

Shorts

CAC's Variety Show set for April 1

CREEDE — The Creede Arts Council's 28th Annual Variety Show and Silent Auction will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 1, at the Ruth Theatre.

To make a reservation, contact 719-658-2333. Reservations will not be accepted after 3 p.m. on April 1. Tickets will be available at the door, starting at 6:15 p.m. on April 1 — \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. CAC accepts cash, checks, and credit cards. Reservations are recommended. Any reserve tickets not picked up by 6:45 p.m. on April 1 will be released for sale.

Easter to hop into South Fork April 8

SOUTH FORK — South Fork is planning to host its annual Easter Egg Hunt from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 8, for children 10-years-old and younger at the Rio Grande Club and Resort.

Final Barn Dance of season March 31

MONTE VISTA — The Winter Barn Dance Series ends the season with "The Kickers" performing from 8 to 11 p.m. on Friday, March 31, at the Monte Vista Elks Lodge. There will be a small door charge for adults, kids 5 and under and active military members and veterans are free. Enjoy free popcorn, water and coffee. Additional beverages and snacks will be available for purchase. There will be door prizes, including a gift certificate from Monte Vista Coop and \$200 in groceries.

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.

Spring Fling set for April 1 at Alamosa Seniors

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Senior Citizens are hosting a Spring Fling from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday April 1. There will be lots of booths to shop for Easter, Mother's Day or any other special occasion. ASC is located at 92 Colorado Ave. at the northwest corner of Cole Park. Call 719-589-3277, for more information.

Potato waste smells continue in Center

By **PATRICK SHEA**

CENTER — From March 25 to 27, motorists driving east from Center smelled the potato processing waste from the Idaho Pacific Colorado Corporation (IPCC) plant. Residents smelled it throughout the weekend. The stench emanates from the IPCC settling pond as well as the community ditch flowing east along Highway 112.

The potato dehydration plant has struggled to meet requirements from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). For more than a decade, IPCC has been generating potato flakes for a variety of products. One byproduct, the rank stench, predates the town's current Public Works Director. David Mehaffie has held the position for the past eight years.

IPC invested roughly \$5 million to build their own waste processing facility. The company leases space through the Center Sanitation District pipes, ultimately pouring into the ditch along the highway. Mehaffie said the effluent should be clear. But on March 26, it was brown as mud.

IPCC sorts, steam-peels, slices, cooks, mashes, and dehydrates potatoes to make flakes and flour. To dispose of waste, the company uses a combination of methods. In addition to barrel screening, diffused air flotation, sequential batch reactors, settling, disk filtration, and ultraviolet light, IPCC diverts wastewater to the County Line Ditch on the south side of Highway 112. Especially during the summer months, the slow-moving muck reeks.



Photo by Patrick Shea

The Idaho Pacific Colorado Corporation processing plant in Center reeks regularly, channeling potato waste through pipes the company leases from the Center Sanitation District.

Moffat clean-up day set

By **PATRICK SHEA**

MOFFAT — The Moffat Town Board of Trustees heard from constituents, passed three resolutions, and fine-tuned the wording of the town's nuisance code on March 28. The board also agreed to host a town clean-up day and picnic at the park on April 22, starting at noon.

Earlier in the day, trustees Jason Lewis and Tyler Berger worked on the park and identified locations for security camera placement. In the absence of a parks manager, Berger mowed the park last year and said, "I have no problem volunteering again this year." He raised the idea of hiring a maintenance person, echoed by board members.

Throughout the meeting, the challenge of hiring help crossed multiple topics.

Town Clerk Nina Magee informed the board that carabiners for the swings will be delivered this week. The roll-off trash bins will be delivered on April 3 in advance of the clean-up day celebration. For the bathroom renovations, they pumped out more than 500 gallons, but more was frozen solid and will require a return trip.

Bobby Woelz, director of the Office of Emergency Management



Photo by Patrick Shea

While Moffat Town Clerk Nina Magee listened, the Director of the Office of Emergency Management for Saguache County, Bobby Woelz, presented the 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

for Saguache County, presented the 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan for the board's approval. He mentioned that the current plan had expired. The trustees voted unanimously to approve the plan, which is currently in review with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Woelz said they might have minor changes, but the plan can be followed immediately once adopted.

Mayor Cassandra Foxx gave a brief report about finding more candidates for developing a Planning Commission. Later in the meeting, the board approved a resolution for creating a Planning and Zoning Commission. The previous Planning Commission became inactive, and Town Attorney Seth Walker read the text of the resolution. It will take effect 30 days

Please see MOFFAT on Page 7A

Great Sand Dunes announces free programs and events during 'We Love Our National Park' celebration

CONTRIBUTED

MOSCA

— To honor the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, and to celebrate being the Gateway Community, Visit Alamosa will launch the third annual, month-long "We Love Our National Park Celebration" on April 1. Each year in April since 1991, National Parks across the country celebrate National Park Week with special programs, events, and fee-free days. This year, National Park Week is April 22-30, which makes April the perfect time to celebrate and honor the national park's dedication to conserving world-class resources while also showing appreciation to the community that promotes and supports their national park.

Various restaurants, shops, and *Please see EVENTS on Page 7A*



Local effort to put names on unmarked graves at Potter's Field in Del Norte Cemetery

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

DEL NORTE — For the past year, San Luis Valley resident Deborah Romero in partnership with local historians Rosalind Weaver and Polly Cox have made it their mission to name the many unmarked graves at the Del Norte Cemetery. Through this effort, they have been successful in learning the names of some of the people buried in its Potter's Field.

Romero found herself head deep into the project last spring after discovering the sad state of Potter's Field in the Del Norte Cemetery. After seeking out Weaver, Romero was able to glean more information about who may be buried in the unmarked graves and set out to help Weaver finish a project she and Cox

Please see NAMES on Page 7A



Courtesy photos

Local efforts to name the unknown graves at the Del Norte Cemetery have become a reality. Resident Deborah Romero teamed with local historians Rosalind Weaver and Polly Cox to put names on the graves in Potter's Field in the Del Norte Cemetery. The crosses will be placed in the middle of May.

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.

We also request that you share photos of how you are raising awareness to the same 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.

OBITUARIES

Nancy Lee Stoeber March 26, 1937-March 22, 2023

Monte Vista resident Nancy Lee (Rice) Stoeber passed away on March 22, 2023, in Del Norte, Colo., surrounded by family and friends.

Nancy was born on March 26, 1937, in Cheyenne, Wyo., to Lowell and Alice (Harrison) Rice.

Nancy grew up in Alameda, California, where she moved when she was 2 years old. She attended the University of California, Berkeley, and Holy Cross Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she received her degree in Nursing in 1959.

While completing her psychiatric nurses training at the State Hospital in Pueblo, Colo., she was invited to go home with a classmate for the weekend. She met the man who would become her beloved husband in his mother's kitchen in Monte Vista, Colo. Nancy and Leo "Bud" Stoeber, Jr. were married on Sept. 26, 1964, in Alameda, Calif., and celebrated nearly 58 years together.

Nancy began her nursing career at St. Mary's in San Francisco, and later worked at Alameda County Hospital in Oakland, Calif. After moving to Colorado, Nancy held many nursing positions across the San Luis Valley. She worked at the Del Norte Hospital and Nursing Home and was an obstetric and

pediatric nurse in Del Norte, and as the School Nurse for the Del Norte School District, Director of Nursing at the Veteran's Center at Homelake, and worked in the emergency room in Alamosa. Nancy was instrumental in opening outpatient surgery at the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center in Alamosa before she retired. After retiring from nursing, Nancy continued to serve as a caregiver by volunteering as a "Gray Lady" to assist hospital patients and visitors, where she met and made many good friends.

Nancy was an amazing cook, and always had something baked to bring when visiting friends and family. Nancy loved the daffodils her husband grows. She was an avid pinochle player and spent many hours playing with her pinochle club and her family. After retiring, Nancy spent much of her time in California, with her family and friends. She loved San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge. She especially loved spending time with her grandchildren while in California and when they would visit her in Colorado.

Nancy was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She will be dearly missed by her husband Leo "Bud" Stoeber, Jr. of Monte Vista, her



children Mike (Jennifer) Stoeber, of Fresno, Calif., and Julie Stoeber of Fredericksburg, Va., as well as her beloved grandchildren Owen and Carolyn Stoeber, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents Lowell and Alice Harrison, her brother Gerald "Jerry" Rice, and her son Luke Stoeber.

A Recitation of the Rosary will be held on March 30, 2023, at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Monte Vista with a Funeral Mass to be held on March 31, 2023, also at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Monte Vista at 10 a.m.

Donna L. Avara

Monte Vista resident Donna L. Avara, 84, passed away on March 8, 2023, in Monte Vista, Colo. She was born on June 10, 1938, in Bowen, Colo., to Ronald and Lilly (Anderson) Iske. She married Richard Wesley Avara on Feb. 18, 1984, in Monte Vista.

She was a longtime member of the Church of Christ. She was an amazing seamstress, enjoyed quilting and painting. She was a very knowledgeable rockhound and enjoyed sharing her knowledge.

Donna was very musically talented, at one point she learned to play the trumpet and was a member of a choir that was invited to Austria for a music festival. She had a passion for service and served as a Licensed Practical Nurse for many years.

Donna is survived by her children, Lori Ann (Leonard) Snow, Jim (Marc) Riggenbach, Cheri (Kyle Schoemaker) Malouff and Ron (Cathy) Riggenbach, her grandchildren, Caleb Riggenbach, Sydney Riggenbach, Eli Malouff, Shelly Taylor, Brandon Snow, Kristoffer

Snow, Leo Snow, Jason Riggenbach and Katie Navarro, her great-grandchildren, Stanley Martinez, Uriah Martinez, Daniel Martinez, Eric Snow, Lacy Snow, Melody Dryer, Austin Dryer, Alexis Snow, Isabelle Snow, Brandon Snow, Riley Taylor, Lacy Taylor, Melina Navarro, Lionel Navarro and Prescott Navarro, her brother Michael Iske as well as numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and her brother Ronald Iske.

Cremation was selected and a memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at the Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista. In lieu of flowers, contributions are suggested to the Conour SLV Animal Shelter and may be made in care of the funeral home office.

To express condolences, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com. Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista is in care of the arrangements.



OBITUARY POLICY

Valley Publishing charges a flat fee of \$75 for each obituary published. Pending arrangements or death notices run for no charge.

This charge affects funeral homes, as well as family or other representatives, that directly place obituaries. All paid obituaries will continue to be published on our website(s) for no additional fee.

In the event the newspaper errors in publishing an obit, corrections will be made and the obit will be rerun. If the errors are on the part of the submitting party, an additional fee will be assessed. Obituaries can be emailed to: bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com or call 719-852-3531 for more information.

VALI3Theater
719-628-2015
139 Adams • Monte Vista
www.vali3theater.org



March 31 - April 2

Fri. & Sat. 7 p.m.

Sunday 5 p.m.

PG-13

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

San Luis Valley Federal Bank
COMMITTED TO YOUR SUCCESS

Spend more time together.
Open your account online today!

START TODAY

www.slvfed.bank



OPINION & EDITORIAL

Sitting on babies

I am not sure whoever conjured up the term “babysitting” when referring to the act of watching over someone else’s little rugrat but anyone that has done much of it can tell you there is not much of any “sitting” that goes on during that job. Those little rascals sensing some long sought after freedom from mommy soon turn into little hellions bent on the destruction of property and nerves alike in a lot of cases.

Now while Ol’ Dutch has done his share of watching kids including his grandchildren and generally I can say it has been a mostly pleasant experience, anyone that must watch other strangers’ kids for a living should be up for sainthood at the very least.

Early Sunday did bring about my attending church with the same grands and I got there early enough to sit at the coffee bar they provide as part of their fellowship. It is a nice addition to the experience as people can meet and greet each other before church and get enough coffee in themselves to sing robustly.

On this particular day Ol’ Dutch got to watching the families coming in the door. It was apparent to any observer that the mommies involved had expended every bit of strength they had for the week in getting their kids ready and going to church on time.

Finally arriving inside, they quickly proceeded to the babysitting rooms where they could drop off said munchkins and finally have about an hour and a half of peace for the week. Women would enter said rooms looking downtrodden, tired, and weary and exit smiling with a newness that can be likened to being born again.

A spring had come in their step and smiles graced every face, hugs were granted all around to friends and foes alike and even their husbands got a short grin from said moms. I have not seen happier people, even those just freed from years of prison.

My son has been lucky to have his wife stay home with the kids up to now, and I am thankful when people can do that. But that is not often the case in today’s world and moms everywhere work hard day and night to provide for their families.



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

But even stay at home moms need a break sometimes from their own brood as they are like out-of-town guests and laundry. Both seem to stink after about 3 days in too close proximity. And that is where Grandparents come in. If a person is fortunate enough to have parents who will watch your kids at least periodically, it is a godsend to be sure. Ol’ Dutch has been very blessed to be able to live close to my own grands 7 months out of the year and very early on their mother learned that I can be trusted with kids from age birth to death.

She quickly found out that once again, manicures, pedicures, grocery shopping, doctor’s appointments, lunch out and other things were available without having to take the kids along and then the ensuing amount of effort that it takes. She is the very best mom out there and Ol’ Dutch has gotten to be with the grands due to her kindness and graciousness. Some have said it is due to desperation on her part to have some “alone time,” but I like to look at it on the positive side and believe I am doing her a great service.

So, if you are one of the unfortunate ones that have had a falling out with the laws or in-laws, now may be the time to bury the hatchet-well not literally in their skull-but make peace and get yourself some free time. Or at least until such a time as the kids can watch themselves.

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.

Celebrating Women in the Forest Service

As the last days of March pass, I want to recognize that we are also closing out Women’s History Month. I’ve read numerous stories this month of the incredible contributions women have made to the advancement of society. I’d like to share one story that truly resonates with me as it is based on an early Forest Service worker.



Land Water and People
By Gregg Goodland

In the early days of the US Forest Service, word was spreading that the agency was looking for strong men to apply for these newly created positions as Forest Rangers. From the beginning, women made it known, they were just as capable of this work as the men. But, due to the culture of the time, very few were able to crack the shell of this male dominated world and become officially hired as an employee of the US Forest Service.

The agency often enjoyed a “two for one” concept if a married man was hired. Most of the time this proved true, and sometimes, a Ranger was promoted just to retain his wife. Enjoy this short story of one of those invaluable woman employees, Julia Tyler Shinn.

Julia was born in northern California in 1868. She first met her husband Charles in 1879; she was 11 and he 27. Years later, Charles would travel the 130 miles from San Francisco to Merced, every other weekend, to take her for a Sunday picnic and a buggy ride. They married in 1888 and were completely devoted to each other until Charles’ death in 1924.

After several jobs around the Bay Area, Charles eventually landed in an obscure location called North Fork (south of present-day Yosemite NP) when he became the Supervisor of the Sierra Forest Reserve. With a salary of \$900 a year he also had to furnish his own horses and quarters. In 1902, the Shinn’s purchased a 160-acre homestead that had a small cabin. Julia named it “Peace Cabin” and described it as, “three rooms in all, but one had only boards for a roof, and rain came in through streams” with “a pig on the back porch, a calf at the front door.” She tackled the challenge of fixing up the cabin in her usual manner, head-on! She said she accepted at that moment that she now had the status of a mountain woman. The fixed-up cabin became their residence and the first office of the Sierra National Forest.

The duties of the early Forest Service wives were many. They were not only the homemaker, teacher to the children, cook, seamstress, nurse, but became assistant to their husbands as well. They were the office clerk, preparing reports and letters, collecting payments from permittees, and welcoming any and all Forest Service personnel that might arrive to visit or have inspections to perform. She helped estimate fire damage and grazing costs. She cared for the men and earned their respect and love. One ranger said of her, “Bless her, she was the backbone of the Forest Service, the forgotten mother of the Sierra.”

Julia was officially hired as a US Forest Service employee in 1908. She was now the official file clerk. In the Peace Cabin, she would spend hours typing reports and correspondence to the Washington Office. She noted some of the correspondence from Washington was answered, and some wasn’t. Later, she became the forest clerk, and rangers from all over the forest came to her for help in



Julia Tyler Shinn
“She was an early day forest clerk and the Supervisor’s wife — the friend, advisor and counselor to every man, woman and youngster on the Sierra Forest for over a quarter of a century — the wellspring of the “Sierra Spirit” that continues to this day — the never to be forgotten Mother of our Forest.

creating their reports and correspondence. After Julia retired, these rangers tried to get the same help from the new forest clerk, who refused to assist them, stating it was not her job. This led one ranger to head straight to Julia and say, “Mrs. Shinn, the office used to be like home; now it’s like hell.” Julia claimed this was the “finest compliment I ever had!”

Julia lived to be 88, passing away in 1956. Many fond memories were shared, such as from Richard Bigelow who said, “Everything I learned of value came from Julia.” Ranger Gene Tully remembered Julia as, “One of the finest ladies I’ve ever known. A personality that could grace a cabin or a mansion. I think I am about the only one alive that can tell the true story of what she meant to a handful of ragged, half-clad struggling rangers. That cheerful, loving smile always shining through a tired face. A motherly pat on the shoulder and a hug meant new life to us.”

This story comes to us from California, but I have no doubt that we had many such amazing women that served, whether officially or not, on the lands known back then by different names. Titles such as the Cochetopa Forest Reserve and the Alamosa, Alder, Creede and Pyramid Districts of the San Juan National Forest all contributed portions of land that morphed into the modern-day Rio Grande National Forest for which many fine women now work. I wish I’d be around one hundred years from now to hear the great stories of my co-workers being told.

I am grateful to Chandra Allred, records manager for the Rocky Mountain Region of the Forest Service, for her research and inspiration for this article.

Gregg Goodland is the Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest. An avid outdoor enthusiast, he promotes the responsible and safe use of our public lands.

Subscribe Online!
CENTER POST-DISPATCH.com

CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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>

- Brian Williams..... GM/Editor
- Marie MccolmMonte Vista Journal Reporter
- Patrick SheaCenter Reporter
- Lyndsie Ferrell South Fork/Creede Reporter
- Diane Drekmann.....Conejos/Costilla Reporter
- Sandra Marquez Advertising Sales Associate
- Shasta Quintana Circulation
- Ellie BoneComposition
- Vernon Trujillo Production Foreman

www.centerpostdispatch.com

Preparations underway for Cinco de Mayo Street Festival

By **MARIE MCCOLM**

MONTEVISTA — 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, 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



Courtesy photo

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

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.

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 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/.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF’S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff’s Office for the period between March 20 and March 25, 2023.

The Sheriff’s Office staff patrolled Saguache twice, monitored a controlled burn, handled debris on Highway 285, arranged five ambulance rides, and conducted three welfare checks. They also responded to reports of a missing person in Crestone, received a Saf2Tell call, and dealt with animal cruelty on County Road X.

Staff addressed three cases of theft

in Moffat and Hooper, trespassing in Saguache and Moffat, assault in Moffat, burglary in Moffat, a protection order violation, and harassment in Saguache. They also issued a warrant and transported an inmate to the Rio Grande County Sheriff’s office.

On the roads, they filed one REDDI report (Report Every Drunk Driver Immediately), provided assistance, and made four traffic stops.

ARRESTS

• A 23-year-old man was arrested and charged with domestic violence and assault in the third degree.



- Purchase
- Refinance
- Construction



**3416 Mariposa Street
Alamosa
719-589-2536**

**901 First Avenue
Monte Vista
719-852-5933**

Member FDIC

Equal Housing Lender

NMLS# 421822

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

Care and Share Mobile Market visits Monte Vista

BY MARIE MCCOLM
MONTE VISTA — The Care and Share Mobile Market set up at the Tri County Seniors Center on Friday, March 24, and served about 50 people. The food distribution was open to everyone. The food distribution takes place each month and provides residents of the Tri County Center along with San Luis Valley residents fresh produce and other food items. The Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado distributes to 291 partners, across 31 countries. Care and Share receives donations from different places, suppliers either give donated, or low-cost food to the network. The food is then sorted by volunteers and staff members. It is organized and put on trucks or distributed to local neighborhoods near food banks. Care and Share partners to provide food, and fight hunger in Southern Colorado communities.



Courtesy photos

The Care and Share Mobile Market set up at the Tri County Seniors Center on Friday, March 24, and served about 50 people.

There were at least 50 people in line at the distribution in Monte Vista, with volunteers lined up giving avocados, eggs, bread, donuts, cupcakes, cheese, pineapples, and potatoes. Volunteers were seen picking produce and other food items out of the trucks, and asking residents what they would like as they distributed the food. Some people only took produce, others asked for cupcakes and cheese. Many requested potatoes. The volunteers did everything with a smile. One volunteer said that they were happy to help, when a resident took some items and said thank you. Gladys Martinez was in line for produce. She said that for her family the end of the month is the hardest, and she appreciated the time of the month that the mobile food bank

comes to town. "We have our local food bank, and it really helps, too," Martinez said. "I like to also come to this one because it seems like it comes here right at the time of the month my family and I need it the most. I don't think anyone should feel bad coming here, I don't feel bad, or feel shame. I think this is something that comes to help people in need, and everyone that needs the help should come and be proud to come. I have a family of six and my husband works only part-time. Work is hard here in the Valley. This helps us out until we get paid on the first, this is something really nice for the community." Marlene Velasquez said she was glad to see the seniors partaking in the distribution. "Some seniors are out here and even though they live in a nice place like this, they are sometimes lonely, they



don't always have family members who visit," Velasquez said. "It's nice to see them out and taking some good

stuff upstairs to where they live. They are smiling and talking to everyone. I think this is helpful to bring people together, too."

Care and Share also takes cash donations. For more information on donating or their programs, visit their website careandshare.org.

RGC Clerk's Office participating in H.S. scholarship program

CONTRIBUTED
RIO GRANDE COUNTY — The Colorado County Clerk's Association offers several scholarships to outstanding Colorado high school seniors. Five scholarships for \$1,000 each and four for \$500 will be awarded statewide.

riograndecounty.org or mail them to the Rio Grande County Clerk at P. O. Box 160, Del Norte, CO 81132. Packets can also be returned to the Clerk's office at 965 Sixth Street in Del Norte. All packets must be received by the Clerk no later than

4 p.m. on Friday, March 31. A winner will be selected from each county and then forwarded to the region for the regional winner. Awards will be announced by May 1. For more information, call the Clerk's office at 719-657-3334.

The scholarship application is available on Rio Grande County's website at www.riograndecounty.org. Applications have also been sent to all Rio Grande County schools. Interested individuals may contact their school administration for an application or call the Rio Grande County Clerk's Office at 719-657-3334. Students who reside in other Colorado counties should submit their application to their County Clerk. Rio Grande County high school students can email (preferred) their application packets to clerk@riograndecounty.org

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.



Eat, drink and shop with a purpose by supporting the locally owned businesses that bring variety, diversity, jobs and economic prosperity to our neighborhoods!



RG BANK

901 First Avenue
Monte Vista
719-852-5933

3416 Mariposa Street
Alamosa
719-589-2536

www.RGBank.bank

Equal Housing Lender
Member FDIC

Welcome to SLV Health!



Dr. Schnaderbeck, OB/GYN, Joins Women's Health.

"I am performing operations in the same operating room where I was born!" proudly exclaims Alex Schnaderbeck, DO. "I just can't believe we are back in the Valley. I've traveled for education, for work, for fun...and here we are. I can hardly believe it." Schnaderbeck grew up in the Monte Vista area, graduated from Sargent High School, and completed his medical degree with an emphasis in OB/GYN in Oklahoma.

He loves traveling and has been working as a contract employee so he and his wife could visit remote areas for extended periods of time. One of his hobbies is drone photography, so if you run into him, ask him to show you his whale videos.

He is delivering babies in the same hospital where he was born. They are expecting their first child this summer, and no better place than "home." Read his complete biography on slvh.org. He can be reached in the **SLVH Women's Clinic at 719.589.8028.**



Margarita Salazar posthumously recognized by The César Chávez Peace and Justice Committee of Denver

CONTRIBUTED

Margarita Salazar of Alamosa will be posthumously recognized with a Special Award by The César Chávez Peace and Justice Committee of Denver at its 22nd Annual Marcha and Celebration on Saturday, April 1, in Denver. Each year the César Chávez Peace and Justice Committee of Denver selects individuals from Colorado who embody the values and commitment of César Chávez to social justice. Award recipients will be honored at the public celebration on Saturday, April 1, following the Marcha and observance of Chávez's life and contributions.

Salazar is being recognized because she demonstrated a willingness to sacrifice for the good of others, demonstrated a history of nonviolent struggle against injustice, engaged in empowering the community through organizing, for fighting for the peace and dignity of her community, fought to better the lives of working people. And she had a history of leadership in organizing, volunteer activism—organizing with the underprivileged and underrepresented, educated, and involves others in and of social struggles, persisted against great odds, and led by example.

Salazar was president and CEO of Valley-Wide Health Systems, Insurance Commissioner for the Colorado Division of Insurance, the U.S. Health and Human Services Director for Region 8, director of the Colorado Department of Regulatory

Agencies, and worked in New Mexico under Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham as Superintendent of the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department.

The 22nd Annual César Chávez Peace and Justice Committee of Denver Celebration will take place on Saturday, April 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. The Celebration begins at 8:30 a.m. with a Mass at Regis University Saint John Francis Chapel on the Regis campus at 333 Regis Blvd. After Mass Marchers will assemble in front of the Chapel and then March to César E. Chávez Park located on 42nd and Tennyson St. arriving at 11:15 a.m.

There will be a Grand Celebration in the park with free breakfast burritos, speakers, music, dancers, poetry, and awards. There is no cost to attend and participate in this event. Vendors and other associates of the programs will set up tables at the park beginning at 8 a.m. on April 1. Breakfast burritos and water will be provided at no cost to participants.

At the park Opening Ceremonies will begin at 11:15 a.m. and will include a Blessing and Dance by the Danzantes followed by a performance by the Bryant Webster Student Mariachi, Award Presentations, and guest speakers addressing current labor and community struggles. Music will fill the air, and several progressive speakers and poets will inform the participants of the César Chávez Peace and Justice Committee of Denver's continued dedication to social justice.

Spin Drift Sandboards opens for season

By DIANE DREKMANN

BLANCA — It is time to enjoy Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve with a sandboard or sled. The park was the only place to rent sandboards, until Amy Raney opened Spin Drift Sandboards in 2018.

Raney was living in Blanca near the sand dunes and realized a need for another sandboard shop, especially for visitors travelling from Interstate 25 and Walsenburg. Raney opened Spin Drift Sandboards “with 10 boards. I now have 130 boards.”

Spin Drift Sandboards opens every March for spring break and is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week.

Raney “hopes to hire youth interns in the summer” to be able to keep Spin Drift Sandboards open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to take advantage of the sand dunes and the park's dark skies designation.

In 2019, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve was certified as an International Dark Sky Park by the International Dark Sky Association, meeting standards for sky darkness, limiting outdoor lighting, and working with neighboring communities to reduce light pollution.

Being a local, Raney is knowledgeable about other local attractions, the history of the area, and shows people how to use a sandboard with wax pucks and goggles. She has discounted tickets for the Gator Farm, a local attraction, and other places to see in the Valley.

Raney feels “it is important to help the community and collaborate with other businesses. I like to make recommendations and plant a seed.”

Raney also said it is important “to leave no trace.” The wax pucks used with the sandboards are recyclable.



Photo by Diane Drekmann

Amy Raney opens Spin Drift Sandboards each spring break for the season.

Raney is building a prototype sandboard using hemp with the help of four Grand Mesa University students from Grand Junction. Through their outdoor recreation program, the students chose Spin Drift Sandboards as their project because of Raney's commitment to environmental sustainability.

Spin Drift Sandboards offers seven

types of sandboards and sleds that people can use to experience the sand dunes sitting or standing. She also offers multi-day rentals.

Raney said this activity is for everyone, “the youngest person who stood on a sandboard was 3 years old. The oldest person was 78 years old.”

For more information, call Spin Drift Sandboards at 719-379-4410.

Start Trusting and Stop Fretting

Psalm 37:1-3 is a great promise for us in God's Word. It says, “Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture” (NIV).

These verses reassure us that we don't need to be worried about everything wrong that's happening in the world, because God is still in control. And He's going to take care of us as long as we trust Him and do good.

But we all have times when we wonder, “Is God really going to come through for me? Can I really trust Him... or do I need to have a backup plan? If God doesn't come through quickly enough, how long am I willing or prepared to wait for Him to act?”

The truth is, whether or not you can trust God depends on whether you're trying to get Him to give you what YOU want, or what HE wants. In other words, are you trusting Him to do His perfect will for you, in His perfect timing and in His way?

The Best Way to Ask for What You Want

It's good for us to tell God what we want and to ask Him for help when we need it. But sometimes we think we know what is right for us, or we want something so badly we feel we just have to have it; so instead of trusting God to do what is best, we tell Him what He needs to do.

We need to realize that we really are not smart enough to deal with the problems we face on our own. And when we don't trust God, we end up trying to make something happen that only He can do, which just makes us frustrated.

I've discovered that no matter how badly I want something, I need to pray, “God, if what I want is not what You want for me, then please don't give it

to me. I want to do Your will in this situation, and I'm trusting You to give me what You want for me.”

This is especially important in situations where we don't understand why things are happening the way they are. I remember when God told me to quit my job so I could stay home and study the Word more. This was the season when He was preparing me for full-time ministry.

It was so hard because without me working, we were \$40 short of what we needed each month just to pay our bills. I would go to garage sales to buy clothes for my kids, and we kept giving and tithing as God spoke to our hearts to do it. For six years we had to have a miracle every month in our finances, and it didn't make any sense to me at all why it was taking so long for us to get a breakthrough in our situation.

But I understand now that God was teaching me how to trust Him for every little thing I needed every day. Everything I went through with God during those six years prepared me to do what we're doing in ministry now. And it takes a lot more to keep the ministry going today than what we needed to pay our bills back then.

What It Takes to Really Trust God

I'm so glad God helped me stay determined not to give up or try to meet all of our needs in my own strength. I needed those years of being home full-time to study the Word and apply the biblical principles I was learning practically in my own life before I could do what I'm doing today.

You know, it doesn't do any good to just know the Word in your head — you have to know it by experience through your relationship with God. We need to experience the faithfulness of God in our lives to grow in our trust in Him. I can honestly say now that some of the times I treasure most happened during those six years when God came



through for us in miraculous ways. I didn't always get what I wanted, but God always provided everything I needed.

You're not going to know for sure if you can trust God until you have to step out in faith and experience His faithfulness. I want to encourage you today: Don't give up on what God has put in your heart to do! No matter how hard it is to trust Him, be determined to keep doing everything He shows you to do.

As the Amplified Bible, Classic Edition says in Psalm 37:3, “Trust (lean on, rely on, and be confident) in the Lord and do good; so shall you dwell in the land and feed surely on His faithfulness...” God is faithful, and you really can trust Him!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching resource **Trust God and Do Good**. 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.

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

THE DISH STVS **Let's Dish it Out!**
Looking for a way to make your community a better place? Join The Dish! The Dish is an up and coming community organization focused on event planning and bringing people together through great food. Sign up now and help us build a stronger, more vibrant town. Contact thedish@gmail.com to get involved today!

Biannual Silver Threads Quilt Show scheduled for the fall

By LYNDISIE FERRELL
CREEDE — Even though spring is barely beginning to show throughout the San Luis Valley, now could be the time to consider plans for the coming summer and fall. One of the area's favorite events is on the schedule for the fall of 2023 and they have been working through the last year to bring some of the most amazing works of art to the Creede community for yet another year.

The Silver Threads Quilt Guild is ready and roaring to hosts its biannual show Sept. 15-17 in conjunction with the Cruising the Canyon Car Show in mid-September and is looking forward to joining the Creede community to showcase award-winning quilts from quilters near and far. This year will be the guild's 21st year hosting the biannual show and they have some special things planned.

One of the highlights of the fall event is the Raffle Quilt. This quilt is worked on throughout the year by several if not all members of the guild and is one that is done with a special theme in mind. The quilt will be showcased at events across

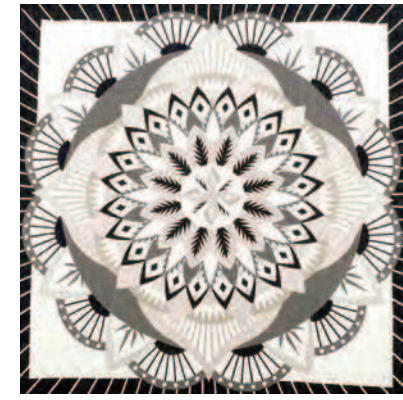
the Valley so that everyone has a chance to put their name in to win the quilt. This year's theme is Amethyst Anniversary.

The guild is also known for the Quilts of Valor, a project dear to their heart. The guild makes quilts for veterans at Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake and they have done this for nearly the full 21 years they have been a guild. In addition to the Quilts of Valor, the guild also creates works of art for Children's Hospital Colorado in Denver and other local projects.

The guild is always seeking new members to continue the art of quilting and in previous years have offered mid-year classes prior to their show in the fall. More details about potential classes this year will be announced as dates and times become available.

"We just love sharing our knowledge with others. It doesn't matter your ability, we have a great time and are always welcoming new members," said Silver Thread Quilt Guild Member Vi Koch.

Vendors this year will include Stitcher's Garden, of Pueblo, Bob's



Courtesy photo

The 21st Silver Threads Quilt Guild show dates have been set, Sept. 15-17. The biannual show will be celebrating their Amethyst Anniversary. Look for chances to enter the drawing for the Raffle Quilt at local events, farmer markets and more.

Sewing and Vac, of Albuquerque, N.M., Quilt-It-Ya-Ya, of Aztec, N.M., and Stitch, of Durango.

NAMES

Continued from Page 1A

had started years before.

"Potter's Fields are defined as a burial place for paupers and strangers and is usually found in a remote corner of a graveyard. It is reserved for the burial of unknown persons, unclaimed persons, or indigent people. One afternoon, as I walked through the Del Norte Cemetery, an area stood out to me. There were graves marked with rocks and old weathered crosses which drew my attention. I got to thinking about who these souls were and it filled me with empathy. They were once loved and now they were forgotten," said Romero.

It was at this point that Romero joined forces with Weaver and Cox and they were able to find the names of some of the people in Potter's Field.

"My mission became giving these souls a name and recognition,

to give them an identity. With the help of Rosalind and Polly, that mission has come to fruition. These women spent nearly 20 years researching newspapers, church records, historical records, birth, and death records and through that research found the answers I was seeking," Romero said.

Through hours of dedication and even more help from members of the community, Romero is ready to place crosses at Potter's Field in Del Norte this spring. Monte Vista School District woodshop teacher Aaron Woodke and his students donated wood and cut the crosses, Val Alta gave a generous donation and helped purchase paint, and several other members of the community helped with the cross-making process.

Now, Romero is seeking more information and is reaching out to

the community for answers. The crosses will be placed at the cemetery in the middle of May as weather and ground conditions allow. A date and time will be set in the coming weeks, and Romero is asking people to help identify more information about the people buried in Potter's Field.

"This was a group effort, and I am so grateful to be able to give names to those who have been forgotten. Please come out and help us find out more about the people who are buried there," Romero said.

EVENTS

Continued from Page 1A

attractions will offer Great Sand Dunes themed specials and displays to show their love for the national park unit during the month of April as part of Visit Alamosa's "We Love our National Park" campaign. Great Sand Dunes is also planning events and programs throughout April to align with the campaign.

The month-long celebration will kick-off with a block party on San Juan Avenue in Alamosa on Friday, April 7. The evening will feature a variety of activities and entertainment for all ages. Starting at 4 p.m., multiple Adams State University musical ensembles will perform, and Park Superintendent Andrea Compton will be joined by city and county officials for opening remarks.

Great Sand Dunes Park rangers and partner organizations will have information tables throughout the evening from 5 to 8 p.m. Local band, the Celtic (K)nots, will perform at 6 p.m. and performers from the Salida Circus will be entertaining throughout the evening along Main Street and San Juan Avenue. A free ranger presentation

will also be offered at the local San Luis Valley Museum at 6 p.m.

Throughout the month starting on April 7, free ranger programs or activity tables will be offered at the park visitor center on most weekends. Daily programs or activity tables at the park visitor center are planned during National Park Week, April 22-30.

To kick off National Park Week, entrance fees will be waived on Saturday, April 22, and the park will host a Locals Night Under the Stars event at the park's outdoor amphitheater from 8-10:30 p.m. This event will feature guest speaker, Michael Rymer from the International Dark Sky Association, followed by ranger-guided stargazing, and telescope viewing and learning about the impacts of light pollution.

For a full schedule of events during the month of April and more information on visiting Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, including camping, hiking, Medano Creek conditions, Medano Pass Primitive Road conditions, visitor center hours, and other park news, visit www.nps.gov/grsa.

MOFFAT

Continued from Page 1A

after publication in the Valley Courier.

The five-person Planning Commission will tackle different land use issues. Board members must be residents of Moffat.

Then the board passed another resolution to establish a Board of Adjustment. Also consisting of five members serving three-year terms, the Board of Adjustment addresses variances and similar issues. Moffat residence is not required. Walker said most Board of Adjustment commitments amount to a handful of meetings every year, unlike regularly scheduled Planning Commission meetings.

Mayor Foxx spoke about filling a potential Town Administrator position. Like recurring requests for a groundskeeper, law enforcement, a municipal judge, and code enforcement, acquiring staff is costly and competitive. Advertisements for similar positions appear across the Valley.

Mayor Foxx led the nuisance code review process and noted how the document must be refined before an officer can enforce it. The nuisance code and other Moffat documents will need to be refined and created before a judge can help gather fees from noncompliance and violations.

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.

Summer on the Rio Grande

2023

Valley Publishing Inc.
 P.O. Box 607 • 835 1st Ave. • Monte Vista • 719-852-3531

GENERAC
 Prepare for power outages today
 WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR
 \$0 MONEY DOWN • LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS
 REQUEST A FREE QUOTE
 CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE
 (844) 482-0444
 FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* - A \$695 Value!

2022 Summer on the Rio Grande Southern Colorado
 FREE San Luis Valley Official Visitors Guide
 Alamosa County, Conejos County, Costilla County, Mineral County, Rio Grande County, Saguache County
 2022 Valley Publishing, Inc.

Why advertise in the Summer on the Rio Grande publication?

- We deliver over 30,000 copies locally at hotels, RV parks, tourist destinations and more and throughout the state at Welcome Centers and Visitor Centers, as well as to our readers through our weekly newspapers.
- We deliver your message to a broad audience for a small investment.
- We have proven readership of our publications based on decades of publishing.
- We know and promote the Valley on a daily basis and have been for over 75 years.
- We won't charge extra costs for graphic design/production! • We've been printing Summer on the Rio Grande for many years.... we're not new to this!
- We work with the advertisers all year and know their budgets, concerns, and the best way to display their message effectively.

Give us a call to see how Valley Publishing's Summer on the Rio Grande can work for you!

La Jara Elementary math scores add up to \$50K

BY DIANE DREKMANN

LA JARA — In an interview last fall with North Conejos School District Superintendent Darren Edgar, he mentioned, “Take a look at La Jara Elementary. They are doing great things.”

La Jara Elementary Principal Rick Salazar was pleasantly surprised when he found out the school had received three awards for excellence in mathematics.

“I checked the Final Transitional Performance Framework, which is a summary of how the school did in the past year and checked the school website and discovered La Jara Elementary had won three awards,” Salazar said.

Through the governor’s office and the Colorado Department of Education, La Jara Elementary won the Governor’s Distinguished Improvement Award for its growth in mathematics; the John Irwin Award for mathematic achievement over time, and a special award given to only 12 schools in Colorado, through the governor’s office, the Math Bright Spot award for high academic growth and achievement.

La Jara Elementary school will receive \$50,000 to help continue its successful program.

What makes La Jara Elementary so successful in math and other subjects like Language Arts and Science?

Principal Salazar explains, “The team approach is most important,

having the community and school, staff, teachers, students, and administration all working together. The staff plays a big part. We have excellent teachers.”

La Jara Elementary teaches standard-based math. Salazar strongly believes, “You have to have a solid foundation in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Then you can proceed to use math.”

The school uses every opportunity

to show the practical uses of mathematics.

“It is hard work for the students and teachers,” he said.

All the students at La Jara Elementary have Chromebooks provided by the school with extras and chargers so all students have access to the Internet.

Salazar was a fourth-grade teacher at La Jara Elementary for 12 years — seven years working with

the Reading Intervention Program to combat illiteracy and improve reading skills. He has been the principal for nine years.

La Jara Elementary did not apply for any of the awards.

“We were chosen because of our scores,” Salazar. “The \$50,000 will be used to continue to instruct students in math technology, tutoring, and keep targeting student learning.”



Photo by Diane Drekman

La Jara Elementary Principal Rick Salazar was happy to talk about the school’s math achievements and the \$50,000 that will help continue the school’s program.

Top Docs

THANK YOU, DOCTORS!

In recognition of Doctors Day, Valley-Wide would like to say Thank You to all of our doctors for their commitment to providing the best care to our patients, and serving Valley-Wide’s mission every day.

Call or schedule an appointment online!
1-833-350-1113
valley-widehealth.org



Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.
Your Health. Our Priority!

DOCTORS' DAY

Rio Grande HOSPITAL & CLINICS
a non-profit organization

310 County Road 14
Del Norte, CO 81132
T-719-657-2510
F-719-657-2511
www.riograndehospital.org

RIO GRANDE HOSPITAL With our updated Emergency Room, Wound Care, and New Cardiac Rehabilitation, we can better serve you with our cutting-edge technology.

WE ARE MORE THAN AN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT. WE ARE A LIFELINE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY.

OUR SERVICES

- Specialty Clinic** 719-657-3277 Cardiology, Dermatology, Orthopedics, OB/GYN, Pain Management, Vascular & More.
- Clinics & Pharmacy Needs**
 - Creede 719-658-0929
 - Del Norte 719-657-2418
 - South Fork 719-873-5494
 - Monte Vista 719-852-8827
 - Monte Vista Pharmacy (PHARMACY OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK)
- Physical Therapy**
 - Del Norte 719-657-4140
 - Monte Vista 719-628-0118
- Imaging & Radiology** 719-657-4151
- Laboratory Services** 719-657-4135
- COLONOSCOPY** screenings save lives. Schedule yours today. Get your referral from your primary doctor.
- Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation** 719-657-4140
- Recovery Clinic** 719-657-4100

CT CALCIUM SCAN now available for \$105 – Identifies possible coronary artery disease. 719-657-4151

EXPANSION FOR WELLNESS VILLAGE COMING SOON!
For more information, a tour, or to make a donation, please call: 719-657-3266.

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY HOSPITAL **SAVE THE DATE** for our only annual fundraiser **KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE Summer of 2023**
FOR SPONSORSHIP OR DONATION INFORMATION
EMAIL EVA TIMBERLAKE AT EVA@RIOGRANDEHOSPITAL.NET OR CALL 719-657-3266

keeping the dream alive
Visit our website for other specialty services

If you do not have health insurance, you may qualify for financial assistance. We have a program to assist uninsured, low-income patients with payment of medical bills.

Accepting New Patients!



Call Us!
(719) 589-3000

We want to be part of YOUR medical journey!



Lifestyles

Serving the entire San Luis Valley

Supplement to The Monte Vista Journal, Center Post-Dispatch, The Conejos County Citizen, The Mineral County Miner, The South Fork Times, and The Del Norte Prospector.

BOXHOLDER LOCAL-RURAL CAR-RT SORT STANDARD MAIL RATE U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 70 Alamosa, CO 81101



Courtesy photo

Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area awarded History Scholarships to nine students. From left to right: Laila Martinez, Durae Naranjo and Avery Hostetter. Not pictured: Parker Mitchell Jeana Dunn, Alaysha Silva, and Leah Smith.

Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area awards History Scholarships to students

CONTRIBUTED
ALAMOSA — The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA) presented nine students with \$4,800 worth of History Fair Scholarships. SdCNHA provides annual scholarships to students who participate and compete in the Regional History Fair, with projects based on this year's theme "Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas" that involve local history, culture, or traditions.

The Regional History Fair took place at Adams State University and was hosted by the Adams State University (ASU) Department of History, Anthropology, Philosophy, Political Science, and Spanish (HAPPSS). The Regional History Fair is part one of the National History Day competition that takes place nationwide. Students participate in a project-based learning curriculum that emphasizes critical reading and thinking, research, analysis, and the

drawing of meaningful conclusions. Students can complete these projects in groups or as individuals in one of five categories: documentary, paper, exhibit, performance, or website.

This year's round of annual Regional History Day submissions demonstrated the broad array of historical topics rooted in history from the San Luis Valley, two documentaries, one exhibit, one website, and three papers qualified for the **Please see SdCNHA on Page 2**

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY
COLORADO
Great Stories Begin Here

SAVE THE DATE

Annual
 Rio Grande
 State of the Basin
 Symposium

SATURDAY
MAY 6, 2023

Rio Grande State of the Basin Symposium is May 6

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The fifth annual Rio Grande State of the Basin Symposium will be held on Saturday, May 6, on the Adams State University campus.

Sponsored by the Adams State Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center, the symposium will begin at 8 a.m. with registration and breakfast. Following morning presentations participants will move to the Student Union Building for lunch and keynote address by Craig Childs.

According to Amazon, Craig

Childs is an Arizona native who now lives in western Colorado. Winner of the 2009 Rowell Art of Adventure Award, he is part deep traveler, part writer who focuses on natural sciences, archaeology, and journeys into the global wilderness. He is a commentator for National Public Radio's "Morning Edition," and his work has appeared in The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Men's Journal, Outside, the Sun, and Orion. Subjects range from pre-Columbian archaeology to U.S. border issues

Please see BASIN on Page 2

Spin Drift Sandboards opens for season

BY DIANE DREKMANN

BLANCA — It is time to enjoy Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve with a sandboard or sled. The park was the only place to rent sandboards, until Amy Raney opened Spin Drift Sandboards in 2018.

Raney was living in Blanca near the sand dunes and realized a need for another sandboard shop, especially for visitors travelling from Interstate 25 and Walsenburg. Raney opened Spin Drift Sandboards "with 10 boards. I now have 130 boards."

Spin Drift Sandboards opens every March for spring break and is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week.

Raney "hopes to hire youth interns in the summer" to be able to keep Spin Drift Sandboards open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to take advantage of the sand dunes and the park's dark skies designation.

In 2019, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve was certified as an International Dark Sky Park by the International Dark Sky Association, meeting standards for sky darkness, limiting outdoor lighting, and working with neighboring communities to reduce light pollution.

Being a local, Raney is knowledgeable about other local attractions, the history of the area, and shows people how to use a sandboard with wax pucks and goggles. She has discounted tickets for the Gator Farm, a local attraction, and other places to see in the Valley.

Raney feels "it is important to help the community and collaborate with other businesses. I like to make recommendations and plant a seed."

Raney also said it is important "to leave no trace." The wax pucks used with the sandboards are recyclable.

Raney is building a prototype

sandboard using hemp with the help of four Grand Mesa University students from Grand Junction. Through their outdoor recreation program, the students chose Spin Drift Sandboards as their project because of Raney's commitment to environmental sustainability.

Spin Drift Sandboards offers seven types of sandboards and sleds that people can use to experience the sand dunes sitting or standing. She also offers multi-day rentals.

Raney said this activity is for everyone, "the youngest person who stood on a sandboard was 3 years old. The oldest person was 78 years old."

For more information, call Spin Drift Sandboards at 719-379-4410.

Amy Raney opens Spin Drift Sandboards each spring break for the season.

Photo by Diane Drekmann



Mini youth cheerleaders show true spirit for Monte Vista

BY MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista Mini Youth Cheerleading Squad performed during the Monte Vista City Council meeting on Thursday, March 16, at City Hall. The girls performed four cheers and a dance routine, complete with mini pompoms and mini green and gold cheerleading outfits.

Co-founder and coach Jessica Ornelas is extremely proud of the youth squad. Her daughter is one of the cheerleaders.

“I am extremely proud of these kids and the effort that they have put into this squad,” Ornelas said. “It has taken us a lot to put this squad together, but it has been so worth it. Our vision for the squad is to see them cheering alongside the bigger cheerleaders for Monte, that’s what we are really hoping for. We are looking to expand our squad in May to ages 5 through 10. We are pretty excited about that, and where the squad will go.”

Ornelas and Carissa Rivera started the squad about a year ago. Rivera works with Ornelas and approached her with the idea. Rivera remembered that when she was in middle school Ornelas was a cheerleading coach.

“She came up to me with the idea, and we both have daughters that are 6 years old, and they both wanted to be cheerleaders. This just seemed like a great idea,” Ornelas said. “So, we asked if we could start a cheerleading squad. We started out with five little girls. We started out at the high school. We didn’t have a place to practice so we practiced on the lawn. We were even getting wet by sprinklers. We were running all over, but we had fun. I am the one that teaches the girls the jumps, the kicks, the cheers, all that stuff.”

Ornelas explained that they started practice in May and practiced through June and July.

Ornelas said they had a float in last year’s Stampede Parade.

“It was all of us moms, and some of the dads showed up too,” Ornelas said. “We had an assembly line going making a pirate ship for the parade. We were at my grandma’s house in the garage making this. We also made T-shirts for the girls, we ordered the warmups ourselves and put a lot of money in this as parents. We cut everything out with our Cricut machines. We did all the lettering on their outfits. They really didn’t get to cheer all year, but they finally got to cheer when Dervin (Taylor, who is director of MV Recreation) came in for basketball.”

Ornelas explained how Monte Vista Recreation Director Dervin Taylor stepped in and allowed the girls to cheer for basketball.

“We started cheering for basketball, after that we got five more members including one boy,” Ornelas said. “He is our pirate mascot, complete with the pirate patch and mask. With Dervin’s help, we were also able to order five new uniforms for the new members. We did a fundraiser in November with Krispy Crème. We raised over \$3,000, and we were able to keep half, so we got the new uniforms, and we were able to buy cheerleading shoes. Our hope is to also get mats with the extra funds that we have left, because I want to teach the kids some tumbling and some stunting, but with mats, so that this is safe.”

Ornelas said that Taylor followed through on his promise and bought the kids their cheerleading bags, to put their shoes and pom poms in.

Ornelas said the squad also has two kids that attend school in other districts that are cheerleaders.

“We have an Alamosa student and a Center student,” she said. “They come to cheer with



Courtesy photo

The Monte Vista Mini Youth Cheerleading Squad performed during a recent Monte Vista City Council meeting. MV City Manager Gigi Dennis is pictured with the squad.

us every week. All the kids put a lot of hard work into this. The squad most recently got to cheer with the high school cheerleaders during a peewee wrestling tournament. They really love to cheer. They call each other best friends. I am hoping to see them incorporated with the older girls at the games. Carissa does a lot of coordinating for the girls. Our hope is that we get to eventually cheer year-round with the older girls. We would also love to cheer at the middle school, where they don’t have cheerleaders. The parents are awesome, they back us up with everything.”

Ornelas said the next event for the squad is

going to be the Cinco de Mayo Street Festival where they will have a booth for fundraising, and they have also been asked to perform there.

“We will be at Cinco and also at the (Stampede) parade again. We will also be doing another Krispy Crème fundraiser,” Ornelas said. “We are happily accepting donations from anyone who would like to donate, too. I am extremely proud of the squad, and I love being their coach. I can’t wait to see them grow.”

For more information on the squad or to make a donation, email Ornelas at yessicaopodaca@icloud.com.

SdCNHA

Continued from Page 1

SdCNHA scholarship.

Laila Martinez, Leah Smith, Avery Hostetter, Durae Naranjo, Parker Mitchell, Jeana Dunn, and Alaysha Silva are the students who received a SdCNHA scholarship for 2023.

Martinez created a documentary titled; “Mission Churches in Conejos County, Frontiers in History.” She shared significant information about each of the historic mission churches in Conejos County.

Mitchell also created a documentary titled; “San Luis Valley: A Farming Frontier.” Mitchell shared important information about how people worked together to make farming successful in the San Luis Valley.

Smith wrote a paper titled, “Frontiers of the San Luis Valley: The Valley and its Diversity”. In the paper, she writes about how the many diverse cultures shaped the San Luis Valley and how the San Luis Valley allowed new opportunities for people who were coming in.

Silva also wrote a paper titled, “Frontier in Racism and How it Changed Daily Lives Forever.” Silva wrote about the impact of racism in the United States, but then mentioned about how it impacted areas like the

San Luis Valley.

Hostetter wrote a paper titled, “The San Luis Valley: Land United by Frontiers.” In her paper, she shared about how the San Luis Valley was home to many frontiers that would happen throughout history and supplied the resources that were needed for the many frontiers that took place.

Dunn created a website, called “Settlement of Manassa.” In her website, she shared about the different ethnicities and their ties to Manassa while sharing information on the history.

Naranjo created a traditional exhibit called, “Maestas V. Shone.” She shares the story of the nation’s earliest victory in the war against Hispanic educational segregation that took place in Alamosa.

“The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area congratulates all students who participated in this year’s competition and is excited to see what heritage area youth come up with next year,” officials stated.

For more information on National History Day, visit www.nhd.org. For more information on SdCNHA scholarships and fieldtrip grants, visit www.sangreheritage.org.

BASIN

Continued from Page 1

to the last free-flowing rivers of Tibet and Patagonia.

“We are continuing to organize speakers and panelists for the morning sessions,” said Nick Saenz, professor of history and special assistant to the president.

Currently presenters include Colo-

rado Division of Water Resource Division Engineers Craig Cotton and Kevin Rein; a legislative report by State Senator Cleave Simpson; Rio Grande Farm Park Program Director Seth Armentrout and Fairfield and Woods, P.C., Director Phillip E. Lopez, Adams State Class of 2004; as

well as a presentation by the Colorado Water Conservation Board Member Nathan Coombs.

The Rio Grande State of the Basin Symposium is free and open to the public. For more information, or to register, contact Saenz at cnsaenz@adams.edu.

Conour

www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org

Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society

If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366

Open Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sat. & Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m.
Monday & non-business hours by appointment only

2825 Sherman Ave. • Monte Vista

Visit Our Facebook Page

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

If you love bullies, or are looking for a big dog stop by and meet one of our many dogs who are waiting for their furever homes!



Found on 3/10 on the 900 block of Morton St in Monte Vista



Found together on 3/14 on Hermosa St in Del Norte



Monte Vista Chiropractic & Wellness, LLC

L. Blair Nielsen DC • (719) 849-8091

Monday through Friday by appointment with Chiropractic and Wellness Care - \$40

*Pain Relief *Movement and Function Restoration

*Nutritional Guidance *Multiple Treatment Approaches

Please note adoptions go in order of contact made.

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

Alamosa commissioners say no to concert venue

By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa County Board of Commissioners unanimously rejected the land use application of Justin Davis to open a concert venue on County Road 116 in rural Alamosa County at their meeting on March 8. The proposal from Davis included 15 campsites, and a stage and venue that could accommodate 300-400 concertgoers.

Previously, the county land use office recommended not to proceed with the application although it needed to be decided upon by commissioners.

For over an hour, commissioners heard from residents, almost all of whom were opposed to the proposed music site.

Jonathan Lopez, who lives near the proposed venue, told commissioners, "I'm concerned about traffic, noise, and the safety of the neighborhood when you mix alcohol, legal or illegal drugs; after dark, we're going to have a lot of problems, and we are too far from town and far as the sheriff can get out there... this might be a good idea, but it is in the wrong place."

Jackie Kennedy, who lives on County 5S near the site, offered, "It is three miles of gravel road between the highway and the proposed site, there is no turn lane, no lights, nothing out there, it is a dangerous intersection [160 and CR 116]...if we have an extra 300 people going to a concert it's going to be even worse."

Nearby resident Douglas Scharnberg

said, "The issue is the noise; there is absolutely no way Mr. Davis can obliterate the noise. We'll hear thump, thump, thump, four nights a week for 16 weeks...we'll hear a subwoofer. These are rock and roll bands. This is a man's rock and roll fantasy; is to come out to one of the quietest places left in existence in the United States, one of the darkest places, one of the most peaceful places, and have a rock and roll party."

Scharnberg added he has been a musician for 48 years, many of them in Terlingua, Texas, which is similar to the San Luis Valley in its remoteness, and proximity to a national park, and said this was not an appropriate location for music.

Paul Lemon, who vocalized his concerns about wildlife and other issues, said, "I'm very emotional. I'm trying to stop being very angry...this is just a stupid venue."

A resident new to the area, Amy Haslett, offered statistics related to concert attendees' use of alcohol and drugs and read a statement from her husband, who works in law enforcement, stating, "concert venues will bring various forms of crime and guarantee impaired drivers to our residential area. The proposed camping area will not provide enough areas to camp after these events, thus causing them to drive to their destination."

The commissioners agreed with the

land use office and rejected the application unanimously.

After the decision to turn down his proposal, promoter Davis told the Valley

Courier, "We're still processing...our standpoint is that it is a major setback. We have invested a lot of time and resources and, of course, had bought

the property."

As for the future, Davis said, "I'm not sure exactly what direction we're going to proceed at this point."

Conejos County becomes a Rural Jump-Start Zone

CONTRIBUTED

DENVER — The Business Funding and Incentives Division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) announced March 16 that Conejos County has been designated as a Rural Jump-Start Zone.

This designation is intended to encourage economic development and job creation by offering new businesses or businesses that move to these zones significant financial benefits.

Through the Rural Jump-Start (RJS) program, businesses that start in or move to RJS zones can qualify for relief from the state business income tax, the sales and use tax, and county/municipal business personal property taxes.

Qualified employees also receive relief from their state personal income tax. In addition, businesses are eligible for a general operating grant of up to \$20,000 and up to \$2,500 per qualified new hire.

These grants are intended to support regional economic and workforce development activities that expand local business, create new good-paying jobs, and create more diversified and strong local economies.

RJS zones are designated to spur economic growth and job creation in economically distressed, rural counties of Colorado. To become an RJS zone, Conejos County passed a resolution in support of the designation on Feb. 2. The Colorado Economic Development Commission (EDC) approved the application on March 16.



"Delicious pizza, love the pay as you pour beer option!"
~ Danielle D.

Fresh Ingredients, BIG on TASTE!

Stop by and try our Delicious Mountain Puffs, served with a side of honey!

Also try our Pastas • Entrées Beer & Wine on Tap, Self-Serve!


\$9 Combo Deal: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Everyday!

Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMTs and our Veterans always receive 20% off!

30483 Highway 160, South Fork 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. DAILY


Easy Online To-Go Orders: MountainPizzaTapRoom.com

You have the power to protect your child.




Provide your children with safe and long-lasting protection against measles by making sure they get the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine according to CDC's recommended immunization schedule.

WWW.CDC.GOV/MEASLES



American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



New Teeth in Just One Day No More Dentures!

No Cost Consultation: Know what's possible for You! Includes preliminary evaluation and CBCT image. \$500 value. Expires: 3/31/2023.



Dr. Thornell helped save my life. I was having constant health problems that were getting worse every day. My diseased teeth and gums were draining me of my energy and it was impossible to stay healthy. After removing all of my bad teeth, Dr. Thornell placed dental implants and I got a new set of teeth in just one day. I am now healthier and feel better than I have in a long time. I also have a great smile. Dr. Thornell you are a life saver! I can't thank you enough.
~ B.Gullette

Medicare will help pay: Save Thousands!

Medicare Certified Provider

Convenient payment plans and financing options available.

Credit Cards Accepted   

Pagosa dental



implant Center

William F. Thornell
DDS, MAGD, DICOI
35 years implant and oral surgery experience

Medicare Certified Provider

pagosadentalimplantcenter.com



189 Talisman Dr., Suite E • Located above Higher Grounds Coffee • 970-444-1298

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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



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



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

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

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



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



Steffens & Company Realty
719-873-5605

30635 US HWY 160
South Fork
dee@steffenscorealty.com
Dee is a 4th generation SOUTH FORK NATIVE with a love for the upper end of the San Luis Valley.



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

UNDER CONTRACT IN 7 DAYS

701 County Road 20
3 bedroom 3 bath full log home on 1 acre. Two-car garage with unfinished apartment above. Air B&B OK
MLS# 800522



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

271 Birch Street
3.5 acres of commercial land in South Fork Between the Post office and the Church of Christ
\$375,000 MLS# 800638



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

You Don't Need Luck To Sell Your Place, You Need A Local Expert!
Call/Text Bernadette **719-850-1993**

We work hard for you!

Call Bernadette today!

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

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



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

429 Lake Drive, South Fork
6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 4,632 Square feet. Luxury log home with home theatre, gorgeous views.
6.25 acres, Willow Park, South Fork.
MLS# 795671
\$1,550,000



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

FOR SALE!



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

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

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

FOR SALE!

Stately 2,818 Sq Ft. Mountain Home with Stunning Natural Light on 3.19 acres. This beautiful 3 bed 4 bath home is your perfect retreat. Open Split floor plan with beautiful cathedral ceiling and fireplace, large windows taking in the breath-taking outdoor sunlight and mountain views. Complete with beautiful furnishing, accessories and decor. The kitchen with eat in counter, gorgeous custom cabinetry, granite countertops and butler pantry is your dream kitchen for entertaining your family and friends. Separate office space off the dining area with patio door leads out to the great outdoors. There are two guest rooms one with private bath could be considered a separate master bedroom. Large master bedroom with large walk-in closet, fireplace gorgeous walk-in shower and access to deck with hot tub. Take in the stunning views from the main floor outdoor balcony. Your perfect place for that hot morning cup of coffee or relaxing evening glass of wine. This is a luxurious home located with private access to the national forest in The Timbers subdivision of South Fork Ranches. All this, just moments from Rio Grande Golf Club, Rio Grande River gold medal fishing and world class skiing at Wolf Creek Ski area. Don't wait call and schedule your private showing today! **\$1,250,000** MLS #798101
497 Timberline Drive • South Fork



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

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 consists of an open area with beautiful carved mantel stone fireplace. Stunning entrance to behold! Custom designed designer backsplash and large eat in counter space overlooking 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 Rinai 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! Borders 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
37 Million Court • South Fork

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

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
12272 County Road R5 • San Luis

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

FOR SALE!



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

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

FOR SALE!

Darling authentic 1,232 Sq. Ft. 2-bedroom 2 bath log cabin with upgrades galore! Located in Log Haven. Tucked along the mountain side backing up to national forest with beautiful views of the surrounding cliffs. Open living room, dining, kitchen area with new propane Vermont Casting stove to keep you cozy and warm all winter long. Kitchen is quaint and bright with custom granite countertops. This cabin has a covered front porch and wonderful back deck. The perfect place to enjoy the wildlife, peace and quiet and that first hot cup of morning coffee. Nice fence back yard with gate opening to the national forest. Hike for miles out your own back door. Downstairs has a master bedroom and a full bath. Upstairs additional bedroom, bathroom and nice size sitting nook, great space to enjoy that best-selling book or use for your office den. This cabin comes complete with one car garage, storage shed, central well and town sewer. Cabin can be used as a full-time residence, or home-away-from-home winter or summer get-a-way! Rentals are not allowed in this subdivision. Don't wait! Start your adventure today! Only a short 17-mile drive from Wolf Creek Ski area. The mighty South Fork and Rio Grande River, Beaver Mountain reservoir & Million reservoir are just moments away. Bring your fishing pole and enjoy hours of world class fishing. Ski Wolf Creek, go 4 wheeling, hike, camp, hunt, Enjoying everything outdoors! Let's get started call /text and schedule your showing today! **\$345,000** MLS #800364
31517 Us Highway 160 • South Fork



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

Valley-Wide Classified **FREE!** ON LINE! **MARKETPLACE**

Sell your household items for FREE. Total value of items must be \$50 or less. See details below.



CLASSIFIED INDEX

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 01 TICKETS
- 02 CARD OF THANKS
- 03 MEMORIALS
- 04 LOST & FOUND
- 05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
- 06 PERSONALS

EMPLOYMENT

- 07 HELP WANTED
- 08 WORK WANTED
- 09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

FOR RENT

- 10 APARTMENTS
- 11 ROOMS
- 12 HOUSES
- 13 MOBILE HOMES
- 14 BUSINESS PROPERTY
- 15 WANTED TO RENT
- 16 VACATION

REAL ESTATE

- 17 REAL ESTATE
- 18 LOTS & ACREAGE
- 19 FARM & FARMLAND
- 20 BUSINESS PROPERTY
- 21 MOBILE HOMES
- 22 PROPERTY WANTED

MERCHANDISE

- 23 LAWN & GARDEN
- 24 GARAGE SALES
- 25 AUCTIONS
- 26 ANTIQUES
- 27 APPLIANCES
- 28 HOUSEHOLD GOODS
- 29 MUSICAL ITEMS
- 30 ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS

HEALTH

- 31 HEALTH
- 32 FUEL & HEATING
- 33 BUILDING MATERIALS
- 34 OFFICE EQUIPMENT
- 35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT
- 36 MISCELLANEOUS
- 37 WANTED
- 38 MACHINERY, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
- 39 SPORTING GOODS
- 40 AUTO PARTS

FARMER MARKET

- 41 FARM EQUIPMENT
- 42 FEED & SEED
- 43 FARM PRODUCTS
- 44 FARM SERVICES

ANIMALS

- 45 ANIMAL BREEDING
- 46 PASTURE FOR RENT
- 47 HORSES & CATTLE
- 48 PETS & SUPPLIES
- 49 ANIMAL CARE
- 50 LIVESTOCK

RECREATIONAL

- 51 BOATS & EQUIPMENT
- 52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT
- 53 TRAILERS
- 54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S
- 55 R.V.'S/CAMPERS

FINANCIAL

- 56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
- 57 INVESTMENTS
- 58 MOTORCYCLES
- 59 VEHICLES WANTED
- 60 CLASSIC CARS
- 61 4X4'S
- 62 VANS
- 63 TRUCKS
- 64 AUTOS FOR SALE

SERVICES

- 65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
- 66 CHILD CARE

RATES

15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications
\$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.

Garage Sale Ads: 15 Words or less for 1 week
\$12 + 35¢ each additional word.

Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Limited to private party only, 2 ads per person, 4 weeks.)

Convenient ad placement:

To place your ad in person come to the office at 835 First Ave. in Monte Vista, or call (719) 852-3531. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may also fax your classified to (719) 852-3387 or email at montevisitaclass@gmail.com

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

Call 719-852-3531

or email: awelch@valleypublishinginc.com

Easy Payment Options

We accept Visa, Master Card, American Express, Discover, Checks, Money Orders & Cash



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

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. (4-5)

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. (4-5)

mer 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. (4-5)

The City of Monte Vista is seeking a Full-Time Utilities Maintenance Worker I. The Utilities Worker, under the general direction of the Utility Field Supervisor performs skilled work in the operation and maintenance of the water and sewer system. Installs meters, performs reading of water meters, and records the readings. Experience in laying of water and sewer mains and plumbing experience. Must have or be willing to be certified as Class D Operator for Water and Wastewater treatment and/or must have or be willing to be certified as a Class I Water and Sewer Distribution and Collection System Operator within 18 months

of hire. The general starting wage is \$16.00 - \$18.75 per hour plus a very appealing benefit package. Requires a high school diploma or GED and a valid driver's license. Job description and application are available at <https://cityofmontevista.colorado.gov> Submit application to City of Monte Vista, Human Resources, 95 W. 1st Ave., Monte Vista, CO. 81144, hmanager@ci.monte-vista.co.us Open until filled. EOE/ADA (3-29)

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

PART-TIME SALES

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

DIESEL MECHANIC

Pay Range Starting: \$23

Contact details- bkenned5@wm.com

WM WASTE MANAGEMENT

Business Showcase



FOOLISH DISCOUNTS

The Holy Moses
Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

No fooling, it's an April Fools Day Sale!! Saturday, April 1 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

20% OFF
(Except consignments)

658-2848
121 N. Main Creede

This Week's Feature



THE HOLY MOSES

An enchanting Collection of Cabin Decor, Colorado Pottery, Quilts, Linens & Specialty Foods!

It's Worth The Drive

Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Nick & Vicki Kulyk
121 N. Main • 658-2848 • Creede



Now Booking
- Quarters
- Halves
- Whole Bison

Contact: valdezibison@gmail.com
With Inquiries or to Purchase

Valley Wide Classifieds

paid holidays. Plans, coordinates, and monitors activities related to the operations and maintenance of the county airport. HS diploma required. Bachelor's degree in Aviation Management, Business Administration, or a related field, and two years of experience in the aviation industry preferred. Pre-employment drug testing, including marijuana screening, and a background check required. Application and job description available at www.riograndecounty.org or Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Application deadline: Until filled. (4-12)

Rio Grande County, Colorado is seeking a part-time Assistant Airport Manager. 20 hours per week, \$17.18 – \$18.34 per hour. Includes retirement and paid holidays. Assists with airport operations, maintenance, and regulatory compliance. Some weekends and evenings required. HS diploma required. Pre-employment drug testing, including marijuana screening, and a background check required. Application and job description available at www.riograndecounty.org or Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Application deadline: Until filled. (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 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)

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.

SAN LUIS VALLEY SERVICE DIRECTORY

ROOFING BUILDINGS

Metal Roofing Panels & Trims • Garages, Horse Barns, Hay Sheds
Complete Building packages • 26/29 Gauge, 20 Colors, Numerous Profiles
Let us find your contractor! • Free Estimates/Quick Turnaround
Your Local Metal Roofing Manufacturer!
SKYLINE METAL
(719)852-0113 M-F 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

A&M
WINDOWS &
DOORS L.L.C.

~VINYL WINDOWS~
NEW CONSTRUCTION OR REPLACEMENT
CUSTOM MADE TO YOUR SIZE.
MANUFACTURED RIGHT HERE IN THE VALLEY
ALL TYPES OF DOORS & DOOR HARDWARE
AVAILABLE
(719) 589-9952

Quality Spray Foam Insulation LLC

Let us fill your needs with **SPRAY FOAM** insulation!
Alvin • (719) 849-5233 catpower@ibyfax.com
7268 S. County Road 4 E • Monte Vista
Call us for all your **LOOSE-FILL & BLOW** in Attic Insulation needs!

Mystik
LUBRICANTS
PREMIUM OILS & GREASES
DIAMOND OIL CO. LLC
Agricultural • Industrial • Oilfield
Commercial • Automotive • Irrigation
Peter Koehn (719) 250-5143 Myron Koehn (970) 209-1142
DIVERSE INVENTORY!

Sheri Bongers
Independent Broker Agent
720-543-2188
Sheri@DenverInsuranceTeam.com



Tom Bongers
Independent Broker Agent
720-543-2189
Tom@DenverInsuranceTeam.com

Auto | Home | Life | Commercial | Workers Comp

Your Great Outdoors Specializing in Vinyl Fencing

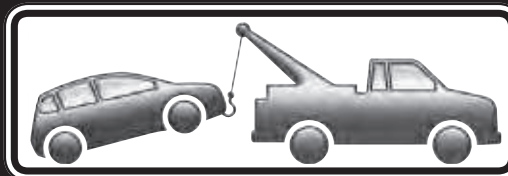
Wood, Barbed Wire and All Types of Residential & Commercial Fencing
Serving the SLV-Free Estimates
Good Fences Make Good Neighbors!*

(719) 849-1568
* We make no guarantees of your neighbor quality, just high quality fences.

Shopping That's Just Your Style The Rena Marie Boutique

Specializing in memorial, holiday, any occasion t-shirts, apparel, tumblers, coffee mugs, keychains, car and big vehicle vinyl and decals, business cards, and much more.
Call Marie at 719-937-9629 to place your order today or email mariedina30@hotmail.com

Cash for Junk Unwanted Cars & Trucks



No Tittle
No Keys
No Worries!

719 937 7935
719-849-8491 or Text

Sanchez Plastering & Masonry

Synthetic
Traditional
Patches
Interior/Exterior
Paint



Fully Insured
& Bonded
Fully Licensed
Work Guaranteed

Owners: David D. Sanchez Jr. & Brandon Sanchez

Call Today (719) 486-6781

CUSTOM MARBLE DESIGN

Call for
Free Estimate!

719-849-3990
E-MAIL: cmd@ibyfax.com

Solid Surface Countertops
Kitchen Countertops
Vanity & Table Tops
Window Sills
and More

AFFORDABLE MOBILE RV REPAIRS

Jason | RV Repair Specialist
Affordablervrepair@yahoo.com
(719) 936-0592

Electrical Plumbing
Heating and Air Conditioning
Slide Motors • Winterizing
Tankless Water Heaters
Everything from A-Z



20% OFF
with this ad

5+ Years of Experience

16th Annual CONSIGNMENT ACTION in July

10725 Hwy285 • Antonito
Deadline May 15th
Call us with items to Consign and Advertise
Edward 719.992.8334
Mose 719.982.8900
Freddy 719.588.9558
Benefit for the La Jara Amish School

Custom Meat Processing

COWS • PIGS • LAMBS
316 Main St. • San Luis
719-492-0765
kuhnsmeatingcutting@gmail.com



Your ad could be here for only \$22/week!
Call 852-3531

Valley Wide Classifieds

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.

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)

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

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle

**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL • TRASH REMOVAL
RECYCLING • DUMPSTERS • ROLL-OFFS**
CREEDE • SOUTH FORK • DEL NORTE • MONTE VISTA
(719)658-3060 • www.MDSWasteAndRecycle.com

CLUES ACROSS

1. India's "City of Lakes"
7. Large marine mammals
13. Used to carry belongings when traveling
14. Rechristens
16. Equally
17. Heavy plant-eating mammals
19. Milliheny
20. Japanese immigrant to N. America
22. Deep, red-brown sea bream
23. Norse gods
25. Peppermint and pekee are two
26. Auguste __, founder of positivism
28. Self-immolation by fire ritual
29. High-resolution microscope (abbr.)
30. Wide metal vessel used in cooking
31. V-shaped open trough
33. People of southern Benin
34. People of southern Ghana
36. It's a significant creed
38. Period between eclipses
40. Furies
41. Emerged
43. Philippine Island
44. Where wrestlers battle
45. Unhappy
47. Central European river
48. Language
51. Semitransparent gemstone
53. Forming in a bottom layer
55. Distinct region
56. Broad blades
58. Leavened bread
59. Influential cosmetics exec

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
13								14						15
16			17				18						19	
20		21				22			23		24			
25					26			27		28				
29				30				31		32		33		
		34	35						36		37			
38	39									40				
41					42				43					
44				45		46		47				48	49	50
51			52		53		54				55			
56				57		58				59				
60			61		62				63				64	
65		66							67				68	
	69								70					

60. Exclamation of surprise
61. Era free of war
64. One who helps professors
65. Idealistic
67. Ornamental plants
69. Grouped
70. Kids love this street
24. Precaution
26. Beverage holder
27. Very long period of time
30. Bullfighting maneuvers
32. More critical
35. Sends packing in a boxing match
37. Taxi
38. Decorative Russian tea urn
39. North American Great Plains natives
42. Seize
43. A passage with access only at one end
46. Cut a rug
47. Devil rays
49. Bubble up
50. Veranda
52. Outcast
54. Car mechanics group
55. Realm
57. A place to get off your feet
59. Popular music awards show
62. Consumed
63. A way to make cooler
66. Thus
68. Indicates it's been registered

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

Valley Wide Classifieds

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. (3-29)

Personal Care Provider — A dependable/trustworthy, caregiver needed (part-time) for disabled daughter in the Antonito area \$15 per hour transfers needed. Contact 719-588-9430 (3-29)

Wolf Creek Ski Area is seeking full-time, year-around mechanics. Our team has open positions for lead mechanics who are willing to learn as well as expand their skills and abilities. Applicants need to be positive, team oriented, self-motivated, and must possess own tools/tool box. Reliable 4-wheel/all-wheel drive vehicle is also a must. Knowledge of gasoline and diesel engines required. Mechanical and operational understanding of heavy equipment, snow cats, automotive electrical systems, hydraulics/hydrostatic drive systems, transport buses, and metal fabrication are all a major plus. WCSA offers competitive wages along with career building opportunities. Starting pay between 50-100k, with benefits, depending on experience and physical ability. Applications are available at www.wolfcreekski.com. Email to wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com

or mail to P.O. Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. (3-29)

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.

14 Business Properties For Rent
DOWNTOWN MONTE OF- FICE 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.

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.

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
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.

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

36 Miscellaneous
Cash for quality non-fiction books and lp records. Jeff 720-315-9145 (3-22)

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

STEEL STORAGE CONTAINERS — Sales, Rentals & Modifications! Containers are water &

rodent proof. 8' wide, 8'-53' in length. Call for more information and pricing. **Healdworks, Inc. — Your Total Storage Solution!** 719-850-0346 TFN

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

37 Wanted
WANTED: vintage license plates; cash paid based on age, rarity, condition. Call/text Colin: 970-367-7594

44 Farm Services
Attention Farmer and Ranches: Seal your leaking livestock tanks, ponds & reservoirs with bentonite Spring Special 10% OFF. Rio Grande Bentonite. 719-580-6652

48 Pets and Supplies
Siberian Husky: Purebred, Mask, blue eyes, pick of litter, 12-1-22, great temperament & mark-

ings. 970-987-2800, Call/text.

Goldendoodle pups, hypoallergenic, super curly, friendly. Up to date on vaccinations. Born June 5, 2022. Come see! \$250. 719-480-0810 (3-29)

65 Professional Services
RELIABLE CARPENTRY 40-plus years-experience in carpentry, painting, stucco, tile, drywall, roofing, etc. Drug/Alcohol free. Free Estimates 719-496-7630. (5-10)

Squeegee Luigi's Washing Services: Window Washing, Concrete Cleaning, Exterior Washing - FREE ESTIMATE: (719) 490-9047 TFN

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

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

Valley Publishing Inc.
P.O. Box 607 • 835 1st Ave. • Monte Vista • 719-852-3531

Alamosa County
Conejos County
Costilla County

Mineral County
Rio Grande County
Saguache County

2022 Valley Publishing, Inc.

Why advertise in the Summer on the Rio Grande publication?

- We deliver over 30,000 copies locally at hotels, RV parks, tourist destinations and more and throughout the state at Welcome Centers and Visitor Centers, as well as to our readers through our weekly newspapers.
- We deliver your message to a broad audience for a small investment.
- We have proven readership of our publications based on decades of publishing.
- We know and promote the Valley on a daily basis and have been for over 75 years.
- We won't charge extra costs for graphic design/production! • We've been printing Summer on the Rio Grande for many years.... we're not new to this!
- We work with the advertisers all year and know their budgets, concerns, and the best way to display their message effectively.

Give us a call to see how Valley Publishing's Summer on the Rio Grande can work for you!

\$500
CASH BACK

\$1000
TRADE-IN
ASSISTANCE

\$39.99
OIL
CHANGE

Fastest Growing Dealer In Colorado

Alpine

PUEBLO

2828 Highway 50 West Pueblo, CO 81008 • AlpineFord.com

Sales: (719) 319-3576 Service: (719) 319-3576 Parts: (719) 319-3576



2023



Home

on the Rio Grande

Remodel & Repair
Home Connectivity
New Construction
Lawn & Garden
Home Energy

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Valley Publishing

(719) 852-3531
835 First Ave. • Monte Vista, Colo.



FREE
Take One

Remodel & Repair

Small renovations that can make a big impact

Home renovations provide a host of benefits. Such projects can increase resale value and improve on the safety, aesthetics and functionality of a home.

Some homeowners may employ the mantra “go big or go home” when they embark on home improvements, thinking that only the largest renovations produce noticeable change. But that’s not the case. Various smaller renovations can provide a lot of bang for homeowners’ bucks as well.

- **Countertops (and hardware):** A complete kitchen overhaul may stretch some homeowners’ budgets. However, changing an older countertop for a new material

can provide the facelift a kitchen needs. And while changing the cabinets may be homeowners’ ultimate goal, swapping hardware in dated finishes for newer handles and pulls can provide low-cost appeal.

- **Paint:** Painting a space is an inexpensive improvement that adds maximum impact. Paint can transform dark and drab rooms into bright and airy oases. Paint also can be used to create an accent wall or cozy nooks. Homeowners also can showcase their personalities with their choice of paint colors.

- **Lighting:** Homeowners should not underestimate what a change in lighting can do. When rooms or exterior spaces are illuminated, they take on entirely new looks. It’s worth it to invest in new light-



ing, whether it’s a dramatic hanging light over the dining room table or task lighting in dim spaces.

- **Weatherproofing:** Improving windows, doors, weatherstripping, and insulation in a home can offer visual appeal and help homeowners save money. The initial investment may be significant, but those costs will pay off in energy savings. According to One Main Financial, space heating is the largest energy expense the average American homeowner has, accounting for around 45 percent of all energy costs.

- **Mudroom:** Turn an entryway into a more functional space with the addition of cabinets, benches or custom-designed storage options that perfectly fit the area. Cubbies and cabinets can corral shoes, umbrellas, hats, bags, and much more.

- **Accent updates:** Any space, whether it’s inside or outside a home, can get a fresh look with new decorative accents. Invest in new throw pillows and even slipcovers for living room sofas. Use new tile or paint the brick on a fireplace in a den, then update the mantel with decorative displays. Purchase wall art that can bring different colors into a room. Change the cushions on deck furniture and buy color-coordinated planters.

These subtle changes will not cost as much as full-scale renovations, but they can still help homeowners transform their homes

Planning ahead is vital to a successful renovation

Remodeling projects are significant undertakings. Homeowners must consider a host of variables before any such project can begin. While planning ahead may take time, it is essential to ensuring successful completion of a renovation project. Consider these pre-renovation planning pointers to help any job go smoothly.

Determine your motivation for renovating

Renovation projects often involve balancing needs and wants, and determining if a project is a necessity or a luxury can set the timeline and course of the project. Is the roof leaking? If so, immediate action is necessary. Could the kitchen be a bit more functional? If the kitchen is still manageable, a homeowner may be able to wait a little bit to get better prices on appliances or contracting services.

Separating needs from wants helps homeowners map out a viable timeline that maximizes productivity and affordability.

Get professional advice

Many homeowners are under the impression that doing the work themselves can save a considerable amount of money. This may be the case for homeowners with renovation experience. But by and large, professional contractors are an asset to any renovation. They can provide a realistic

overview of the project, map out projected costs, point out areas that could be troublesome, and may have industry contacts that can keep supply costs low. Even if a homeowner will do a portion of the job, a contractor can do the bulk of the work and keep the project on budget.

Get necessary permits

Permits are designed to ensure the work is being done to code and in a safe manner. However, they are not without additional costs and processing time, and that can cause some homeowners to skip this step. According to the home information site The Spruce, building permits cost anywhere from \$400 to about \$2,200 for new home construction. Building permits for smaller projects can cost \$100 or less, and typically are based on a percentage of the anticipated cost of the project.

A permit may be issued the day the application is submitted, while other cities and towns may issue permits up to two or more weeks later. Factor permit fees and processing times into the renovation plan.

Other considerations when planning a renovation include writing out a strict budget, gathering inspiration, drawing up to-scale renovation plans, pouring over material reviews, and getting recommendations for reliable professionals to do the job. While not every obstacle can be avoided, planning is a good way to start successfully.

YOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT HEADQUARTERS

La Jara Only

- ★ Hunting & Fishing Licenses
- ★ Ammo
- ★ Propane Fill Station
- ★ Tackle

★ Come see us for all your Alfalfa, Grasses & Other Seeds

La Jara
TRADING POST
LUMBER & BUILDING MATERIALS
719-274-5857

16555 State Hwy 136 • La Jara
274-5857
Fax: 274-5766
lajaratradingpost.com

We Accept KICKBACK!

facebook.com/alamosa-building-supply

ALAMOSA
BUILDING SUPPLY
A BETTER SOLUTION
719-587-0338

1403 Tremont Ave. • Alamosa
587-0338
Fax: 587-0471
alamosabuildingsupply.com

Home Connectivity

Internet speed and performance

Navigating broadband connections can be a little tricky for the average person. Technical jargon can sometimes make internet connections appear more difficult than they seemingly should be.

According to Xfinity, the phone and internet service provider, various components work together to make up the best conditions for internet usage. Upload speed, download speed, ping rate, and whether the internet is wired or wireless all play a role in establishing the master equation. In homes where internet is in constant demand, increased speeds are often necessary.

Bandwidth

Bandwidth refers to the volume of information per unit of time that the connection can handle. Internet connections with a lot of bandwidth can move more data at a faster pace than connections with less bandwidth. The tech information site LiveWire equates bandwidth to plumbing. Having multiple draws on the internet through movie streaming, playing video games, uploading photo files, etc., can slow or stop internet speeds, much in the same way turning on all the faucets in a home will reduce water pressure to each. Too much demand on bandwidth that cannot adequately handle that demand can cause lag and slow speeds.

Upload, download and ping

The abbreviation Mbps stands for megabits per second, or the rate at which data can be moved in a second. Data travels in two directions through the internet. There is information downloaded from the internet and information uploaded. According to Allconnect, a leading marketplace for comparing home services like cable TV, high-speed internet, energy, and more, downloaded information comes from a server in the form of images, videos, text, or music. Upload speed refers to the data that one sends from a computer to another device or server on the internet. Emails, multiplayer video games and video calling are examples of instances when upload speeds are important.

Ping rate is another factor. Ookla, the global standard in network testing, says ping is the reaction time of your connection, or how fast you get a response after you’ve sent out a request. A fast ping means a more responsive connec-

tion, especially in applications where timing is everything, like gaming. Ping is measured in milliseconds. Ping latency can cause a delay in the action of a game. That means your shots may be registered behind another player’s in fast-paced fighting games.

Improve speed

Improving an internet experience requiring fast speeds may involve making changes. Here are some handy tips:

- Use a hard-wired connection that involves

an ethernet cord connected to a console or computer directly rather than WiFi. WiFi is convenient, but it almost always runs at lower speeds than a hard line.

- Shut down other programs or devices that may be eating up bandwidth while engaged in the desired activity.

- Test your internet speeds through a reputable third party rather than your internet company’s speed meter.

- Consider upgrading bandwidth if you find that your internet speed is continually lacking.



Hello neighbor!

GOT CIELLO?

High-Speed Fiber Internet

SYMMETRICAL SPEEDS • SERVICE UP TO 1 GBPS • NO DATA CAP
NO MONTHLY EQUIPMENT/INSTALL FEES* • TELEPHONE • 24/7 CUSTOMER SERVICE

Give us a call to see if Cielo is available in your area!!

ciello

POWERED BY SLVREC
HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND INTERNET & TELEPHONE
www.ciello.com • 719.852.3538

*Some restrictions may apply

New Construction

Types of home insulation and where to install them

When thinking about renovating their homes, homeowners may imagine changing wall colors, expanding room sizes or upgrading appliances and fixtures. However, unless people take inventory of the less glamorous components of the home, such as structure, plumbing, heating and cooling, and insulation, other improvements may be for naught.

A home insulation project certainly doesn't offer the wow factor of a kitchen remodel, but insulation serves a vital function in the house that helps keep people comfortable and reduces energy consumption. Insulation is typically placed in areas where air escapes, such as between the stud cavities inside the walls and in the attic, and serves to slow and reduce heat transfer.

The U.S. Department of Energy says between 50 and 70 percent of the energy used in homes is for heating and cooling. By improving home insulation, homeowners can

make their homes more comfortable, consistent and efficient. In fact, the ENERGY STAR program overseen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says homeowners stand to save an average of 15 percent on heating and cooling costs by adding proper insulation. To do so, homeowners can take a crash course in home insulation and find the products that fit their needs.

Blanket batts and rolls

Blanket batts and rolls typically are constructed with fiberglass, so proper safety gear, such as a mask and gloves, is needed when handling them. Installing this type of insulation is relatively easy since the materials are designed to fit the standard width between studs, rafters and floor joists.

Loose fill

Loose fill is usually made of fiberglass or cellulose (recycled paper fiber). It is blown or sprayed

into place with pneumatic equipment, according to The Home Depot. Loose fill can be ideal for hard-to-reach areas in attics or inside wall cavities. It's good for adding insulation to irregularly shaped areas. Since it requires special equipment, this is a job best left to professionals.

Sprayed foam

Sprayed foam is just as the name implies, a foam made from polyurethane, polyisocyanurate, cementitious, or other materials that are applied by a spray container. DIYers who need only small applications can use canned products. Large quantities are pressure-sprayed by professionals.

Foam board/rigid foam panels

Ideal for unfinished walls, such as basement or foundation walls, floors and ceilings, these are boards of polyurethane or polystyrene. Foam boards tend to reduce energy



consumption more effectively than other types of insulation.

Homeowners considering upgrading their insulation or amend-

ing existing insulation should do their homework on the type of insulation that will be most effective for their homes.



How to handle a lengthy renovation

The global pandemic reignited people's passions for home renovations, as they directed dollars that would normally have been spent elsewhere into the places where they were now spending the most time — their homes. According to the 10th annual Houzz & Home survey of more than 70,000 respondents in the United States, higher-budget projects cost around \$85,000 or more in 2020, compared with \$80,000 in the two years prior. Kitchen projects were the most popular among renovating homeowners.

Even though many COVID-19-related restrictions have lifted and life has largely returned to regular programming, renovations remain a popular investment. Homeowners embarking on home renovation projects understand that a certain measure of upheaval is to be expected, but some may not fully anticipate the impact that renovations have on daily life. The following are some tips for making it through a lengthy renovation.

- Discuss the timeline with contractors. It may be easier to make a plan for how much life will be disrupted if you have an idea of how long the renovation will be (if everything goes according to plan). Sit down with contractors and have them spell out the minutiae of the project so you'll be able to anticipate what's going on day-to-day.
- Start at the right time. Some contractors may say they can fit your project into their schedules in between other jobs. While this may seem convenient and timely, your work may be put on hold if there are delays with the other job or jobs. Instead, it may be better to hold off until

the contractors can devote the bulk of their attention to your renovation.

- Recreate commonly used spaces elsewhere. A kitchen or a bathroom remodel often requires giving up spaces that are used throughout a typical day. Unless you have a spare full bathroom or kitchen, you'll need to make due. Set a microwave, tabletop electric burner and a coffee pot on a folding table in the garage or utility room. Rent or purchase a small refrigerator where you can store a few necessities. Ask your contractor to set up a makeshift outdoor shower so you have a place to get clean when the bathroom is under construction.

- Pack up and cover. Remodeling one room may cause a trickle down effect on other areas. Dust from drywall sanding can infiltrate many rooms in the home. Pack and label boxes with items not immediately needed and store them in another area. Cover most things so a film of dust won't form on them.
- Adjust your schedule. Sleeping in will be a thing of the past for the duration of the renovation, as may be working from a home office. Try to get out of the work zone as much as possible for new scenery and respites from the noises and smells.

- Ease up on cleaning standards. It's challenging to keep a home clean during a renovation. Relax standards and expect a mess for some time. Explain to guests what they'll find if they drop by.

Renovations can disrupt life, but often are well worth the sacrifices homeowners must make to see them through to completion.

YOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT HEADQUARTERS

La Jara Only

- ★ Hunting & Fishing Licenses
- ★ Ammo
- ★ Propane Fill Station
- ★ Come see us for all your Alfalfa, Grasses & Other Seeds

La Jara Trading Post
LUMBER & BUILDING MATERIALS
719-274-5857

16555 State Hwy 136 • La Jara
274-5857
Fax: 274-5766
lajaratradingpost.com

ALAMOSA BUILDING SUPPLY
A BETTER SOLUTION
719-587-0338

1403 Tremont Ave. • Alamosa
587-0338
Fax: 587-0471
alamosabuildingsupply.com

We Accept KICKBACK!

facebook.com/alamosa-building-supply

A & M

WINDOWS & DOORS L.L.C.

VINYL WINDOWS

NEW CONSTRUCTION OR REPLACEMENT CUSTOM MADE TO YOUR SIZE. MANUFACTURED RIGHT HERE IN THE VALLEY ALL TYPES OF DOORS & DOOR HARDWARE AVAILABLE (719) 589-9952

ALCON CONSTRUCTION INC.
GENERAL CONTRACTORS

719-589-4084
12233 COUNTY ROAD 5 SOUTH
ALAMOSA
ALCONCONSTRUCTION.COM

REMODEL & REPAIR

GARAGE DOOR DIVISION

NEW SALES ON DOORS, OPERATORS AS WELL AS REPAIRS AND SERVICE FOR EXISTING DOORS

Lawn & Garden

The benefits of planting native species

Spring and summer present ideal growing conditions for many plants, making these seasons an ideal time to tend to lawns and gardens. Though it's easy to succumb to the temptation of exotic plants, avid gardeners and eco-conscious planters recognize the significance of native plants.

Novices may not realize that native plants are much better for a landscape and the local ecosystem it calls home. Recognition of the many benefits of native plants can make for healthier lawns and gardens and a healthier planet as well.

- Native plants are built for local climates. One of the issues gardeners who plant exotic plants run into is keeping those plants thriving when weather turns harsh. For example, exotic plants may require extra watering in areas that experience drought or even long periods without precipitation in spring and notably summer. The United States Environmental Protection Agency reports that at least 40 states anticipate water shortages by 2024. Planting native plants can help to combat those shortages by reducing the need to water plants if conditions become dry in late spring and summer.

- Native plants save money. It's also impor-

tant to note that native plants save homeowners money. Because they're capable of thriving in local conditions, native plants tend to require less watering, which can help homeowners reduce their utility costs. But native plants also require less upkeep, which means homeowners can save on potentially costly, not to mention eco-unfriendly, pesticides and other amendments in order to maintain the look of exotic plants. And though it's not always the case, exotic plants tend to cost more at nurseries than natives.

- Native plants save gardeners time. In addition to saving money, native plants don't require as much attention. Though spring and summer is a great time to be in the yard, it's also a great time to be out and about. Because native plants thrive in local conditions, gardeners won't need to spend much of their free time tending to them. Exotics tend to require a lot of extra attention and effort, especially when conditions become harsh. Spending more time outdoors in harsh weather does not appeal to most gardeners.

- Native plants blend in with an existing landscape. Native plants look natural within an existing landscape, adding some instant aesthetic



appeal without breaking the bank. When planting exotics, homeowners may feel a need to redesign their entire gardens to create a certain look (think Japanese garden). That can quickly consume a budget and take up a lot of free time

in both the short- and long-term.

Planting season marks a great time to revitalize a landscape. Choosing native plants when doing so pays numerous dividends for homeowners and the planet they call home.

How to prepare soil for spring planting

Spring is a season of rejuvenation, and perhaps nowhere is that rebirth more noticeable than in the yard. Each spring, grass begins to grow again as inviting landscapes beckon people outdoors.

Extra sunlight and rising temperatures make spring a great time to plant flowers, grasses and trees. To ensure successful planting, homeowners must take steps to prepare the soil. Healthy

soil can provide the ideal conditions for roots to take hold, helping plants establish themselves before potentially harsh summer conditions arrive. Preparing soil might seem like an extensive job, but a simple approach may be all that's necessary to create conditions that promote plant growth this spring.

- Clean up the previous months' mess. Whether homeowners live in re-

gions marked by year-round warmth or places where winter typically features heavy snowfall, it's a good idea to clean up an area prior to spring planting. Fallen leaves, rocks, grass clippings, and other debris can contribute to compacted soil that makes it hard for plants to establish strong, healthy root systems. Clear away any debris prior to planting before taking the next step in your soil preparation routine.

- Loosen the soil. Once debris has been cleared away, loosen the soil. Depending on the size of the area where you'll be planting, you may need to invest in tools like a shovel, spade, spading fork, and/or a lawn edger. If you're planting in a small area, such as a deck planter box that still has soil from last year's planting inside it, you can either clean the box and replace the soil entirely or dig around with

a handheld trowel, cultivator and/or weeder. It's important to loosen all of the soil around where you will ultimately plant prior to planting to ensure water can reach the roots and help them establish themselves once planting is completed.

Soil conditions go a long way toward determining if new plants will thrive. Preparing the soil prior to spring planting can ensure a successful season.

Home Energy

Benefits of energy-efficient homes

Consumer efforts to be more eco-conscious are more and more noticeable. For proof of that, one need look no further than the increase in vehicle charging stations. Such stations are more accessible than ever and illustrate that consumer preference is increasingly leaning toward products that leave as small a carbon footprint as possible.

Another indicator of a growing interest in eco-friendly products is the popularity in energy-efficient homes. In fact, a recent survey from the National Association of Home Builders found that energy-efficient features are among the most sought-after "must-haves" among homebuyers. Among those surveyed, 83 percent desired Energy Star-rated windows, 81 percent wanted Energy Star-rated appliances and 80 percent preferred energy-efficient lighting.

Though eco-conscious sensibilities compel millions of homeowners to make their homes more energy-efficient, that's not the only reason to upgrade your home. The following are a handful of the many benefits of energy-efficient homes.

- Save money: Inflation was one of the biggest stories of 2022, as the cost of living rose dramatically in the wake of world events. According to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation led to an overall 6.5 percent increase in prices. But that increase was dwarfed by the cost of electricity, which increased by 14.3 percent in 2022. Energy-efficient appliances can help homeowners overcome that spike, as the U.S. Department of Energy indicates upgrading to such products can help homeowners reduce their energy costs by as much as 30 percent.
- Improve resale value: As the NAHB



survey indicates, modern homebuyers want energy-efficient homes. They're also willing to pay more for such homes. Research from the mortgage lender Freddie Mac found that homes with energy-efficient ratings sold for nearly 3 percent more on average than homes without such ratings.

- Live healthier: The benefits of energy-efficient homes aren't just economic, though health-related benefits certainly produce an economic incentive as well. According to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, insulation and air sealing protect individuals from heat waves and other ripple effects of climate change. The ACEEE notes that weatherization can improve indoor air quality and comfort, a notable benefit for asthma sufferers and seniors. In fact, the ACEEE estimates that integrating energy efficiency programs in homes could reduce seniors' risk for falls in their homes, potentially saving \$2 billion in fall-related health care costs over the next decade, and improve asthma outcomes, which could reduce health care costs by as much as half a billion dollars.

Energy-efficient products and practices pay numerous dividends, making them a worthy expenditure for any homeowners looking to upgrade their homes.

MONTE VISTA COOPERATIVE

Your trusted home
energy source!

MVCOOP.COM

