curricula
- Expanded affordable childcare

through Hands-on History day camps hosted by History Colorado

• The upcoming buffalo soldiers: reVision that unpacks themes of race, land, and the harm unleashed by westward expansion while providing an emotional testament to the difficult choices Buffalo Soldiers faced

• And holding regular community conversations to create space for community members to be heard, valued, and most importantly, represented by the museum

"As we've engaged with community members and organizations, we've learned that individuals and families with historic ties to the San Luis Valley haven't always felt welcome at the museum," said Eric Carpio, chief community museum officer and director of Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center. "The community felt that Fort Garland has contributed to the erasure or misrepresentation of women and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) individuals and

Please see FORT on Page 2

ASU Upward Bound celebrates 50 years

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — Hundreds of San Luis Valley students have benefited from the Adams State University Upward Bound program and all alumni and friends are invited to the 50-Year Anniversary Celebration on April 14 and 15, on the Adams State campus.

The Upward Bound Program is a federally funded program designed to work with low income, first-generation college potential high school students. The program's primary focus is to increase academic achievement through means of strategic interventions in ELA and Math, as well as increase performance on standardized tests. It also places a strong focus on secondary school retention and graduation, and post-secondary enrollment and completion. Ninety percent of Upward Bound students enroll in post-secondary institutions.

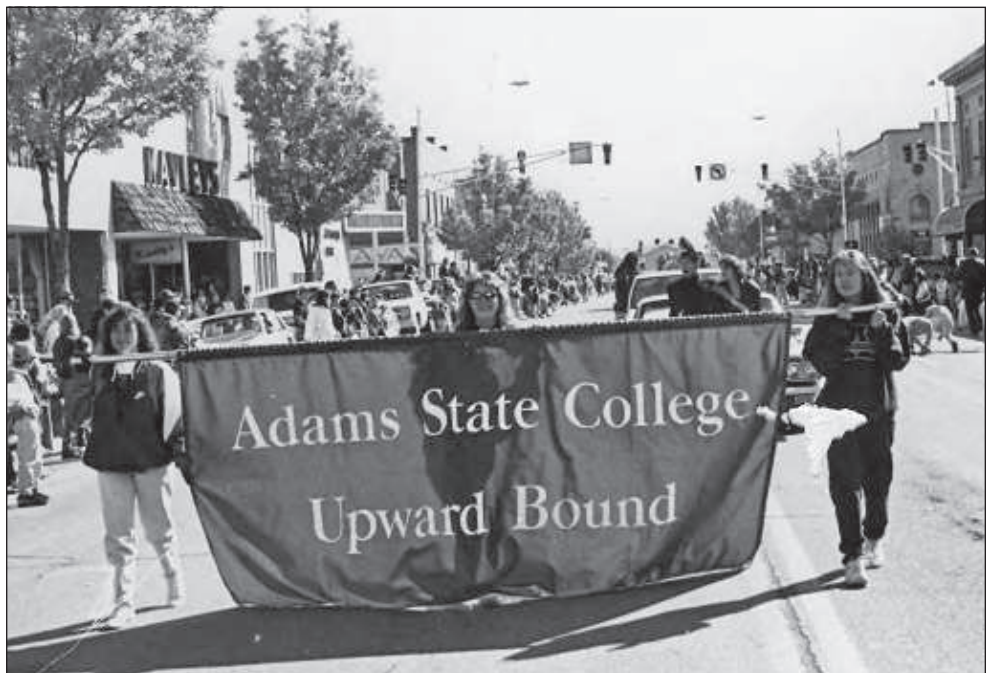
According to Amanda Atencio, Upward Bound executive director, registration has opened for the event. A social and reception begins at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 14, at the Marvel House and the following day a gathering including lunch, entertainment and award presentations will be held in the Plachy Hall Fieldhouse. The total cost is \$25 per person.

"We would like to see students from all five decades join us, share their stories and catch-up with friends," Atencio said. "Friends, former and current faculty and staff, and Upward Bound advocates are also invited to celebrate in this special event. We are excited to highlight our keynote speaker and the program's first director, Richard Duran, Ph.D., as well as a special tribute to Upward Bound lifetime achievers. This will be an event that should not be missed."

The Upward Bound 50-Year Celebration Committee includes Adams State alumni: Angelica Valdez, Class of 1998 and 2008; Mark Martinez, Class of 2013; Beverly Maestas, Ph.D., Class of 1996; Brandi Barbosa-Fraire, Class of 2006; Luella Lopez, Class of 1984; and Amanda Atencio, Class of 2005.

The committee is currently soliciting nominations for Upward Bound Champion Awards. The registration and nomination forms will be available via the event webpage.

For more information, to nominate an Upward Bound champion, or to register contact the Adams State Upward Bound Office at 719-587-7865, Student Business Services at 719-587-7758 or email acatencio@adams.edu.



Courtesy photo

Since 1972, the Adams State Upward Bound program has assisted San Luis Valley high school students with college preparation. A 50-Year Anniversary Celebration is planned for April 14 and 15.

PaintCare to host more than one dozen paint drop-off events across Colorado

Help Households and Businesses Recycle Leftover Paint
Free paint will be made available to the public at select events

CONTRIBUTED

DENVER — PaintCare will be hosting more than a dozen paint drop-off events across Colorado to make recycling unwanted paint even easier for Coloradans. Some events will offer paint in good condition to the public for free. Events are currently scheduled to take place from April through September in Littleton, Alamosa, Cripple Creek, Steamboat Springs, Ridgway, Crested Butte, Creede, Blackhawk, Lake City, Craig, Highlands Ranch, Burlington, Colorado Springs, Garfield County and Elizabeth.

Households may bring any amount of house paint and primers (latex or oil-based); stains; deck and concrete sealers; and clear finishes (varnish and shellac). Paint must be in sealed, original containers with the original manufacturer label. Limits may apply to businesses. Events will be held rain or shine. Registration is required.

Once information for each event is confirmed it will be added to the

FORT

Continued from Page 1

communities. Over the past several years, Fort Garland has begun addressing these issues by engaging and co-creating with a wide variety of community members to decenter militarized and settler colonial narratives and tell the countless stories of the San Luis Valley.”

Being named as a finalist for the 2023 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, places Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center amongst the most innovative cultural centers in the nation.

“So many museums and libraries across the country are committed to providing programs that are vital to the health and growth of engaged communities. We are very proud to announce the 30 finalists for this year’s IMLS National Medal,” said IMLS Director Crosby Kemper. “These institutions represent the best of what museums and libraries do for their communities.”

To celebrate this honor, History Colorado and IMLS are encouraging Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center community members to share stories, memories, pictures, and videos on social media using the hashtags, #HistoryColorado, #ShareYourStory and #IMLSmedals, and engage with IMLS on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. For more information, visit online.ims.gov.

National Medal winners will be announced in late May. Representatives from winning institutions will be honored for their extraordinary contributions during an in-person National Medals Ceremony this summer.

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

PaintCare website along with a link to register. San Luis Valley events include:

- Alamosa on April 24, 2023
- July – Creede, date TBA

PaintCare cannot accept leaking, unlabeled, or empty containers; aerosol spray paints; drums or containers larger than five gallons; hazardous waste or other chemicals, such as paint thinner, solvents, motor oil, spackle, glue, adhesive, roofing tar, pesticides, or cleaning chemicals.

Once collected, PaintCare works with partners to transport paint from drop-off sites and pickups to processing facilities, where it is remixed into recycled-content paint, given away through reuse programs, used as fuel, or used in other applications.

If it can’t be recycled or used some other way, it will be dried out and properly disposed.

Through local events, PaintCare is providing the community with another convenient way to recycle paint. Year-round PaintCare drop-off sites are available across the state and are located at participating hardware stores, paint stores and recycling centers. Currently there are more than 190 drop-off sites across Colorado.

PaintCare is the nonprofit organization created by the paint industry to operate paint stewardship programs in Colorado and other states that have passed paint stewardship laws. To learn more about PaintCare in Colorado and the events that will be held, visit www.paintcare.org/states/colorado/.

FEST

Continued from Page 1

and shortly after Mariachi San Luis will also be at the festival filling the air with traditional melodies until about 8 p.m.

Cinco de Mayo, or the fifth of May, is a holiday that celebrates the date of the Mexican army’s May 5, 1862, victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War. The day, which falls on Friday, May 5 in 2023, is also known as Battle of Puebla Day. While it is a relatively minor holiday in Mexico, in the United States, Cinco de Mayo has evolved into a commemoration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas with large Mexican-American populations.

This year, the celebration continues in Monte Vista, with the 100 and 200 blocks of Adams Street closed for the festivities. There will be a live deejay on site along with face painting for the kids, a

bouncy house, belly dancers, and tons of kids crafts and activities.

Vendors will be set up by 8 a.m., and back by popular demand will also be a car show. People’s Choice will again determine the winners of the car show, and tickets can be purchased for a tiny donation. First, second, and third place winners will receive a plaque plus a cash prize.

This year once again, there will be a law enforcement escorted drive through for the veterans at the Colorado Veterans Community Live Center at Homelake. Registration for vendors and car show participants are still being taken.

Lock is very “optimistic” about this year’s festival stating that it’s a lot of work behind the scenes, but so worth it.

For more information, visit OptiMystics CAN online at optimystics.org.

Updated COVID-19 Booster Doses

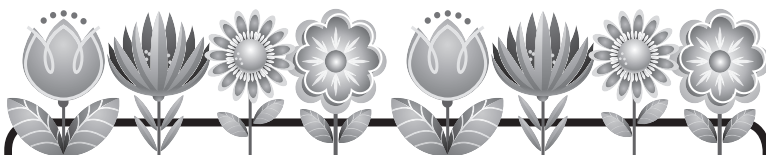
Bivalent boosters are now available to provide increased protection against Omicron variants.

- Everyone should get the updated COVID-19 vaccine as a booster at least 2 months after their second shot.
- For children ages 6 months–4 years who get the Pfizer vaccine, the updated vaccine is used as the third shot in the series, rather than as a separate booster.

CDC recommendations as of December 9, 2022.



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April is both Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By TU CASA STAFF

Child Abuse Prevention Month (CAPM) is a time to highlight the importance of individuals and communities working together to prevent child abuse. Our goal is to increase awareness about child abuse and neglect and to decrease it from occurring. In 2022, in the San Luis Valley, there were 1,035 child abuse reports made to the Colorado Department of Human Services.

In honor of CAPM, the Children's Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley would like to invite you to wear a blue ribbon throughout the month and to participate in "Wear Blue Day" on April 7. The blue ribbon trend began after a grandmother used it to honor her grandson who was killed while being abused. The blue ribbon is a symbol of hope that one day no child will suffer from abuse and allows you to tell others that you support child abuse prevention.

By wearing blue on Friday, April 7, you will join communities across Colorado in taking a stand. If you need a blue ribbon to wear, contact Tu Casa, Inc. at 719-589-2465.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) is a campaign to raise public awareness about sexual assault and educate the community about how to prevent sexual violence. This year marks the 22nd anniversary of SAAM. However, efforts to end sexual violence began decades before with advocates like Rosa Parks and led to events in the late 1970's like the first Take Back the Night event, which was held in San Francisco. The Take Back the Night event protested rape and sexual assault that women encountered while walking the streets at night. This event caused a movement across the U.S. which helped form SAAM.

Tu Casa, Inc. would like to invite you to help raise awareness about sexual assault throughout the month of April by wearing a teal ribbon and participating in "Wear Teal Day" which is observed on Tuesday, April 4, and by wearing some form of denim for "Denim Day" which is observed on Wednesday, April 26. By wearing teal and or, you will be taking a stand against sexual violence with others across the U.S. and showing your support for efforts to end sexual violence.

If you are interested in wearing a teal ribbon but don't have one, please contact Tu Casa, Inc. at 719-589-2465.

Throughout the month of April, Advocates from Tu Casa, Inc. will be hosting a Clothesline Project. The Clothesline Project began in 1990 as an effort to educate people about violence against women and to break the silence. It was developed after this striking comparison was made by the Men's Rape Prevention

Project: During the Vietnam War, 58,000 soldiers were killed and during that same period 51,000 women were killed by interpersonal violence. The Clothesline Project has allowed communities to come together to expose the truth about violence and its impact. The SLV Clothesline Project will be displayed throughout the month of April at Spare Keg. We invite the community to participate in this project by decorating a bandana, which will be available at several locations throughout the month. Join us at the Alamosa Starbucks on Main Street on April 4, Adam's State University Campus on April 14, Don Tomas Bakery in Monte Vista on April 19, and Spare Keg on April 28. SAAM-themed bingo will be held on April 28 at 6 p.m. at Spare Keg Brewwerks. Tu Casa will also be hosting a "Chalk the Walk" event at Adam's State University (ASU) in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, so look for common myths versus facts, national statistics, and phrases to use when asking for consent on ASU's main campus sidewalks.

Every April, the Children's Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley and Tu Casa, Inc. organizes a poster contest with the Alamosa elementary schools and Ortega Middle School. This year's theme is "Children Need Heros, Be One". The previous year's winners will be on display throughout the San Luis Valley. Please look for the posters in your community.

Throughout April you can stay updated on events and activities by following our Facebook: www.facebook.com/TuCasaInc and Instagram: www.instagram.com/slvtucasa/pages.

Child abuse and sexual assault can no longer be ignored; we must work together to raise awareness and end violence. If you or someone you know needs assistance, call the Tu Casa, Inc. 24-hour hotline at 719-589-2465. If you would like to donate in honor of those who have been impacted by abuse, visit our website www.slvtucasa.net, and click on the link to donate. If you are interested in volunteering with our agency or would like more information about events, contact us at 719-589-2465.

Tu Casa, Inc., which houses Tu Casa, the Children's Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley, and the SANE program, is a non-profit agency that helps children and adults live healthy, violence-free lives throughout the San Luis Valley. In 2022, Tu Casa provided services to 240 people, the Children's Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley provided services to 92 children, and the Tu Casa, Inc. 24-hour hotline received 414 calls. All services are free, confidential, and available in English and Spanish.

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

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FOR SALE!



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. **\$600,000** MLS #797313

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

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

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\$1,550,000



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\$375,000
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RATES

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Check your ad the first day:

To ensure your ad is correct, check it the first day it appears in the paper. If there is an error in your ad, call us right away so we can correct it. If an error appears in your ad, Valley Publishing will credit you with one additional day of advertising.

Our ad policy: Valley Publishing accepts all classified advertising except that which it deems objectionable to its readers. Credit or replacement ads will not be given for early ad cancellation.

DEADLINE

Thursday 5:00 pm

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05 Notices

WE BUY ANTLER: Spring Prices!
Use code "ELK18" and you will get \$18/lb for Elk Grade A and \$13/lb for Deer Grade A. 5 miles west of Del Norte on Hwy 160. 719-657-0942 (TFN)

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

07 Help Wanted

Ecodynamics Inc is hiring a general shop and field worker. Tasks include inventory, loading customer orders, shop cleaning, pump tech.assistant in the field. Please drop off resume in person at 5492 US Hwy 160 E, M.V. For more info, call 719-852-2662 (4-5)

Rio Grande County, Colorado is seeking a Deputy County Administrator / Human Resources. The position assists the County Administrator with the day-to-day operations of Rio Grande County government. The Deputy County Administrator also provides Human Resource support to all County departments and offices. This includes support for employee relations, learning and development, performance management, recruitment, and personnel actions. Drug screening and background check are required. Salary starting at \$57,400.00.

Application and job description available online at www.riograndecounty.org or Human Resources: 925 6th St., Rm. 200; Del Norte, Co. 81132. Application deadline: April 9, 2023. (4-5)

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, hard-working 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 26It 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

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

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0 - 25 lbs.	\$80.00		Petite - Small vessel needed
26 - 50 lbs	\$140.00		Small-Medium Vessel needed
51 - 75 lbs.	\$175.00	\$200.00	Medium-Large Vessel needed
76 - 100 lbs.	\$200.00	\$275.00	Large Vessel needed
101 lbs. & up	Animals over 101 lbs. are ineligible for Group fee	\$300.00	Extra Large Vessel Needed

Payment is required at time the animal is dropped off.

Animal may be dropped off during business hours only.

Please allow 7 working days from drop off date for animal's return.

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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 26It 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 bookkeeping, 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 (4-26)

Wolf Creek Ski Area is hiring full and part-time positions in the food & beverage department through April 9th! Get established the remainder of this season and return for the 2023-2024 ski season! Hiring for all positions including mid-level management. Benefits include skiing privileges, discounts on soft goods in retail shop, and competitive wages starting at \$18/hr. Applications will be accepted all summer and can be downloaded from WolfCreekSki.com employment page. Send resumes and applications to wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com or P.O. Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

Wolf Creek Ski Area is hiring full and part-time positions in the janitorial maintenance department through April 9th! Get established the remainder of this season and return for the 2023-2024 ski season! Benefits include skiing privileges, discounts on soft goods in retail shop, and competitive wages starting at \$18/hr. Applications will be accepted all summer and can be downloaded from WolfCreekSki.com employment page. Send resumes and applications to wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com or P.O. Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

DISCLAIMER

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

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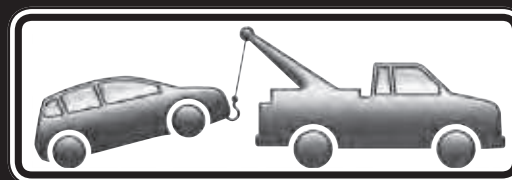
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Hiring Front Desk and Housekeeping at Orient Land Trust/Valley View Hot Springs We are hiring! The positions available will be in the Reservations/front desk registration department and in the Housekeeping department. We operate seven days a week and different shifts are available. Pay Range: \$14.00 to \$16.00 per hour starting wage based on qualifications and experience. FLSA Status: Nonexempt. Benefits may include: An employee may be eligible for OLT group health plan coverage after 60 depending on the hours worked and for Paid Time Off (PTO) benefits after 120 days of employment depending on the hours worked. If you are interested, contact Kelley at 719-256-4315 or email kelleymichelle@olt.org to request an application or for more information. (4-5)

Maintenance Department at Orient Land Trust/Valley View Hot Springs We are looking to fill two positions in our Maintenance Department. Tasks include, but are not limited to, hydro-electric power system operation, understanding of electrical (DC systems as well as AC systems), mechanical systems, heating and cooling systems, building upkeep, building renovation, general building skills, masonry, plumbing, drinking water and sanitation systems, geothermal heating systems, groundskeeping, forest mitigation, potential firefighting and first responder, open water management, electric cart, gas and diesel vehicles and generator systems, and hydraulics. Beyond this, we are needing the skills of problem-solving, diplomacy, patience, crew coordination, flexibility, inspiration and innovation. This is a

facility that is open to the public and is clothing optional. Consistent, respectful, positive and smooth interactions with guests and other employees is a prerequisite. Pay Range: \$16.00 to \$20.00 per hour starting wage based on qualifications and experience. FLSA Status: Non-Exempt Benefits include: An employee may be eligible for OLT group health plan coverage the first of the month after 60 days of employment depending on the hours worked and for Paid Time Off (PTO) benefits after 120 days of employment depending on the hours worked. Please send all serious inquiries to Mark Jacobi, mark@olt.org. (4-5)

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

elor'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. (4-12)

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 applications: Human Resource Office: 925 6th St., Room 200, Del Norte, CO or

on-line at www.riograndecounty.org. Deadline Until filled. (4-12)

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

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SUDOKU

								6
	9	3				5	2	8
2		4		7			9	
		5			9	6		1
	8							
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Level: Intermediate

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

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

B	H	O	P	A	L	W	H	A	L	E	S		
B	A	G	G	A	G	E	R	E	N	A	M	E	S
A	S	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T	S	M	H	
I	S	S	E	I	T	A	I	A	E	S	I	R	
T	E	A	S	C	O	M	T	E	S	A	T	I	
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R	O	S	E	A	T	E	A	C	A	N	T	H	I
S	O	R	T	E	D		S	E	S	A	M	E	

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Valley Wide Classifieds

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 Assessor's Office is seeking a part-time Assessor's Office Clerk. 20-25 hours per week, starting at \$17.18 per hour. Compensation includes 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. (4-12)

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)

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)

Available May 1, a remodeled quaint 1 bedroom/1.75 bath unit in a 4-plex in Del Norte. Pets are prohibited. One year lease. Credit report required. \$600/month, inclusive of water and sewer. Please leave a message at 719-850-0750. (4-12)

14 Business Properties For Rent DOWNTOWN MONTE OFFICE SUITE – 3 nicely furnished offices, central reception area and secure storage room. Utilities included. Historic landmark building. 719-588-0906 (4-5)

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

Spring is here! Is your Lawn-N-Garden, Equipment up to the challenge? Bring your repairs in early to avoid Longer lead times. County Line Small Engine Repair LLC, 4521 E C RD 12 S, La Jara, Co 81140 719-589-6466 Open Mon - Fri. 8:00 A.M - 5:00 P.M. (4-19)

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

33 Building Materials 36x20 Culverts (2) Good Condition \$1,000 Each 719-580-6223 (4-19)

36 Miscellaneous WANTED: vintage license plates; cash paid based on age, rarity, condition. Call/text Colin: 970-367-7594 (5/24)

Cash for quality non-fiction books and LP records. Jeff 720-315-9145 (4-26)

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tors and Freezers. Bontrager's Variety Store, 9726 S. County Road 3E, Monte Vista. (719) 852-0500 TFN

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48 Pets and Supplies Siberian Husky: Purebred, Mask, blue eyes, pick of litter, 12-1-22, great temperament & markings. 970-987-2800, Call/text. (4-12)

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

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

Summer on the Rio Grande 2023

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