

## Attraction to Moffat revealed in town board meeting



Photo by Patrick Shea

Using new display and broadcast equipment, the Moffat Town Board convened on March 21 to address water agreement issues and hear interest from business and grant-writing professionals drawn to Moffat.

BY PATRICK SHEA

MOFFAT — A volunteer grant-writer from Broomfield and two businessmen from eastern Colorado offered their services and energy during the Moffat Town Board of Trustees meeting on March 21. Attending via ZOOM, they expressed their interest in moving to Moffat for family and business.

Listed as Jake and Dave on-screen and “Landromat Discussion” on the agenda, the entrepreneurs offered a variety of services they felt they could provide. They visited Moffat earlier in the week and expressed interest in returning for more discussions.

Two grant-writers on the agenda might ultimately work together. Trustee Rico Ellis made a statement earlier in the meeting that

the town should pursue a city planner and another administrator to help overworked Town Clerk Nina Magee.

When the board heard Jenna from Broomfield describe her family’s interest in moving to Moffat, she volunteered her time for grant reporting — the process of following up with progress. Yet her extensive experience in planning also captured the board’s attention.

Although they did not negotiate terms, the board agreed to take on Melinda Myers to write the grants, and Myers agreed to work in tandem with grant reporting.

The bulk of the meeting revolved around Moffat’s public-private partnership for

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### Shorts

#### MVS Art Fair and Capstone Night is April 26

SAGUACHE — Mountain Valley School’s Art Fair and Student Capstone Night is from 4 to 7 p.m. on April 26 at the school. Everyone is invited.

There will be free food, art and a showcase of all high school end-of-year projects. This event is hosted by Emily Heuer, GiGi Douglas, and the MVS High School students and is supported by funds from the Saguache Sales Tax Grant. For more information, email [gigidouglasart@gmail.com](mailto:gigidouglasart@gmail.com).

#### Care and Share Mobile Market at Tri County on March 24

MONTE VISTA — Tri County Seniors Center in Monte Vista will be hosting the Care and Share Mobile Market from 1 to 2 p.m. on Friday, March 24.

All are welcome to come “shop” for the food items on the truck. There will be food for approximately 125 families. Tri County is located at 311 Washington St. in Monte Vista.

For more information, contact Tri County Seniors at 719-852-5778.

#### SLVREC, Ciello board meeting is March 28

MONTE VISTA — San Luis Valley REC and Ciello will have the regular meeting of the board of directors at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 28, at 3625 US Highway 160 West, Monte Vista. Advance notice is required to attend the meeting, call 719-852-3538.



## Representation questioned in letter of support

BY PATRICK SHEA

SAGUACHE — During their regular meeting on March 21, Saguache County Commissioners hacked at the wording of a letter of support for Senator Michael Bennet’s proposed 44,005-acre Sawtooth Wildlife Conservation Area (WCA), a wildlife migration path that includes 23,882 acres of Saguache County land. The draft legislation is called the Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection (GORP) Act.

Opening the discussion, Commissioner Tom McCracken said, “I understand that [Commissioner] Lynne [Thompson] met with cattlemen and came up with some suggested changes, and then there was a phone call that added other changes.”

“It was to me,” Saguache County Attorney Brad Crowell said in reference to the call. “I didn’t get

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Photo by Patrick Shea

Big Mesa in Gunnison County roughly marks the northwest edge of Senator Michael Bennet’s proposed 44,005-acre Sawtooth Wildlife Conservation Area (WCA).

## Saguache County constituent contributes changes

BY PATRICK SHEA

SAGUACHE COUNTY — During the afternoon session of the Saguache County Commissioners meeting on March 21, commissioners fed two birds with one crumb when they approved an operator’s yearly review.

Mammoth Farms owner Justin Trouard had two issues before the board. Running multiple marijuana grows concurrently and expanding the operation, Trouard requested a conditional use modification to streamline his licensing. Commissioners approved the request.

Trouard’s second request accompanied his operation’s yearly review. Noting a former privacy fence, Trouard said, “You guys saw where the fence blew over. The state no longer requires it, but I think I need approval here to be able to remove it.”

Land Use Administrator Amber Wilson explained that commissioners have addressed the privacy fence issue with previous yearly reviews.

“Shouldn’t we create a policy that we don’t require it anymore if it’s not a state requirement,” Commissioner Tom McCracken asked.

Commissioner Liza Marron made a motion to approve the yearly review of Mammoth Farms, adding language to pursue “a plan to change our land use codes in the future” to match with state regulations. The motion passed unanimously. Trouard noted how this will make it easier for other operations in the future.

Kyle Grote, owner of Sacred Valley Medicine and Sacred Valley Pharmacy, had praise for the Saguache County Code Enforcement Department after commissioners approved his yearly review.

“By the way,” Grote said, “very

good job with code enforcement. I’m not just brown-nosing. I already passed. They don’t want to see anyone get put out of business. They just want to make sure they’re doing it right, by the book. It’s like getting a MED [Marijuana Enforcement Division] inspection. It’s my personal opinion, but I think it’s money well-spent.”

After approving lot consolidations and other requests, the commissioners voted unanimously to officially appoint Rebecca Brian as the Villa Grove alternate behind Jeff Shook

*Please see CHANGES on Page 7A*

## SLV REC welcomes new CEO Eric Eriksen



Eric Eriksen

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — “Listen and learn...” that is the priority for San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative’s new Chief Executive Officer Eric Eriksen. Beginning work on March 1, Eriksen spent much of his time the first few days listening to employees and learning their duties, ideas, and visions for the future.

“I’m here to listen and learn; my first priority is the employees, then the members and communities we

serve. I won’t have all the answers, but I will listen. We will navigate any barriers or challenges and find solutions together,” Eriksen said. “This is a long-term commitment for me; I’m optimistic and looking forward to the future.”

Eriksen brings over 25 years of industry experience in electric, gas and telecommunications with degrees in Electrical Engineering and a master’s in Business Administration. He most recently served three

years as Northwest Lineman College’s National Vice President of Engineering Operations and President of the Texas and Idaho Campuses.

His prior experience includes 14 years as Vice President of Transmission and Distribution for Alaska Electric Light and Power and President of Kwaan Electric Transmission Intertie Cooperative.

Notable projects include

*Please see ERIKSEN on Page 2A*

# OBITUARIES

## Marilyn Joyce (Sawyer) Davey

On Friday, March 10, 2023, Marilyn Joyce (Sawyer) Davey, loving wife, mother, and longtime resident of the San Luis Valley passed away at the age of 73. Marilyn was born to Derrell and Ruth Sawyer in Lamar, Colo.

She attended Colorado State University and studied fashion and design where she met her husband of 51 years, John Allen Calvert Davey. After their marriage, they made their home in Del Norte and she transferred to Adams State College where she earned a degree in Business. She raised two daughters, Jennifer Snyder, and Gwendolyn Dall.

Marilyn owned and operated Shades, Quilts & Etc. at 129 Adams St. in Monte Vista for 27 years. Marilyn was an accomplished

seamstress and loved to create handcrafted masterpieces for her family and friends.

She is survived by her husband, Allen Davey, her daughters Jennifer Snyder (Matthew) and Gwendolyn Dall (Tyler) and her grandchildren Ashley Zulauf (Tyler), Jonathan Snyder, Weston Dall, Jeffery Snyder (Lexington), Abigail Dall, Caleb Dall, Joshua Snyder and great-granddaughter Logan Zulauf.

A funeral was held at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 20, at the Monte Vista United Methodist Church at 215 N. Washington with a reception and refreshments in the parish hall. A graveside service followed the same day at 1 p.m. at the Saguache Cemetery "Hillside Cemetery" with a reception and refreshments at the Saguache



United Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the PEO International, Chapter V of Monte Vista.

Arrangements are in care of Strohmayer's Funeral Home of Monte Vista.

## Tracy Shay Trow

Creede resident Tracy Shay Trow, 55, passed away with her family by her side March 9, 2023, of liver failure, at San Luis Regional Medical Center, Alamosa, Colo.

She was born Sept. 27, 1967, and grew up in Creede, graduating from Creede High School. She spent her early years in Creede as a cheerleader, on Creede's basketball and track teams and competing in baton twirling contests statewide. She enjoyed snowmobiling, snow skiing at Wolf Creek, and waterskiing at Navajo Lake.

Tracy attended one year of college at CSU in Fort Collins before turning 21 and was able to fulfill her dream of becoming a flight attendant. Tracy graduated from Eastern Airlines Flight School in Miami, Fla., on Aug. 1, 1989. She was stationed with Eastern in Atlanta, Ga., until the airline declared bankruptcy in 1991. During those years, she traveled to Canada, Costa Rica, and all over the U.S. She then moved to the Denver Area, working several different jobs until she met and married David Trow of Aurora, Colo., on June 12, 1993. They welcomed son Damian on April 15, 1994, and second son Dylan on May 8, 1998. After living in Aurora for several years they moved to Buena Vista, Colo., where the boys attended school.

Her greatest blessings and joys in her life were her boys and she cherished the time she spent with them.

She will live on through her youngest son Dylan Trow of Durango, Colo.; her parents Dannie and Betsy Rogers of Creede, Colo.; her Uncle Lonnie and Aunt Nancy Rogers of Alamosa, Colo.; Aunt Norma Roberts of Santa Maria, Calif.; Uncle Bud Wilkinson of Golder, Colo.; as well as numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and her extended family of many friends.



Tracy was preceded in death by her oldest son Damian Trow; her paternal grandparents Milton and Chloe Rogers; maternal grandparents Norm and Dot Wilkinson; and cousin Michael Roberts.

Tracy was a member of Creede Community Church and an active member of Creede Elks Lodge No. 506, where she was one of the first females admitted to membership. While living the past eight years in Creede, she worked at the Kentucky Belle Market, cherishing her time with all who knew her at the store.

As some quotes from cards received said "... she never failed to greet me with a hug — whether it was on Main Street, at Kentucky Belle, or at Bingo, she was always smiling, laughing, and in an upbeat mood." and "I used to make up excuses to go into Kentucky Belle just to see Tracy — she always brightened my day!"

Tracy was home less than a week from what she called her "Magical" two-week trip to Hawaii, including a one-week cruise of the Islands, when she passed away. She loved her once-a-week "Trivia" night, dressing up for holidays, wearing outrageous fake fingernails, was an avid reader, Facebook friend, and an almost fanatic sports fan of the Denver Broncos, Nuggets and Colorado Avalanche, as well as supporting local Creede teams when she could.

Cremation was chosen and a Celebration of Life will be sometime in early June 2023.

## Beverly Jean Francis

Longtime Valley resident Beverly Jean Francis, 76, passed away on March 14, 2023. She was born on July 12, 1946, in Kansas City, Mo., to Ira Mose and Helen Catherine (Llewelyn) Francis. She married Gerald "Jerry" Robinson.

She was a longtime member of the Monte Vista Elk's Lodge No. 2456. Beverly enjoyed gardening and had a green thumb, she also treasured morning coffee and chats with friends, fishing, hunting, four wheeling, painting ceramics, cooking and baking. Above all else she cherished her time with her children and grandchildren.

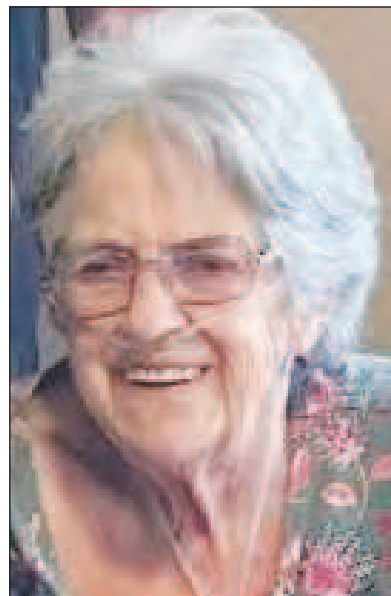
Beverly is survived by her children, Tammy (Greg) Dubla, Kenny (Marie) Behil and Mike (Jamie) Behil, her longtime caretaker and friend Mike Waltenburg, her grandchildren, Ryan Spencer, Peyton Spencer, Chad

Spencer, Dorinda Spencer, Maya Ojeda, Darron Ojeda, Alysha Ojeda, Desarey Ojeda, Courtney (Jonathan) Webb, Blaine Behil, Blake Behil, Brycen Behil and Brystal Behil, her great-grandchildren, Valerie Spencer, Atticus Spencer, Zanessa Spencer, Idaly Spencer, Payton Sisneros and S.J. Sisneros as well as numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her granddaughter, Torsche Spencer and her brother, Robert "Bob" Francis.

Cremation was selected and an Irish Wake will be held beginning at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 24, 2023, at the Monte Vista Elk's Lodge. Contributions are suggested to the animal shelter of your choice and may be made in the care of the funeral home office.

To express condolences, please visit



www.rogersfunerals.com. Rogers Family Mortuary in Alamosa is in care of the arrangements.

# ERIKSEN

Continued from Page 1A

connecting the first cruise ship to shore power, developing an 80MW hydroelectric powerplant, interconnecting one of the world's largest silver mines through a 138KV submarine cable, receiving a \$2 million grant to electrify Eaglecrest Ski Resort, developing a world class industrial avalanche and mitigation program, and advancing 69KV Avian protection.

SLV REC is a perfect fit for Eriksen as he loves outdoor recreation and the mountains and enjoys engaging with people.

"Connecting with people is so much better in rural communities. They're more neighborly and supportive of each other. I love the family-oriented atmosphere in the Valley. Coming from Alaska where there are not a lot of people, you

learn to pitch in, work together and get things done. It's more enjoyable and you can appreciate and empathize with others when you're working in their shoes too," he said.

The cooperative world may be new to Eriksen, but he is service-oriented and always has been. In the few weeks he has called the San Luis Valley home, he has signed up to be a part of Trout Unlimited, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and a local flying club.

Looking forward, Eriksen sees the outstanding things being done at SLV REC; he is not looking to make changes just for the sake of making changes.

"There will be constant evaluation and moving forward to provide the most reliable and responsible

power we can," he said. "I see SLV REC as an organization that is already moving the area forward with engagement and innovation. We're going to continue to hold a high standard and bring others up. We want to be better tomorrow than we are today, and we're going to do that through strategic planning, partnership, and ownership. The result will benefit members and employees; we'll continue to change lives and make living in the San Luis Valley better."

He is passionate about sharing his many years of industry experience to help serve employees, students, and the community. One of his favorite past-times is being a private pilot. Eriksen also enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, and skiing.

He has a 19-year-old son that just

graduated from Northwest Lineman College and recently did a ride-along with REC crews. Eriksen's 17-year-old daughter lives in Alaska and enjoys ballet. His significant other, Lena, is in a commercial pilot program with Alaska Airlines. She will have her private pilot's license in a few weeks, then will spend another year taking classes, followed by gaining experience and flight hours before she makes the San Luis Valley home.

Eriksen is committed to making SLV REC the best he can. He is looking forward to being here for the long-term.

"I never really felt settled in my previous position in Idaho; there were always moving parts," he said. "I've only been in the Valley a few weeks, but I can feel home here."



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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Let us all meet at the ER

Getting old is not for the faint of heart that is for certain. As we age things just naturally tend to wear out or just wear down from years of use and abuse. It seems like I get one thing on the mend and another injury or illness comes charging into my offensive line like the Packers into the Dallas Cowboys football team setting me back ten yards or so.

As luck would have it, I was struck by some gastronomical bug this past week that seemed intent on resisting any home remedy and ended up in the emergency room in a nearby city. Now I do not know if you have been to any E.R. lately but it is mainly a place where you sit for endless hours watching the State wrestling tournament or some medical journal show on a TV with no sound.

This is not my first trip around the block as Miss Trixie likes to remind me, so I knew it would be a long day when I went in, but I did not expect to be there 9 hours.

This hospital has a unique method of treating people as all the injured, sick, maimed, and insane all sit together in a huge lobby and then are intermittently taken back for tests only to be returned to their seats like a rejected Amazon package from Miss Trixie. There they wait for either another test or their final admittance to a room to see a doctor in the back all the while trying to keep some semblance of sanity, looking at their phones or watching people and guessing what is wrong with them.

The hospital even had this fancy dancy cell phone charger system all set up so you could put your phone in and used a code to open the doors to ensure the safety of your phone while it charged. Of course, it was not working at the time

I was there but Ol' Dutch found a cute nurse with a charger, and she helped me out her entire shift with periodic charging.

I am sure it does not surprise most of you that Ol' Dutch made friends around him as usual and so the time, although long and boring, passed pretty fast.

I learned of Aunt Martha's goiter issues, and about cousin Jenny's thyroid problems that she has had since a child and caused her to gain weight and I can say this. It did make her fill out her chair nicely. I met Bob who sat some distance apart from us. I think he had Covid and Jim, an accountant from Dallas who probably blew out his knee trying to play basketball with his sons. Then there was April who was suffering some kind of complications due to pregnancy and who constantly held the hand of a scared young man who accompanied her.

Not to be outdone, there were several people there who looked like hammered death and did not speak so all we could do was speculate what was wrong with them. Thankfully, some of the "group," if I can call us that, were long time watchers of medical television shows dating back to Marcus Welby, M.D., and they were pretty good at diagnosing patients as they came in.

A few of the group seated there were really into crime scene shows like CSI and we had to exclude them from the group as their morbid take on every symptom was just too much for us to handle.

I do have to say that the longer I sat there and saw people in all kinds of terrible distress, the better I felt and a weeklong belly ache that Ol' Dutch had seemed pretty mundane in comparison



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

to their sufferings. But I finally ran the gauntlet through the back rooms and saw a great doctor who assured me that I was going to not only live, but all my guts looked okay, gave me a shot to calm me and my tummy down and sent me on my way.

Leaving the E.R. I felt a twinge of sadness as many of my new friends still sat waiting for their chance at the lottery of being seen by a professional. But I did rest easier once I remembered that we had all agreed to meet again at that very same spot one year from the date like some classmates returning to their Alma Mater.

I cannot wait to compare notes and see the new scars some of them acquired in the next year.

*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.*

## YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

### March Zodiacal Light

Last month I mentioned Zodiacal Light, but I never saw it even though I looked at Venus every night. March is predicted to be the best month to look for it, so this is the month I will tell you about it. Since the last quarter moon is on the 15th and the new moon is on the 21st, this is the perfect time to look for it and observe the entire sky.

As I am sure you know, Venus dominates the SW sky for several hours after sunset. It reaches its greatest elongation east of the Sun on March 24, which keeps it in the sky for the longest time. It also sits in front of the Zodiacal Light. So about 1 1/2 hours after the Sunset when you look at Venus, you should also see the Zodiacal Light.

It is a tilted wedge of glowing comet and asteroid debris centered on the ecliptic that towers in the SW sky from late winter to spring. With no moon visible, this luminous branch of interplanetary dust extends about 300 degrees wide and 60 degrees high, making it appear around two-thirds of the way up in the sky.

It is made of trillions of dust particles from comets passing near the Sun, and debris left from colliding asteroids that accumulate within the ecliptic plane and supply the materials that glow. It extends from the Sun to past Mars, and scatters Sunlight to create the luminous haze that reflects

Sunlight. They circle the Sun in the same plane as Earth.

So, look in the SW at least 90 minutes past Sunset.

The bottom of it is as bright as the Milky Way is in the summer, and the upper part is dimmer since it is farther from the Sun. Some of what we will see is carbon, oxygen, silicon, iron, and magnesium that make up the shining debris. It is close to a pyramid shape.

Now that daylight savings time is here, the sky stays brighter and hour longer, and the morning sky stays dark an hour longer. Mercury is beginning to rise in the morning, but it is only 7 degrees high so we may not be able to see it with all our mountains. It was brightest on the 20th and 21st with the thin crescent moon close to it. They rose in the SE an hour before the Sun.

On the 18th the Moon, Mars and Jupiter formed a tight triangle in the morning. Saturn was just to the left of it. When Jupiter first rises it appears as bright as Venus and stays that way until it gets a little higher in the sky. Now that the morning sky is darker longer, you should be able to observe these planets.



## Let's tell the truth about those big, bad wolves

The return of wolves to the West has always been contentious, and the deaths last fall of more than 40 cattle really in western Colorado alarmed ranchers. But here's the true story: Wolves did not kill those cattle found dead near Meeker.

After months of investigation, the state agency, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, found no evidence of wolves in the area at all.

Yet when the news of the cattle deaths went public last October, the agency issued a press release stating it was "investigating a report of dead domestic cow calves on White River National Forest lands near Meeker that show damage consistent with wolf depredation."

A month later, the agency's Northwest regional manager testified before the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission that though some of the cattle had injuries that appeared to come from wolves, he added: "It's perplexing; it's confusing; it's frustrating, trying to figure out exactly what occurred in this incident." The story of wolves as the culprits, however, made national headlines.

Wolves are coming back to the state naturally and because in 2020, the public passed Prop 114, mandating restoration of wolves by the end of this year. Through a Colorado Open Records Act request, the Humane Society of the United States obtained documents and photos about the livestock deaths, and shared them with Carter Niemeyer, an expert on wolf-livestock conflict. He is also a member of the state's Technical Working Group on wolf restoration.

In his Feb. 14 report, Niemeyer found that "the evidence at Meeker is inconsistent with wolf attacks." Niemeyer and veterinarians concluded that the cattle more likely died from "brisket disease," which commonly afflicts cattle living at high altitudes.

Misunderstandings like this one, which lasted weeks, aren't helpful. Do wolves ever come into conflict with livestock? Yes, but it is relatively rare. In the Northern Rockies where wolves are established, they account for less than 1% of cattle losses. Disease, birthing problems, weather and theft take nine times as many cattle than all predators combined, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In Washington state, which is home to at least 33 wolf packs after nearly 15 years of wolf recovery, more than 80% of the packs have no conflict with livestock in an average year.

Overall, the threat of wolves to the livestock industry is negligible. For the few livestock producers who are impacted by wolves, it is, of course, economically painful and time consuming.

But options exist for ranchers to safeguard their livestock. Old-fashioned riding the range to drive off wolf packs, cleaning up carcasses so they don't attract wolves, penning up livestock at night, installing scare devices, and using guard dogs are all deterrents that can work.

Unfortunately, data from the United States Department of Agriculture suggest that few livestock owners use these effective, non-lethal mitigation measures.

But many livestock producers across the west — in southern Alberta, the Big Wood River Drainage of Idaho, the Tom Miner Basin and Blackfoot Valley of Montana and elsewhere — do use a variety of these deterrents, which make it possible for their herds



**Writers on the Range**  
BY STORY WARREN

without scapegoating. The Colorado legislature could do its part, too, by providing funding for a trained, rapid-response team that would immediately investigate livestock injuries and deaths.

According to Niemeyer, authorities must respond as if they were investigating a crime scene — checking out dead livestock within 24 hours to prevent losing evidence from tissue decomposition or scavengers.

Only when a cause is determined, based on evidence, should information be made public. If wolf recovery is going to be successful for both wolves and people, everyone involved — livestock producers, wolf advocates, agencies — must work together. What happened in Meeker has been a valuable lesson in what not to do.

*Story Warren is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. She is a program manager in wildlife protection for the Humane Society of the United States.*

# 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>

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# Officer involved incident leaves one dead

**MONTE VISTA**—An 18-year-old Monte Vista man is dead following an altercation Tuesday with police officers.

A report from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said two members of the Monte Vista Police Department (MVPD) responded to a call at a residence in the 1200 block of S. Broadway here for a welfare check about 12:35 p.m. Tuesday. Shortly after arriving on scene, a male suspect apparently jumped out of a window, armed with two knives and immediately ran toward the officers swinging the weapons.

It was confirmed that a Taser was deployed and the suspect was fired upon outside of the residence where the suspect was later pronounced dead at the scene. The CBI reported that neither officer was struck by the knives, but one officer did sustain minor injuries during the incident.

The two veteran officers, with approximately 10 years of police service each, were placed on administrative leave per MVPD

policy while the investigation into the shooting takes place. Per MVPD policy, the names of the officers are being withheld; the names of the officers will not be released until the 12th Judicial District Attorney's Office makes its ruling and issues the final report in the case.

Since the MVPD was involved, multiple agencies were requested to assist. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation will be the lead investigating agency. Once the investigation is complete, it will be sent to the 12th Judicial District Attorney for review.

This remains an ongoing investigation. More information will be released as it becomes available.

**CAPTION:**

A body cam video provided by CBI shows a suspect armed with knives approaching two Monte Vista police officers who deployed a Taser. The suspect was later pronounced deceased on the scene at a home in the 1200 block of S. Broadway in Monte Vista. An investigation continues.



# Crowther appears in court on charges

**BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER**

**ALAMOSA**—William Crowther, 61, of Sanford, appeared in court on Monday morning in relation to charges that he allegedly committed sexual assault of a child by one in a position of trust, a class 3 felony, and child abuse (non-injury), a class 2 misdemeanor.

Crowther was superintendent of the Sargent School District until, according to redacted arrest documents obtained by the Valley Courier from the Conejos County court, he resigned on Feb. 6, two days before Feb. 8, when the Conejos County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) received a report of the allegations.

A March 6 press release from the Conejos County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) said that the sheriff's office launched an extensive investigation immediately upon receiving the report. Court documents reflect the investigation was conducted by CCSO with assistance from the Children's Advocacy Center. This agency is part of the Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice. The investigation results were filed with 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney Anne Kelly's office, resulting in a warrant for Crowther's arrest being issued and executed on March 6.

Crowther, who is out of custody on bond, appeared in court in person with his defense attorney, David Lipka. District Attorney Kelly and a deputy DA were in court for the people, with Conejos County Judge Jason Kelly presiding.

This was Crowther's first appearance in court, and Lipka advised the court his client was waiving advisement on the charges, meaning the charges would not be

read aloud.

DA Kelly then stated that, due to both the nature of the charges, plus a specific request she has received from the victim's family, she is requesting a mandatory protection order be issued that prohibits Crowther from having any contact with anyone under the age of 18, including members of his family. She referenced the relationship between the defendant and the victim outlined in the sworn arrest statement as the cause for her request.

She also requested that the protection order be extended to specific members of the victim's family, including the victim's siblings. Kelly told the court she has spoken with members of the victim's family who said, "the defendant has reached out to them," there are concerns that there will be "talking" among other family members to dissuade them.

Kelly was clear that she has no evidence that an attempt to dissuade the family is taking place, but she feels there is the potential for that to happen, given the dynamics of

the situation.

Citing those same "dynamics," Kelly said that the victim's father and mother would also like to be included in that protection order due to concerns with "persuasion and manipulation."

In response, Lipka clarified that there was no evidence of witness tampering and described the request as "prophylactic." He also expressed concern that "no contact with anyone under the age of 18," is comprehensive but had no objection to a protection order that also included the victim's siblings and parents, adding that tampering with a witness was a serious charge and reiterating that there is no evidence of that occurring.

Kelly responded that no contact with anyone under 18 is standard "in a case like this," especially given the defendant spent his professional life in contact with children. According to the allegations made in the case, she said, the behavior he has been accused of "had been going on unreported for over a year with a close family member."

She also stated concerns that,

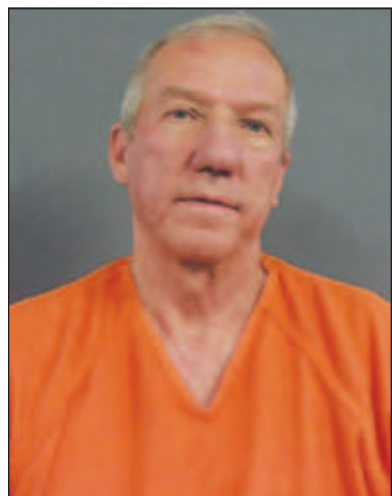
based on the arrest affidavit, Crowther did not clearly understand the serious nature of the charges and thought counseling would be sufficient to "help him get through it."

Lipka responded that the evidence he had received in the case shows that "Mr. Crowther has been very forthcoming" and DA Kelly's portrayal to the court was "not entirely accurate."

Judge Kelly said he had read the affidavit and is concerned about the allegations but confirmed that Crowther was no longer employed in his former role and there were no allegations outside of the family.

Kelly agreed that he was no longer employed but said Crowther "has a very extensive family."

Judge Kelly ruled that the protection order will specify no contact with the victim, the victim's siblings, and parents, plus no contact with a family member under the age of 18, whether they are in the immediate or extended family. He also made certain that Crowther understood that tampering with a witness, which includes harassing,



**William Crowther**

molesting, or intimidating any witness in the case, is a serious act.

Crowther indicated he understood.

Lipka told the court that, since Crowther is not in custody, the defense is "not in any particular hurry" and requested the next court date be set several months in the future as his schedule is busy.

Judge Kelly acknowledged that there is much evidence for defense counsel to review and set a status hearing for May 15.

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# Rio Grande State of the Basin Symposium is May 6

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## SAVE THE DATE

Annual  
 Rio Grande  
 State of the Basin  
 Symposium

**SATURDAY  
 MAY 6, 2023**



**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 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 Colorado 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](mailto:cnsaenz@adams.edu).

## League of Women Voters of the San Luis Valley hosting virtual speaker

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — The San Luis Valley chapter of the League of Women Voters will have a special presentation at 6:30 p.m. on April 13. This is a virtual program entitled "Introduction to Better Voting Methods."

This is part of the League of Women Voters goal to find ways to empower voters around the Valley, state and

nation, the SLV LWV.

If you are interested in joining the Zoom meeting or finding out more information about the local chapter, contact us at [lwvslv@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvslv@yahoo.com) or reach out on Facebook at San Luis Valley League of Women Voters for the Zoom link.

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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 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](http://www.nhd.org). For more information on SdCNHA scholarships and fieldtrip grants, visit [www.sangreheritage.org](http://www.sangreheritage.org).

# Property tax exemption available to senior citizens and disabled veterans

### CONTRIBUTED

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — A property tax exemption is available to senior citizens, qualifying disabled veterans, the surviving spouses of Gold Star veterans, and the surviving spouses of senior citizens or disabled veterans who were previously granted the exemption.

For people who qualify, 50 percent of the first \$200,000 in actual value of their primary residence is exempted. The state pays the exempted portion of the property tax. Once approved, the exemption remains in effect for future years, and the applicant need not reapply. The General Assembly may eliminate the funding for the Senior Citizen Exemption or Disabled Veteran Exemption at their discretion in any year that the budget does not allow for the reimbursement.

Application requirements are as follows:

### SENIOR CITIZEN EXEMPTION

The exemption is available to applicants who: a) are at least 65 years of age as of Jan. 1 of the year of application, b) owned their home for at least 10 consecutive years as of Jan. 1, and c) occupy it as their primary residence and have done so for at least 10 consecutive years as of Jan. 1.

Limited exceptions to the ownership and occupancy requirements are detailed in the qualifications section of the application. The exemption is also available to surviving spouses of senior citizens who previously met the requirements. The application deadline for 2023 is July 15. The application form is available from the website of the Colorado Division of Property Taxation or the county assessor of the county in which the property is located.

The application must be submitted to the county assessor at the following address: Saguache County, PO Box 38, 501 4th Street, Saguache, CO 81149, 719-655-2521, [mstephens@saguachecounty.net](mailto:mstephens@saguachecounty.net).

### DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION

The exemption is available to applicants who: a) sustained a service connected disability while serving on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, b) were honorably discharged, and c) were rated by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs as one hundred percent permanent disability through disability retirement benefits. Disabilities rated at less than 100 percent and VA unemployability awards do not meet the requirement. The applicant must have owned and occupied the home as his or her primary residence since Jan. 1 of the year of application; however, limited exceptions to the ownership and occupancy requirements are detailed in the eligibility requirements section of the application. The application deadline for 2023 is July 1.

Applications are available from the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, from the website of the Colorado Division of Property Taxation or the county assessor of the county in which the property is located. Completed applications must be submitted to the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at the address listed below.

### DISABLED VETERAN SURVIVING SPOUSE EXEMPTION

The exemption is available to surviving spouses of disabled veterans who had the disabled veteran exemption

and who passed away prior to Jan. 1 of the current year. The property must be owner-occupied and used as the primary residence of an owner-occupier who is the surviving spouse of a qualifying disabled veteran. The application deadline for 2023 is July 1.

Applications are available from the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, from the website of the Colorado Division of Property Taxation or the county assessor of the county in which the property is located. Completed applications must be submitted to the Colorado

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at the address listed below.

### DISABLED VETERAN GOLD STAR SPOUSES

Beginning in January 2023, this exemption is available to surviving spouses of "Gold Star" veterans. The property must be owner-occupied and used as the primary residence of an owner-occupier who is the surviving spouse of a qualifying Gold Star veteran. The application deadline for 2023 is July 1.

In early January 2023 applications were available on the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, from the website of the Colorado Division of Property Taxation or the county assessor of the county in which the property is located. Completed applications must be submitted to the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at the following address: Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Division of Veterans Affairs, 155 Van Gordon St., Suite 201, Lakewood, CO 80228. Call 303-914-5832, fax 303-914-5835 or visit [online.vets.colorado.gov](http://online.vets.colorado.gov), for more information.

## Two Keys to Your Best Life Ever

I've been teaching the Word of God for more than 45 years now, and one of the most life-changing things I've learned is that God is always right. No matter what I think, how I feel, or what my circumstances look like, His wisdom and His way of doing things are always the answer to my problems.

One message we see throughout the Bible is, "Do what's right in God's eyes and you'll have a life you enjoy that's worth living. Don't obey God, and you'll have a miserable life." See, it's not the things that happen to us that determine the quality of our lives; it's how we choose to respond to them that really matters. And trusting God is the key to making right choices that bring us the life He has planned for us.

We can choose to trust God. The truth is, God is the only One we can completely trust to take care of us and do what's best for us at all times, in every situation.

Maybe you're thinking, "Well, I trusted God and He didn't take care of me." I understand how you feel, because I've gone through hard things and didn't get what I wanted when I thought I should get it, the way I thought it should come. But the question is, were you trusting God to give you what you wanted Him to give you, or what He wanted to give you, in His time and in His way?

Doing what we want and getting our way all the time isn't what will make us happy. Being selfish and self-centered is actually a miserable way to live. We need the Word of God because as we study it and meditate on it, it renews our minds so we think the way He thinks. It also turns our will in God's direction so we want what He wants for us.

### The Solutions to Every Problem We Face

Psalm 37:3 (AMPC) says, "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, and truly you shall be fed."

This verse tells us the two things we must do that will solve every problem we face: trust God and do good.

God's Word is medicine that brings healing and restoration to our souls. "Trust God" and "Do Good" are the two prescriptions we all need. Our doctor is Jesus, we are His patients, and we can take His medicine as much as we need to. And refills are endless! But there are side effects. When you trust God, you will experience peace, joy, stability, confidence, and overall better health. When you do good, you'll have extreme happiness and rewards in Heaven.

I know it's not always easy to trust God and do good, but it's the best option because it's the only thing that really works. I know it works because I used to be a mess, and learning how to trust God and obey His Word has literally changed my life!

I wish I could get people to understand how pathetic my life was when I received my first Bible from my mother-in-law. It's so amazing how learning to believe God's Word—to trust Him and obey Him—has taken my brokenness and turned my life into something that can actually be of value to other people.

### The Partnership That Guarantees Your Success

Psalm 37:5 (AMPC) says, "Commit your way to the Lord [roll and repose each care of your load on Him]; trust (lean on, rely on, and be confident) also in Him and He will bring it to pass." Life in God is a journey, and we partner with Him by putting our trust in Him (1 Corinthians 1:9). That means when we're dealing with a difficult situation, He may show us something we need to do that will help solve our problem.

I remember when God spoke to my heart that Dave and I should take care of my parents in their old age. This meant we would move them to the city where we live, buy a home for them and provide the care they needed. This was



so hard for me because my father had abused me throughout my childhood and my mother had abandoned me by not doing anything to stop it. But God gave me the grace to do it, and one of the results was that my father accepted Christ as his Savior before he died. This is one of the greatest blessings I've ever had!

I want to encourage you to trust God completely in every area of your life. Remember that He is always on your side and He is fighting for you as you go through the challenges in your life. He loves you and has your best interest at heart at all times. No matter what you need or what your circumstances are, you can live with peace, joy, stability, confidence and overall better health if you will trust God and do good!

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](http://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](http://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

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# LETTER

Continued from Page 1A

back to him until Monday.”

McCracken replied, “The letter that we got from Brad yesterday said, ‘Active management of grazing must continue on designated lands.’”

McCracken noted how the language might conflict with agency management practices in the future. “Basically,” McCracken said, “to me that says that grazing must continue. Period. I just don’t think we can say that because we don’t know.”

Commissioner Thompson wanted to hear more public comment from meeting attendees on ZOOM, rather than representing the same constituents who had already added language to what turned out to be one of three different versions on the table at that point in the meeting (the original letter, the version with Crowell’s suggestions, and McCracken’s updated version based on Crowell’s version).

“So, nobody has had a chance to even see what we’re talking about,” McCracken summarized for his fellow commissioners. “We need to decide between ourselves what we’re going to put out there, and then maybe discuss it again.”

McCracken noted that some text had been removed without marking the deletion, and he wanted to put it back in the letter.

“Well, you might want to ask the two cattlemen who are on ZOOM why they did that,” Thompson suggested.

“You talked to them,” McCracken replied, “so why don’t you tell me.”

“This is our letter together,” Commissioner Liza Marron explained later. “We don’t have to be contentious. I think we can come to a good place. But let’s just have a process here.”

The original support letter in

question was dated July 19, 2022.

Combining changes with his own suggestions, McCracken read his version of the letter, including clarification for cattle owners. McCracken read, “The Commission wishes to ensure that the Wildlife Conservation Area designation protects existing grazing permits.” McCracken noted his additional text for “future permits that may be obtained and the transfer of existing and future permits in the area.”

“And you struck out ‘rights,’” Thompson quickly noted.

Editing with Crowell, McCracken asked Thompson if they could change the wording to, “rights, permits, and other established uses. Would that be all right?” They did the edit in two places.

Thompson repeated her request to make sure the letter included, “Active management of grazing must continue on designated lands.”

After hearing from one of the cattle owners via ZOOM, McCracken invited Christine Canaly to speak. Canaly, the Director of the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council, said, “I want to just speak to the ranching community right now. If you really want to maintain the status quo, then you have to plan for the conservation of wildlife. That’s how cattle ranching is going to maintain its status quo. It can’t happen any other way.”

Bound by Colorado Highways 50, 114, and 149, the proposed Sawtooth WCA region currently accommodates migrating elk between Gunnison and Saguache Counties. Elk alter their routes as weather changes and they discover new obstacles. The current migration paths already cross Highway 114 multiple times.

The board also heard from TaRah Graham with Cannabis Kitchen, perhaps the first operation in the cannabis food space in Moffat.

“I want to make sure it’s done properly,” Graham said. “For me and for others in the future.”

Graham recommended a company to help ensure compliance.

Trustees also identified town-owned properties and planned to evaluate the assets.

# SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF’S REPORT

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff’s Office for the period between March 13 and March 18, 2023.

Sheriff’s staff monitored eight controlled burns, cleared debris from Highway 285 in Villa Grove, and patrolled Saguache three times. They responded to a civil dispute in Moffat and two civil standby visits to the same address in Crestone.

Deputies responded to reports of suspicious activity in Sargents, trespassing in Saguache, and harassment in Crestone and Moffat. Reports of theft in Crestone and Moffat, criminal mischief in Saguache, Safe2Tell calls from schools in Moffat and Saguache,

and stalking near Moffat school also required attention.

In addition to making 12 traffic stops, staff also issued one speeding citation (\$235). They addressed littering on Highway 285, an abandoned vehicle not far from the dump, and loose livestock near Moffat. They also conducted welfare checks, arranged ambulance rides, and assisted motorists.

**ARRESTS**

- A 34-year-old Crestone man was arrested and charged with domestic violence and harassment.
- A 30-year-old Saguache man was arrested for three counts of failure to appear in court, and he paid his own \$23,000 bond to be released.

- A 55-year-old Colorado Springs man was arrested and detained on \$400 bond for failing to appear in El Paso County court.
- A 36-year-old Center woman was arrested and detained on \$7,000 bail for failure to appear in Saguache County court and contempt of court in Alamosa County.
- A woman who was a fugitive of justice failed to appear in court and was detained.
- A 46-year-old Center man was arrested and detained for violating a protection order.
- A 24-year-old Center man was arrested and detained on \$5,000 bail for menacing with a deadly weapon, child abuse and recklessness resulting in injury, and assault in the third degree.

## Narrow Gauge Book Coop hosting rampage shooting author

**ALAMOSA** — The Narrow Gauge Book Coop in Alamosa is presenting a book event that focuses on rampage shootings. Marianna King, author of “The Crisis of School Violence: A New Perspective” and a forthcoming

book, “Rampage Shootings,” will discuss her books.

She will facilitate the discussion by posing the questions — What are the root causes of rampage shootings? Why did bullying and rampage

shootings escalate in the 1990s? How can they effectively be prevented?

The event will be at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 31, at the Narrow Gauge Coop, 602 Main St., Alamosa. Refreshments will be served.

## CHANGES

Continued from Page 1A

on the Saguache County Planning Commission.

Attending via ZOOM, Baca Grande Property Owners Association Community Manager Jay Walther offered suggestions for examining “alternative building types” in other Colorado counties. Huerfano County, for example, addresses

alternatives in code documentation.

“As a 25-year retired general contractor,” Walther qualified, “it’s a misnomer to say that the codes don’t accommodate alternative building styles. They do. If you’re going to use adobe brick and build it per code,” Walther continued, “you have to build it per the code as listed. It does not

preclude things like adobe brick.”

When asked about Earthships, Walther noted how the Taos County codes in New Mexico dictate construction, as seen in the Greater World Earthship Community.

Commissioners agreed to discuss codes as part of the Planning Commission meeting in April.

# BOARD

Continued from Page 1A

meeting Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) well water requirements. Before discussing a contract, they went over a list of elements likely to be included in the final agreement for upgrading infrastructure for CDPHE. Although they did not commit to all the issues, they agreed to share cost overruns equally between the town of Moffat and Potch LLC.

The board also heard from TaRah Graham with Cannabis Kitchen, perhaps the first operation in the cannabis food space in Moffat.

“I want to make sure it’s done properly,” Graham said. “For me and for others in the future.”

Graham recommended a company to help ensure compliance.

Trustees also identified town-owned properties and planned to evaluate the assets.

**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](http://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](mailto: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.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE:** Industrial Tower West, LLC proposes to construct a 199-foot self-support communications tower. The site location is located near US Highway 285, Villa Grove, Saguache County, Colorado, 38-15-11.55 N, 105-56-58.09 W. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1232811.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS** – Interested persons may review the application ([www.fcc.gov/asr/applications](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/applications)) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review ([www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest)) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554.

**HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS** - Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Terracon Consultants, Inc., Noah Oswald, 15080 A Circle, Omaha, NE 68144, 402-330-2202, [noah.oswald@terracon.com](mailto:noah.oswald@terracon.com).

**No. 1665 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, March 23, 2023.**

**NOTICE OF CANCELLATION AND CERTIFIED STATEMENT OF RESULTS**

§1-13.5-513(6), 32-1-104, 1-11-103(3) C.R.S.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Center Fire Protection District, Saguache, Rio Grande, and Alamosa County, Colorado, that at the close of business on the sixty-third day before the election, there were not more candidates for director than offices to be filled, including candidates filing affidavits of intent to be write-in candidates; therefore, the election to be held on May 2, 2023 is hereby canceled pursuant to section 1-13.5-513(6) C.R.S. The following candidates are hereby declared elected:

Lloyd Garcia 4 year term  
Craig Perrin 4 year term

Kimberlee Schuett  
Designated Election Official  
P. O. Box 845  
Center, CO 81125

**No. 1666 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, March 23, 2023.**

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DF-CD-NP-G421

# San Luis Valley Seed Exchange April 1-2

## CONTRIBUTED

**MOFFAT** — The 13th Annual 2023 San Luis Valley Seed Exchange will take place on Saturday, April 1, and Sunday, April 2, at Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa, beginning at 10 a.m. each day. Saturday will close at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. This year will feature local vendors, one or two food vendors, the traditional seed swap table, door prizes, \$2 off soaking at Joyful Journey, a speaker series and two community-specific offerings in the Event Yurt.

The Speakers Series schedule is completed and posted on the website. This year's theme is "The Backyard Gardener" and will feature eight presentations all related to food and seed production.

They will, again, host a Community Sharing Hour, which is an opportunity for anyone in attendance to take the microphone for a few minutes and give their spiel — project updates, upcoming events, or anything the community should know. This is a great opportunity for the vendors or other organizations to let people know about their offerings or needs.

They also plan to host a Community Food Access presentation, due to community-initiated, food sovereignty discussions that have been taking place.

Check the website for updates as they book speakers, sponsors and vendors — [www.SLVSE.org](http://www.SLVSE.org).

To support the event through sponsorship, contact Ame Warner at 719-207-2597 or [marketing@jjhotsprings.com](mailto:marketing@jjhotsprings.com). The SLV Seed Exchange is currently looking for volunteers to help during the event. To sign up to volunteer or for any other questions, contact organization director Jae Sanders at 575-999-5319 or [slvseedex@gmail.com](mailto:slvseedex@gmail.com).



## Visit Alamosa's award-winning 'We Love Our National Park' program returns in April

### CONTRIBUTED

**ALAMOSA** — Visit Alamosa's "We Love Our National Park" program returns to Alamosa on April 1. The upcoming campaign marks the return of this community-wide celebration. Restaurants, retail shops and attractions throughout Alamosa County will once again show their love to the Great Sand Dunes National Park with themed specials, drinks, meals, desserts, displays, and special events during April to mark the month-long celebration. Visit Alamosa's "We Love Our National Park" campaign was the recipient of the 2022 Governor's Award for Outstanding Community Tourism Initiative, presented by the Colorado Tourism Office.

First Fridays with Visit Alamosa will kick-off the program with a block party on San Juan Avenue on Friday, April 7, starting at 4 p.m. This special edition of First Fridays will feature live entertainment by Adams State University students, followed by the Celtic (K)nots, and a special appearance by the Salida Circus. Great Sand Dunes Park Rangers will host several information tables and activities for all ages. Visit Alamosa will host a libation station, free mini golf, and various ways to win "We Love Our National Park" swag and gift vouchers.

Through a partnership with lodging properties, travelers visiting Alamosa during April will once again be offered a gift voucher to be spent at participating locations. This aspect of the promotion increases visitor spending to Alamosa's local

businesses. In total, \$10,000 in gift vouchers will be distributed to both travelers and community members throughout the month.

"We are excited to bring back the 'We Love Our National Park' program for the third year. What started as an idea to boost traveler spending coming off of the pandemic, has turned into a community-wide annual celebration of our beloved Great Sand Dunes National Park. We greatly appreciate our partnerships with lodging, camping, retail and restaurants businesses. Without these community partners this program would not exist. We continue to grow this celebration and invite everyone to join the fun in sharing their love for the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve," said Kale Mortensen, Executive Director of Visit Alamosa.

The Great Sand Dunes is a vital tourist attraction and major economic driver for the San Luis Valley, bringing thousands of travelers from around the world to the area annually. The National Park is dedicated to conserving the ecosystem, wildlife, and scenic beauty of this natural resource. National Park Week is celebrated every year. This year, National Park week is April 22-30. Learn more about the special events, programs and fee free days at the Great Sand Dunes National Park at [nps.gov/grsa](http://nps.gov/grsa).

The entire community is invited to show their love for the Great Sand Dunes during April and help us "paint the town orange" for this campaign. More information can be found at [alamosa.org/love](http://alamosa.org/love)

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# Lifestyles

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Photo by Patrick Shea

Seen here holding Chloe, the 14-week-old service dog he is currently training, seventh-grader Westlea Tipword held a Veterans Suicide Awareness event in the Mountain Valley School gym on March 11.

## Mountain Valley middle schooler hosts event

By PATRICK SHEA

**SAGUACHE** — When seventh-grader Westlea Tipword creates a plan of action, like hosting his Veterans Suicide Awareness Walk at Mountain Valley School on March 11, he follows through with the plan.

“If something really comes to my attention and it’s kind of easy to do like this,” Tipword explained in the Mountain Valley School gym, “then I’ll do it. I could do a lot of things like that, like my business.”

Once Tipword decided to raise **Please see TIPSWORD on Page 3**

## Sargent Elementary breaks its record in donations for the American Heart Association

By MARIE MCCOLM

**MONTE VISTA** — Sargent Elementary Physical Education teacher Sami Cotten is proud of her students.

“Our kids had a heart challenge with the American Heart Association,” Cotten said. “The association used to be Jump Rope for Heart but changed their name. We had a goal of raising \$5,000 for the association, well the kids surpassed this goal in like a week or so. We ended up beating our 2001 school record. In 2001, our school raised \$6,940, and the kids now ended up raising \$12,688.30. They almost doubled the amount! I am extremely proud of these students. These kids just blew this out of the water. The kids worked really hard for this, and they are already talking about beating the record for next year. This is great.”

Cotten is a 2015 Sargent High School graduate. She attended college in Grand Junction and taught first grade in Grand Junction for almost 4 years. Cotten and her husband moved back to the San Luis Valley when her husband obtained a job with an Adams State University basketball team. Cotten **Please see RECORD on Page 3**



Courtesy photo

Sargent Elementary School P.E. teacher Sami Cotton is slimed by students who raised more than \$100 in donations for the American Heart Association.

## 40th SLV Crane Festival swoops into Valley

By MARIE MCCOLM

**MONTEVISTA** — People migrated to the San Luis Valley for the 40th annual Monte Vista Crane Festival on March 10-12.

Assistant MV National Wildlife Refuge Manager Dean Lee was at the refuge on Sunday morning. He said a good amount of people came to the refuge to see the cranes this year during the festival.

“The crowds that we have seen out here have been pretty steady,” Lee said. “We don’t have a total count, but we have seen an uptick of people over here and out at Ski Hi park this year for the festival. I think it’s because this is our first full year back, you know after COVID, and with the new facility and everything out at Ski Hi too, we have seen a bigger crowd also. I have heard a lot of people express how it’s been nice to get out into nature and really enjoy the cranes this year. The cranes have been coming around for thousands of

years, but this is the 40th for our town. It’s cool that we get to come out and enjoy the cranes. I also enjoy teaching people about the cranes and talking to them about the festival.”

There were a variety of vendors at the Outcall Event and Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex for the festival selling jewelry, soaps, perfumes, wood crafts, homemade baked goods, candles, carved signs, clothing and much more. There were also booths at the complex, including one from the Colorado State University SLV Area Extension Office, and one with rangers from the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge to answer questions about Sandhill cranes and other wildlife.

On Saturday night at the Ski Hi Complex, the world premiere of the movie, “Where the Cranes Meet the Mountains,” was shown. The movie was made possible by a grant from the Colorado Tourism Office and made **Please see CRANES on Page 8**



Photo by Brian Williams

The Sandhill cranes returned to the San Luis Valley during their annual spring migration. People came to the Monte Vista to view the cranes and for the annual Crane Festival on March 10-12.

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# CPW continues human-bear conflict reduction grant program

*Offers \$1 million in grants to reduce conflicts in local communities*

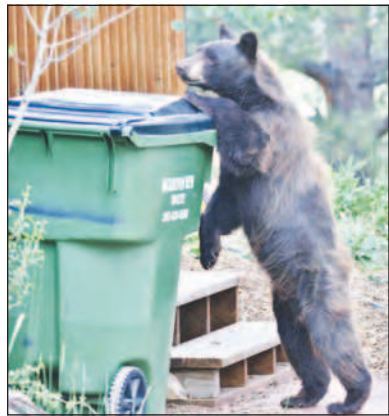


Photo courtesy of DJ Hannigan

**CONTRIBUTED**

**DENVER** — In an effort to help communities co-exist with bears, Colorado Parks and Wildlife will continue its Human-Bear Conflict Reduction Community Grant Program, providing local Colorado communities with financial resources to support efforts that reduce human-bear conflicts.

CPW will be offering up to \$1 million that it will distribute through a competitive grant process this spring to be used on projects that reduce conflicts with bears in local communities. This grant program strives to foster innovative solutions to human-bear conflict that can be replicated in other parts of the state and bolster those efforts in all communities in Colorado.

Last year, funding for the program was made available through House Bill 21-1326, which passed the General Assembly and was signed by Governor Polis in 2021. This program was so successful that CPW decided to continue the program and fund it.

Local governments, NGOs, HOAs, community groups, businesses, tribes, universities and individuals are all eligible to receive funding. Applicants can apply for grants between \$50,000 and \$500,000.

“Human-bear conflict measures cannot be successful without collaboration between local communities, wildlife managers, and individuals,” said CPW Grant Manager Travis Long. “Fortunately, CPW saw success with this grant program last year with many communities taking advantage of the opportunities this funding provided and implementing projects to help reduce conflicts with bears.”

Colorado has between 17,000-20,000 bears and the population is stable and growing.

“Bear behavior is consistent and predictable,” said Area Wildlife Manager Tim Kroening. “They spend all day looking for food and most conflicts with humans can be traced back to a human-provided food source like trash and bird seed. That is why humans are the focal point for wildlife managers when trying to reduce conflicts with bears.”

From 2019-22, CPW received over 18,000 reports of sightings and conflicts with bears. Nearly one-third of those reports involved trash cans and dumpsters as an attractant, which will be a target area CPW looks to address when awarding grants.

Other constant sources of conflict include birdfeeders, livestock, bears accessing open garages, and other human-originated items that are left unsecured.

Increasing human-bear conflicts can lead to property damage and increased demands on time and effort to respond to the conflicts by CPW and local government personnel. Expanding existing conflict reduction efforts or developing new approaches will help reduce impacts on bear populations and community resources, and improve public safety.

Learn more about CPW’s other grant programs on its website: <https://cpw.state.co.us>.

# Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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## SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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

### Solution to last week's puzzle

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

### Eligible Projects

The goal of the Human-Bear Conflict Reduction Community Grant Program is to reduce conflicts between local communities and black bears. Characteristics of projects that help meet this goal include:

- Reducing the availability of attractants to black bears in communities experiencing human-bear conflict or disincentivizing black bears from entering areas of high conflict (i.e. hazing).
- Have local community support or detailed plans to build local support.
- Are cost-effective investments that have the potential to last beyond the funding time frame.
- Utilize proven techniques for preventing conflict or explore an innovation with promise to prevent conflict.

### How to Apply

Applications are available on CPW’s website and are due by May 5 at 5 p.m. For questions or application assistance, contact CPW Grant Manager Long at [travis.long@state.co.us](mailto:travis.long@state.co.us). Successful grant recipients will be announced in June.

Click here to view the 2022 grant recipients to see what types of projects were selected during the competitive grant process.

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Wildlife managers estimate that

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# TIPSWORD

Continued from Page 1

awareness of veteran suicides, he told himself, "OK. Today's the day I'm going to start it. This is how it's going to go."

Although he might be overlooking enormous help from his mother Wanetta, Tipsword acknowledged the people who helped make his event a reality. When he presented his idea for the walk to the Saguache Chamber of Commerce, he met board member and veteran Terry Gillette. In addition to running Gillette's Trading Post (and Jeep Museum) on Highway 285 in Saguache, Gillette helps maintain the veteran network in the region.

Tipsword also met Michael BonDurant, the Saguache County Veterans Service Officer. BonDurant passed out fliers with his contact information — 719-655-2680 and mbondurant@saguachecounty-co.gov. Another flyer listed warning signs for Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD).

BonDurant also said he wants more veterans to know about the Saguache County Sales Tax Grant Veteran Assistance Program. He encourages vets to call if they need emergency help with necessities, for example, fuel for their vehicle or home.

Tipsword is an honorary member of the Saguache Chamber of Commerce. He started "Generational Homestead Candy and Snacks" almost two years ago. The Saguache Chamber of Commerce website — saguachechamber.org — provides more information about Tipsword's enterprise.

Under the Young Entrepreneurs category, the website lists students like Tipsword who have honorary chamber status until they graduate. Tipsword's product page begins with, "We offer a wide variety of freeze-dried sweets that have a unique flavor and texture." He lists 19 items with descriptions and pictures that show how items grow when freeze-dried.

The Colorado Cottage Foods Act that passed in 2012 has been refined to accommodate foods that can be sold directly to customers without licensing or inspection. Since Tipsword's freeze-dried products do not contain dairy, his business falls under the Colorado Cottage Foods Act.

The 13-year-old described his production and distribution process.

"I buy these nylon bags from Amazon or eBay or wherever," Tipsword explained. "Because they're cheap bags and they're just what we need for the candy."

"Basically," the middle schooler continued, "I use any type of candy, like a snickers bar. I cut it up, put it in the freeze dryer, put it in the bag, and sell it."

Visitors at the 2022 Hollyhock Festival in Saguache had the opportunity to buy Tipsword's unique sweets. After his first event — Monte Vista Farmer's Market — the middle schooler now works at a number of events and other festivals throughout the year. He also sells his product at Mountain Valley School. Options include a variety of taffies, candy bars, and different kinds of skittles.

"It still profits me," Tipsword explained. "That's why I'm still doing it."

Like a true entrepreneur, the 13-year-old has a vision. He said, "My goal for the future? Down the line I'd like to have a warehouse."

The smallest freeze-drying units can run thousands of dollars, so Tipsword is fortunate to borrow time on smaller equipment today. He described refrigerator-sized units that run six figures. He wants 20 of them in his future warehouse. Instead of cutting up candy for life, he said he might sell the business at that point and do something else.

A long-time member of 4-H, Tipsword learned about business early. This year, he had to come up with a new revenue plan because the avian flu hit hard and ruined his plans for the chickens he raised.

On top of schoolwork and playing games of chess, Tipsword also devotes time to raising therapy dogs. He is currently training a 14-week-old puppy named Chloe.

His involvement in 4-H also requires significant time and effort. Without the support of his mother, however, he might not be as productive. She suggested creating a freeze-dried process and helped direct her son with all his projects. She swept the MVS gym to close the event. A substitute teacher in Center, she also distributes Tipsword's candy at the school.



Courtesy photo

A banner signed by Sargent Elementary School students shows the amount of money that was raised for the American Heart Association.

## RECORD

Continued from Page 1

then applied for and received the job as the Physical Education teacher for the elementary school at Sargent. Cotten is also a volleyball coach for Sargent High School.

Cotten explained how with this record-breaking goal, Sargent is now a ranked school in Colorado. Cotten said that there are usually about 10 schools that rank in Colorado, and Sargent is among the 10. Cotten said that many of the other schools are finishing their challenges in March, so she doesn't think many of the numbers are finalized yet, but she was proud that the students at Sargent, made it

to the top 10 to be ranked.

"For a school as small as ours, with as big as a lot of the other schools are, for us to be ranked, we are very proud of that," Cotten said.

Cotten said that for the month of February, the kids learned a lot about heart health. Cotten said that the kids were excited about the challenge because they were told if they raised over \$100 in donations, they would get to throw slime at her.

"We ended up having over 60 kids that raised \$100 or more. So, we had this big cool slime party last Thursday. We had 60 kids that got to dump

some cups of slime on me," Cotten said with a chuckle. The top three kids that raised the most got to use 5-gallon buckets of slime. "The kids really loved that. It was a lot of fun and a good reward for them."

Cotten said one of her favorite things about being a P.E. teacher is that she gets to see all the kids at the school.

"I have really enjoyed P.E. I did first grade in the past, so this has been a really big change, but a good change. It's really cool getting to see every single kid in the school every single day, that's very special to me," she said.

## MV Cemetery board asking public's help cleaning

**MONTE VISTA** — The Monte Vista Cemetery Board of Directors is asking the public for help in cleaning the cemetery for spring.

Due to the large number of tumbleweeds that have inundated the cemetery grounds it is now more important than ever that cemetery spring cleaning rules are followed.

Patrons that have personal items such as Christmas trees, gifts, fake flowers or any other items on graves are being asked to come and clean their plots prior to the start of spring weather and high wind.

Any items left are subject to damage when work to clear the tumbleweeds and summer mowing operations resume.

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# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

**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



**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

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*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



**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 compete 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



**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



810 Grand Ave, Del Norte Prime business location, 3,000 sq ft. BUSHY 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



**Steffens & Company Realty**  
719-873-5605  
30635 US HWY 160 South Fork  
dee@steffenscorealty.com

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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

**SOLD**

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



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

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




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

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

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



**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



# 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**  
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02 CARD OF THANKS  
03 MEMORIALS  
04 LOST & FOUND  
05 NOTICES/BAZAARS  
06 PERSONALS  
**EMPLOYMENT**  
07 HELP WANTED  
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17 REAL ESTATE  
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**MERCHANDISE**  
23 LAWN & GARDEN  
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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](mailto:awelch@valleypublishinginc.com)

## Easy Payment Options

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



### 05 Notices

**WE BUY ANTLER: Great NEW FALL Price:** Tell us the code "ELK17" and you will get \$17/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](http://slvaa.org) or call 719-937-5083.

### 07 Help Wanted

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, [hrmanager@ci.monte-vista.co.us](mailto:hrmanager@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](http://www.riograndecounty.org) or Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Application deadline: Until filled. (4-12)

**Rio Grande County is seeking a 3/4-time Airport Manager,** 30 hours per week, starting at \$20.99 - \$22.43 per hour. Potential to develop into a full-time position. Includes retirement and paid holidays. Plans, coordinates, and monitors activities related to the opera-

tions 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](http://www.riograndecounty.org) or Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Application deadline: Until filled. (4-12)

## 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](mailto:bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com)

## DIESEL MECHANIC

**Pay Range Starting: \$23**

Contact details- [bkenned5@wm.com](mailto:bkenned5@wm.com)

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**MARCH 24 & 25**



# Valley Wide Classifieds

**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.riograndecounty.org) or Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Application deadline: Until filled. (4-12)

**Rio Grande County Assessor's Office is seeking a part-time Assessor's Office Clerk.** 20-25 hours per week, starting at \$17.18 per hour. Compensation includes retirement and paid holidays. Assists the County Assessor by performing a variety of clerical duties including the maintenance of real estate and/or ownership records and assisting the public by telephone or in person at the Assessor's office. High school diploma or GED and valid driver's license required. Pre-employment drug testing, including marijuana screening, and a background check required. Application and job description available at [www.riograndecounty.org](http://www.riograndecounty.org) or Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Application deadline: Until filled.

**Rio Grande County Administration seeking full-time Office Assistant,** starting at \$16.08 - \$16.73 per hour DOE. Benefits include healthcare.

## 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.

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](http://www.riograndecounty.org) or Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room

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

**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: Non-exempt. 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](mailto: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

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[Sheri@DenverInsuranceTeam.com](mailto:Sheri@DenverInsuranceTeam.com)  
**Tom Bongers**  
Independent Broker Agent  
720-543-2189  
[Tom@DenverInsuranceTeam.com](mailto:Tom@DenverInsuranceTeam.com)  
Auto | Home | Life | Commercial | Workers Comp

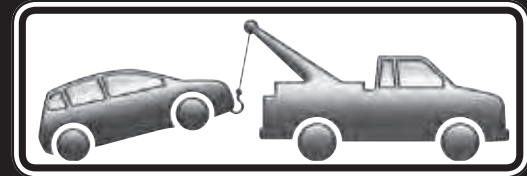


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Edward 719.992.8334  
Mose 719.982.8900  
Freddy 719.588.9558  
Benefit for the La Jara Amish School

# Valley Wide Classifieds

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)

**Director Assistant-Senior Lunch Program** — Mineral County's Senior Lunch Program is seeking a Director Assistant. Employee will assist the Director as needed; will deliver senior lunches safely and in a timely manner and will act in a professional manner providing good customer service to all the senior lunch participants. Requirements: Valid Driver's license, Completion of Defensive driving course, able to pass a background check, must be a Mineral County resident and possess a good attitude. Responsibilities include but are not limited to: Deliver Senior Lunches effectively and efficiently, Maintain good relationships with Senior Lunch Participants, Give SLD a detailed report weekly as to the condition and well-being of Senior Lunch Participants, Maintain and clean the provided County Vehicle. Applications are available from Mineral County Human Resource office at 1201 N. Main St., Creede or at 719-658-2331 or at mineralcountycolorado.com/jobpostings. (3-22)

**Del Norte Elementary School Teacher needed at the URGSD.** We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team for the 2023-2024 school year. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Amy at 719-657-4050. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (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,

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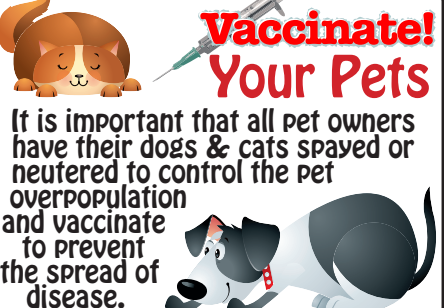
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# CRANES

Continued from Page 1

specifically for the 40th annual MV Crane Festival.

The movie featured an artist by the name of Amanda Charlton Hurley. Hurley spoke about her artistry and how the cranes inspired her to paint a steel crane for the “Swoop of the Cranes.” She said this was her first year seeing the cranes and spoke of their beauty. Hurley added that she loved how the cranes brought so many people with diverse cultures and backgrounds to the San Luis Valley.

Hurley was introduced in person at the movie’s premiere, and the steel crane she painted was also on display for everyone to see at the premiere.

Keynote speaker and co-founder of the International Crane Foundation, Dr. George Archibald, gave a talk that was all about the Sandhill cranes, including where the cranes come from, their migration patterns, what the cranes eat, specific habits of the cranes, and how cranes populate. He also spoke about the cranes being in Monte Vista for the

festival.

On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday residents could buy tickets in advance or the day of to take a tour of different wetland and wildlife areas around Monte Vista and the Valley. Each morning or afternoon, depending what time the tours were held, residents were taken to various locations for a guided tour of the wetlands or the wildlife refuge and could watch the cranes in their natural habitat.

The Sunday morning tour took people to the MV National Wildlife Refuge and

was led by Doug Ouren. Ouren said the cranes followed patterns on their migration to the Valley every year and that Monte Vista was one of their major stopping points during their migration. He mentioned that although it was a grandiose thing for people to witness every year, for the cranes it was simply part of their way of moving from one place to another.

Ouren said it was “wonderful” that people traveled near and far to watch the migration and witness the beauty of the cranes.

“The cranes really enjoy being here,” he said. “They enjoy loafing in the water, and then they go and feed. The cranes are omnivores and will eat what they find, like frogs, fish, and plant matter. You can often see them basking in the sun, and raising their wings before they take flight out at the refuge. This migration is an annual thing, and our place at the refuge is a spot they really enjoy visiting.”

For more information about the annual Crane Festival, visit the website at [mvrcranefest.org](http://mvrcranefest.org).



Photo by Brian Williams

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