

Shorts

North 90 Project concepts presented

BY PATRICK SHEA

CENTER — In October, representatives from MASS Design spent the better part of a week listening to students, residents, and officials in Center to better understand what housing could look like in the 90 acres of town-owned land ready for development.

Center acquired 90 acres north of town more than a decade ago, and in 2018 when Lujan took the town manager position, the North 90 Project started to take shape.

The acreage is flat and undeveloped, a blank canvas and a need for expensive paint. Competing for grant money, Lujan and the trustees committed to the MASS Design study

and gained an advantage by having architectural drawings and plans to submit with the proposal. Although the grant money may not be awarded until April, the concepts have already helped push the project forward.

The planning commission group is expanding, and members raised

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Center Town Manager Brian Lujan introduced presenters from MASS Design via ZOOM on Feb. 7 to debrief trustees, planning commission members, and town residents with the results of their housing and development concepts.

Photo by Patrick Shea



Photos by Patrick Shea

An estimated 130 community members showed up in the Mountain Valley School district auxiliary gym on Feb. 1 to take a vote of no-confidence in the MVS Board of Education.

Saguache community questions school board action

BY PATRICK SHEA

SAGUACHE — Almost 130 members of the Saguache community met in the Mountain Valley School auxiliary gym on the evening of Feb. 1, the same day dozens of students walked out in protest over the school board's decision to not renew Superintendent Jeff Bollinger's contract.

Most of the crowd stood to

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Legislative town hall with Simpson and Martinez

Society Hall, Feb. 17, 6 to 8 p.m.

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — A legislative town hall with Senator Cleve Simpson (R-District 6) and Representative Matt Martinez (D-District 62) is scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17, at the Society Hall in Alamosa.

Carol Riggensch, the Republican candidate for District 62 in the 2022 election, is coordinating the event, and will be facilitating the town hall with Ryan Morgan.

Riggensch says she has reached out to Democratic leadership in the San Luis Valley to invite them to help facilitate the event.

According to Riggensch, the format will begin with the legislators presenting and educating people on the legislative process, including their committee assignments, what

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Three Valley students earn degrees from UNC

GREELEY — Three students from the San Luis Valley were among those who received degrees from the University of Northern Colorado at the end of the fall 2022 semester. The students, degrees, areas of study, honors and hometowns are:

- Camille Villa, Bachelor of Arts in Special Education, Summa Cum Laude, Center
- Camille Ferran-Medina, Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Del Norte
- Timothy Cestone, Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts, Summa Cum Laude, South Fork

Saguache County Democrats meeting is Feb. 16

SAGUACHE — The Biennial Saguache County Democrats Reorganization Meeting to elect new party officers is at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16, at the Saguache Road and Bridge Building.

Mosca-Hooper Conservation District annual meeting

Members of the Mosca-Hooper Conservation District in Alamosa County are invited to the annual meeting from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 9, at the Orange Conference Room of the Ski Hi Complex, 2335 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista. To attend, contact moscahoopercd1@gmail.com or 719-992-3661.

Democrat reorganization meeting is Feb. 9

LA JARA — The Conejos County Democrats are having a reorganization meeting at 6 p.m. on Feb. 9 in La Jara at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Registered Democrats will have the opportunity to see what positions are open, elect new officers, and have a voice about legislation being passed. Refreshments will be served.

Tokyo Cigar movie earns '17 out of 10'



BY PATRICK SHEA

CRESTONE — Judging by the audience response at the T Road Brewing Company in Crestone on Feb. 4, the premiere of "GRIM: a Philosophical Murder Mystery" earned creator Tokyo Cigar a quote from his 31-minute film.

The man who goes by Tokyo Cigar combined multiple artistic talents to produce the project. With the help of creative Crestone residents, Tokyo Cigar wrote, directed, edited, filmed, and

Tokyo Cigar (white shirt with stripes) posed with cast members at the world premiere of 'GRIM — a Philosophical Murder Mystery' at the T Road Brewing Company in Crestone on Feb. 4.

Photo by Patrick Shea

acted in a visual feast triggered by his recently recorded music. Starting in August of 2022, he personally pulled off production in six months.

As the evil heroine narrates while Tokyo's character reads her hand-written letter at the close of the film, "On the grand scheme of personal touches, this is like a 17 out of 10."

One of the cast members, Jeannette Amanda Gardea, stepped forward to fill the lead role when circumstances changed. Tokyo Cigar said she made suggestions, and she took three takes reading the monologue he wrote to conclude the story. Throughout the film, her calmness as a villain is chilling.

Tokyo Cigar plays a character named Orazo,

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Rep. Matt Martinez



Sen. Cleave Simpson

TOWN

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legislation they see coming up for this session and their thoughts on those bills.

They will then discuss bills they have introduced, sponsored or co-sponsored and any other topics they think are important for voters to know.

Riggenbach anticipates

legislators' thoughts and comments taking up most of the first hour, after which the format will be opened to questions from the audience.

"We will manage those questions as we go," she says.

Riggenbach says she is hoping the events will be shown on Facebook but that has yet to be confirmed.



Photo by Patrick Shea

Tokyo Cigar (right) produced 'GRIM — a Philosophical Murder Mystery,' and Cathy Goevert (left) publicized the project and filmed scenes with the creator on-screen.

MOVIE

Continued from Page 1A

which is his real first name. Orazza Allam has spent the last 18 months creating music and visual art in Crestone. A close friend listened to Tokyo's new music last fall and said it sounded cinematic. The resulting film includes multiple camera angles and techniques to change the aspect ratio and focus to enhance confusion and mystery. Breaking convention, black and white footage represents the present while color scenes depict the past.

As he explained at the start of the premiere, Tokyo had plans for Crestone and its people in the movie, but Crestone had plans of its own. People devoted serious time to the project and helped produce 31 minutes of drama, poetry, and intrigue.

The full cast includes Tokyo Guitar as Orazza, Jeannette Amanda Gardea, Goevert as Brighteyes, Goldie, Nick, Lori Sunflower, Deborah, Keith

Morrison, Ariel Francis, David Swain, Benjamin Byer, Wesley Johnson, Mike Booth, Lori Booth, Gretchen Nelson, Gina Mastarand, Lourdes Machard, Drew Forrester, Paul Mannaion, Brett Sherrick, Raven, Gilbert, Melinda Davis, Dennis Newhaus, Brian Kadel, Max Friedrich, Miles, Eden Elderberry, Leah Garcia, Al Sutherland, and Ashley Smith.

Both Tokyo and publicist and camera operator Cathy Goevert said they want to breathe now, and Tokyo is eyeing a trip to Berlin next year to perform and promote the film. Although the timetable for film festival submission is long, "GRIM: a Philosophical Murder Mystery" will likely land in more than one soon.

To see and hear more of Tokyo Cigar's artistry, visit his website at www.tokyocigar.net/ and listen to his Spotify list.



Photo by Brian Williams

Law enforcement investigates a 'suspicious death' at home in the 700 block of Clay Street on Thursday, Feb. 2. A man's body was found in the yard of a residence Thursday morning.

Man's body found in yard of Clay Street home

MVPD treating it a 'suspicious death'

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — A man's body was found Thursday morning, Feb. 2, in a yard in the 700 block of Clay Street. The Monte Vista Police Department has labeled it a "suspicious death."

Around 6:50 a.m. on Thursday, MVPD officers were dispatched to the 700 block of Clay Street on

a report of a male laying in a yard.

When officers arrived, they found a male, deceased, laying in the yard, MVPD Chief George Dingfelder reported. The Rio Grande County Coroner pronounced the male deceased.

"While it is too early in the investigation to determine the cause and manner of death, detectives with the Monte Vista Police Department have initially labeled this as a suspicious death," Dingfelder stated.

The Colorado Bureau of

Investigation is assisting in scene processing and assisting MVPD Detectives. Clay Street was closed to traffic in the morning during the investigation.

"Until we get autopsy results from the coroner, we will not know the cause and manner of death," Dingfelder said.

The identity of the man will be released later, Dingfelder stated. More information regarding this investigation will be released when appropriate.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Jan.

30 and Feb. 4, 2023.

Sheriff's staff issued two speeding citations, patrolled Saguache nine times and Crestone once, received

a traffic complaint, and made five traffic stops. They managed five controlled burns, a sex offense, one theft, a case of fraud, harassment, a civil standby in Crestone, and a civil dispute in Saguache.

Deputies also responded to a report of a missing person, criminal mischief, suspicious activity, threatening behavior on County Road T, and animal problems in Saguache and Moffat. Highway 285 was closed for many hours on Jan. 31 to help airlift an injured driver from a crash near County Road G.

ARRESTS

• A 57-year-old Center man was arrested and held on \$1,000 bond for failing to appear in court.

NORTH

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concerns and questions during the presentation. Trustees and community members identified the Catch-22 between housing and employment. Without jobs, new residents may not move to Center. Without housing, new businesses may not move to Center either.

Lujan framed the approach to the dilemma like throwing a dart at a dart board. The town of Center is the

bullseye. If any project development cannot be sustained by the Center community at the core, it will fail. If each phase of the project stays within the bullseye, the bullseye itself could expand to relieve housing pressures in other San Luis Valley communities. Saguache renters who work in Alamosa, for example, would consider moving to Center for affordable housing closer to work.



Photo by Patrick Shea

MASS Design representatives met with Center Town Board trustees, planning commission members, and town residents via ZOOM on Feb. 7 to present concepts for developing the North 90 project.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Happy Valentine's Day

As I sat down this morning to write this column about the coming celebration of Valentine Day I got sidetracked and found myself writing about Easter instead. That may be attributed to some wishful thinking on my part for warmer days at that time of year or simply a brain fart from an aging and creaky cranium. When it dawned on me, I had a good laugh to myself since Miss Trixie is still unaccounted for at the morning breakfast table so there is no one here to laugh at me. As many of you know her dad Mr. Shot, had to have heart surgery and she is stuck in Amarillo Texas, by god, for a while longer helping him.

This has led to what can be known as quiet times and vacation for Ol' Dutch but I am beginning to miss her I have to admit. For those of you that know The Princess, I would appreciate it if you would not mention that small fact to her as she gets the Big Head when she knows such things.

Some time ago, early in our relationship, Ol' Dutch would have enough alone time to prepare for Valentine's Day and at least have a nice card for Miss Trixie. But soon she became attached to my hip, and it became harder and harder to even get a card for her as she dogged my every step 24 hours a day. I recall one year we were shopping, and she had gone next door to another store and Ol' Dutch thought to himself, here is my chance to score a surprise card. So, I carefully picked out an appropriate card and took it to the register only to be met by, yes you guessed it, Miss Trixie coming to "check" on me. The surprise now long wasted, Ol' Dutch simply gave the card to her there in the store and after she had read it, put it back on the shelf. And you thought I wasn't romantic?

Just this past weekend the grands #1 and #2 came to spend time with Grandpa and we had a hoot of a time. They ate whatever they wanted, overdoed on sugar, and didn't shower for two days, which to them is heavenly. Now their parents know the routine when they stay here but it's worth it to them to get some alone time no matter the collateral damage with sugar withdrawals and strange body odors.



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

Early on into the time together I made a point to mention Valentine Day coming up and they were quick to remind me that it's "Valentine's" with an "s" on the end. And so began a whole weekend with me continuing in the singular and them correcting me to the plural and laughing at silly Grandpa each time. And in the end, the joke was probably on them, as I prefer to say Valentine's Day myself, but we created great banter over something silly.

As luck would have it, or not, we had to stop at the local Dollar store and while there I tried to buy them some heart shaped candy as it was both plentiful and varied. They opted for some Slime instead and suggested I get a box of chocolates for Paula. I did consider that but soon had to admit those chocolates would not make it to the 14th and with her gone, they would disappear down my gullet like corn down a turkey craw.

Getting this column out to you early does give you time to go out there and grab some candy hearts, chocolate rabbits for your partner and a big Whitman's Chocolate for yourself and be prepared for the big day.

And if you find yourself without a lover on this day, go ahead and get some candy anyway as it's always important to shower some love on yourself.

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.



Housing crisis is harming my town

By TIM LYDON

In Girdwood, Alaska, we'll long remember the snowstorm of Dec. 6, just three months ago. But it won't be for the school cancellations. We'll remember it as the night dozens of residents traveled a snow-packed highway to testify at a public meeting — about housing.

Residents across the West will recognize why so many came out that snowy night. A proposed development, called Holtan Hills, would expand our town's footprint but include almost nothing affordable for teachers, firefighters, wait staff or others who comprise the soul of our community and drive its economy.

With no guardrails to support local homeownership, second-home real estate investors would likely gobble up the project's predominantly high-end units. It's happening already, with most shunning the long-term rental needs of a few thousand people in this south-central Alaskan community. New owners often offer nightly rentals or just leave their houses unoccupied.

That would mean more empty houses in a town with a severe housing shortage. The dozens who testified that night, and the hundreds who wrote letters, described the impacts.

They included Emma, who runs a fishing boat with her husband, and whose young-adult daughter can't find a place to rent in the town where she grew up and now works. And Amanda, the pizza shop owner, who is overwhelmed trying to help her employees find housing, including the 65-year-old man whose landlord recently booted him out on short notice.

Erin described bailing on her long-held dream of raising a family here after 11 years of pouring her talents into nonprofit youth education programs. She reminded me of Autumn, my daughter's former piano teacher, who recently moved away after years of teaching music to local kids. She had been unable to find

steady housing.

Such stories swirled into that winter night from the heroes every mountain community knows — the ones who clean rentals, provide health care, build houses and teach our kids to speak, spell, ski and say "thank you." Business owners were there, too, detailing how the lack of attainable housing causes employee shortages that curtail operating hours, leaving fewer visitor services.

Some who didn't speak that night included the local workers who sleep in their cars or in drafty cabins on the edge of town. We also didn't hear from the Filipino parents of my daughter's close playmate, who are trying hard to remain in the town where their accounting jobs are located, and where their daughter is thriving.

Dozens of us highlighted how communities across the West have fought similar battles for an entire generation now. We talked about Whitefish, Tahoe, Breckenridge, Boise and other towns. We explained their use of sensible deed restrictions, limits on nightly rentals, incentives that promote local home ownership, and concessions from developers. All helped local workers attain housing.

I know the benefits. Living in Colorado in the 1990s, I accepted a financial incentive to put a deed restriction on my modest condo. After my wife and I sold the condo, the payment became seed money for our first house. Meanwhile, the condo still holds a deed restriction that helps locals enter the market. Under such reasonable measures, developers could still make buckets of money while workers gained access to housing.

Someone else who didn't show that night was the developer, who instead dropped a guest column in the state's largest newspaper maligning her project's critics.

Some of our elected officials were equally indifferent. One blithely



Writers on the Range
by Tim Lydon

suggested that someone just needs to build a hardware store in town so that building costs could come down. Another asked why our town hadn't solved the housing issue earlier. Others grilled residents on how many more houses it would take to solve the problem.

Of course, as with many Western communities, the issue is not an actual shortage of houses. It's the blizzard of cash that second-home speculators and others can throw at any property that enters the market.

The meeting ran almost to midnight, as snow blanketed the cars outside. I imagined this must have been the scene two decades ago, as housing proponents in the West's mountain towns spent nights eking out seemingly small wins. But those wins are now the proven programs that can help communities today.

We just need elected officials to understand that people can't work here if they have nowhere to live.

Tim Lydon is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring conversation about the West. He writes in Alaska.



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2023 District History Fair winners announced

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — Middle and high school students competed in the annual District History Fair, part of the National History Day Competition. The event was in the Adams State University Student Union Building on Saturday, Jan. 28. Hosted by the Adams State history department, the event's theme, "Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas," included individual and group entries. According to Ed Crowther, Adams State emeritus professor of history and event organizer, 168 contestants from schools including Centauri Middle School, Sargent Middle School, Sangre de Cristo Middle School, Sanford Junior High School, Skoglund Middle School, Monte Vista Middle School, Newmyer Home School, Creede Middle School, Sangre de Cristo High School, Monte Vista High School, Sargent High School, Colorado Student Leadership Institute.

Winners will proceed to the state contest, hosted by the University of Colorado, Denver, on April 29.

The following students received award certificates:

Senior Division

Senior Papers

- First place: Maia Krattli, Sargent High School; second place: Arazeliz Garcia, Colorado Student Leadership Institute.

Senior Group Websites

- First place: Celeste Chacon and Laisha Arroyo, Monte Vista High School.

Senior Individual Exhibit

- First place: Jessica Buser, Sargent High School; second place: Madison Miller, Monte Vista High School; third place: Emma Sewell, Sargent High School.

Senior Group Exhibit

- First place: Megan Peterson and Stephanie Johnson, Sargent High School; second place: Antonio Garcia and Maximus Vitale, Sargent High School.

Senior Group Documentary

- First place: Makayla Brown and Josiah Yocom, Sargent High School.

Junior Division

Junior Papers

- First place: Liam Griffin, Sargent Junior High School; second place: Anlyn Dwyer, Centauri Middle School; third place: Leah Smith, Centauri Middle School.

Junior Individual Exhibits

- First place: Durae Naranjo, Sargent Junior High School; second place: Ariana Gallegos, Centauri Middle School; third place: Robins Hailey, Centauri Middle School.

Junior Group Exhibits

- First place: Jewel Caldon, Claire Crowther, Makynlee Faucette, and Brinlyn Smith, Sanford Junior High School, second place: Huntley



Courtesy photo

The annual District History Fair, hosted by the Adams State history program, included individual and group exhibits.

- Duran, Jayden Fairhurt, and Tyson Miller, Sanford Junior High School, third place: Lettie Larson and McKinley Miller, Sanford Junior High School.

Junior Individual Documentary

- First place: Parker Mitchell, Sargent Junior High School; second place: Laila Martinez, Centauri Middle School; third place: Ty Fazio, Creede Junior High School.

Junior Group Documentary

- First place: Diego Cortez and Blake Johnson, Centauri Middle School; second place: Sophie Sowards and Mylee Gallegos, Centauri Middle School; third place: Kynlei Curtis and Faith Medellin, Centauri Middle School.

Junior Individual Performance

- First Place: Johnathan Olsen, Newmyer Home School

Junior Individual Websites

- First Place: Ana Archuleta,

- Centauri Middle School; second place: Bree Crowther, Centauri Middle School; third place: Natalie Garcia, Centauri Middle School.

Junior Group Websites

- First place: Lincoln Bagwell and Lyndie Sowards, Centauri Middle School; second place: Donovan Jarvis and Dallyn King, Centauri Middle School; third place: Misty Crowther and Bristol Pence, Centauri Middle School.

SdCNHA seeking to fill two volunteer board member positions

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA) is seeking to fill two volunteer board member positions from residents in Costilla County and Alamosa County. If you enjoy cultural preservation, heritage tourism, and historical work, then come and thrive in our friendly and collaborative environment.

The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA) Board of Directors provides the opportunity for local residents to become engaged in a leadership role. Volunteers in these positions represent the voice of citizens in support of local heritage, preservation efforts, and the community-oriented mission of the Heritage Area. Must be willing to commit to one meeting per month and participate on sub-committees.

Local projects have included historic building rehabilitation, interpretation of historic and scenic/recreational sites, educational programming, cultural events, and documentation of culturally significant components of traditional ways of life. These efforts seek to contribute to community building or heritage tourism, promote a spirit of pride and create a legacy in the Colorado counties of Alamosa, Conejos, and Costilla.

Applicants are encouraged to visit the SdCNHA's website and review the organization's Goals and Objectives, found on the Management Plan page: <http://sdcnha.org/wp/management-plan>

Applications can be found on the SdCNHA website: www.sangreheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/board-member-application.pdf.

A completed application, a letter



of interest, and a resume should be mailed or hand delivered to the SdCNHA at the address noted below:

Mail to: Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area
 Attention: "Board Application"
 P.O. Box 844
 Alamosa, CO 81101
 Hand deliver to: 231 State Ave. in Alamosa, or email to info@sdcnha.org

Brenneman joins FSWB

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — First Southwest Bank (FSWB), a locally owned independent community bank and one of two Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) banks in Colorado, recently announced that Amy Brenneman has joined the bank as its new Marketing and Communications Specialist.

Based in Alamosa, Brenneman will be working closely with Ellen Stein, the bank's Marketing Director. She will focus primarily on community outreach and engagement across the bank's Southern and rural Colorado market.

Her responsibilities will also include overseeing FSWB's nonprofit sponsorship program, implementing new communications strategies, and providing marketing support to branch staff.

Brenneman previously worked as a Marketing Specialist at San Luis Valley Health and first came

to Alamosa as an AmeriCorps volunteer in 2020 to work as Marketing Coordinator with Boys & Girls Club of the San Luis Valley.

Brenneman was born and raised in Oregon. She attended the University of Oregon, earned a bachelor's in journalism, and worked as a reporter before transitioning to marketing.

Brenneman has two dogs with whom she spends most of her free time. She's excited to call Colorado home and continue to establish roots in the San Luis Valley. Reach her at amy.brenneman@fswb.com.

Serving the San Luis Valley for over 100 years, learn more about First Southwest Bank at fswb.bank.

Amy Brenneman

Courtesy photo



PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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Likely to see increase in avian flu during Spring migration

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — According to figures compiled by the USDA and Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado reported the loss of 6.26 million domestic birds in 2022 to the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), also known as avian flu.

But the devastation does not end there. HPAI is also killing wild birds in increasing numbers.

“This has been the largest outbreak in Colorado and the nation, ever,” Olga Robak, communications director for the Colorado Department of Agriculture, reportedly said in December.

And it is not likely to end soon. In fact, according to Colorado State Veterinarian Maggie Baldwin, “With wild bird migration beginning soon, we anticipate that we will see an increase in virus activity through late winter and spring.”

With thousands of Sandhill cranes migrating to the San Luis Valley in about a month, the Valley Courier reached out to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to see what impact HPAI might have on the birds who are a celebrated part of the Valley landscape every spring along with the abundance of other birds who grace the Valley’s skies.

“Unlike prior strains of HPAI in North America, this particular strain is causing widespread mortality in some species of wild birds, particularly in snow geese, raptors and vultures,” says John Livingston, CPW’s Southwest Region Public Information Officer. “Across the state, we’ve seen a variety of hawks, ducks, geese, magpies, crows, and turkey vultures test positive. We have yet to detect HPAI in Sandhill cranes, at this time.”

As Livingston describes it, an outbreak of HPAI involving a new strain of H5N1 emerged in North America in the winter and spring of 2021-2022. Now, almost a year later, avian influenza outbreaks in wild birds and poultry continue to rise at a national level, and the U.S. is approaching a record number of birds affected compared to previous bird flu outbreaks.

“To date, HPAI has been detected in all four North American migration flyways,” he says, going on to echo the state veterinarian. “It’s expected that the disease will persist through spring migrations.”

For context, a few months ago, there were several incidents that provide a sobering glimpse of what is possible with the virus.

In late November 2022, CPW began receiving increasing reports of sick and dead snow geese in northeastern Colorado associated with large-scale HPAI mortality events. Staff with CPW recorded the deaths of close to 2,000 birds on multiple waterways in Morgan and Logan counties.

Shortly thereafter, large-scale deaths began occurring in southeast Colorado in Kiowa, Bent, Otero, and Prowers counties. Livingston says there was a die-off of approximately 600 snow geese at John Martin Reservoir, and CPW has observed a lower level of die-off at most reservoirs in the Lamar area.

“We have continued to see positive cases of this avian flu in every corner of the state, though in fewer numbers than those other mass events,” he says.

HPAI is also largely fatal to raptors — such as eagles, hawks, and owls — who become sick after feeding on the carrion of infected birds or by coming in contact with their feces or saliva.

Bald eagle deaths caused by HPAI have been found in four Colorado counties, including Adams, Boulder, Douglas, and Larimer.

When asked about the impact on raptors in the San Luis Valley, Livingston — who is stationed in Durango — offered a slightly brighter picture of the current situation.

“So far, we’ve felt pretty lucky in the Valley and across Southwest Colorado in that we’re not seeing a high-level of raptor mortality related to HPAI,” he said. “While folks have seen bald eagles eating the carcasses of Canada geese that have died of avian flu, we have yet to find or have reported to us a bald eagle death related to HPAI in our area.”

“But we did have one great horned owl in Rio Grande County test positive for HPAI. Our only other HPAI positives in the Valley have been from Canada geese,” he added.

When asked to speculate about the coming months, Livingston declined, saying that is difficult, “especially in populations such as snow geese where populations have been thriving and absolutely booming in some areas.”

The wild birds CPW staff see most affected continue to be snow geese, vultures, and raptors.

“But, as the sandhill cranes migrate through the Valley this spring, we’ll certainly monitor to see if there are any impacts and what kind of effects HPAI has,” he said.

Livingston continues to look at the bigger picture.

“As the state wildlife agency, we manage with the best available science

and will make fact-based decisions and avoid making speculations,” he said. “While it’s difficult to see any dead animal, Colorado and North America as a whole have made incredible strides in wildlife conservation to bring numerous species back from the brink of extinction in the 1800s and early 1900s to the place where wild birds and wildlife thrive and expand their population every year. Sound conservation practices and laws related to the protection of wild birds will be of benefit as we navigate the HPAI situation.”

In the meantime, Livingston offers some general instructions to the public.

“If you find three or more dead wild birds in a specific area within a two-week period or if you see live birds showing clinical signs of disease, please contact the local Colorado Parks and Wildlife office in Monte Vista. Please be aware that CPW will not be able to respond to all calls and is focusing responses based on surveillance and management priorities,” he said.

There has only been one documented case to date of a person becoming infected by the virus. That case, which happened in Colorado in April of 2022, was detected in a man who was working with infected domesticated birds. He suffered only mild symptoms and recovered fully.



Photo by Brian Williams

Sandhill cranes in the San Luis Valley.

Even so, Livingston offers a precaution.

“Although rare, some HPAI strains can infect people, so it’s important to protect yourself,” he said. “The main protection for the general public is to avoid handling sick or dead birds and keep your distance from wildlife.”

According to a fact sheet on the CPW website, the current strain causes disease in many species including swans, gulls, geese, grebes, pelicans, raptors, vultures, cranes, some species of ducks, turkeys, and other game bird species.

Typical symptoms include swimming in circles, moving slowly, incoordination (may appear drunk), and head tilt or inability to lift the head. Most affected birds are seen on the ground, but occasionally sick birds may be seen flying low and alone.

Additional background information and precautionary measures can be found by going to <https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Wildlife-Health/HPAI-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza.pdf>.

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Adams State welcomes DeVoge

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — Savala DeVoge has been appointed Vice President of Student Affairs at Adams State University. With 20 years of higher education experience, DeVoge most recently served as the Dean of Student Engagement and Wellness at the University of Minnesota Crookston since 2020.

“Dr. DeVoge brings a wealth of experience and success at similar institutions,” noted David Tandberg, ASU interim president. “The daily care of our students is imperative to a healthy and vibrant campus. I commend the search committee on bringing Dr. DeVoge’s credentials forward in the process.”

DeVoge started her career in student affairs as a graduate assistant at Weber State where she earned a bachelor’s of integrated studies with a focus on criminal justice-sociology-legal studies. DeVoge went on to earn a master’s in management and leadership at Webster University where she continued as a graduate assistant in student affairs supervising over 100 student clubs and organizations. From 2006-20, DeVoge held multiple positions in student affairs at Idaho College culminating in an eight-year stint as Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Student Involvement.

“This is an incredible opportunity to be a part of a close-knit community,” said DeVoge. “Adams State and its reputation as an educational leader is certainly not lost on me. I can’t wait to get started.”

At Adams State, DeVoge will oversee auxiliary services (housing, student union building, mailroom); Co-curricular Recreation and Engagement; (CASA, Grizzly Persist and Orientation, co-curricular activities, Rex Activity Center, Adams State Adventure Program); Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative; Counseling Services; College Assistance Migrant Program; Police Department; Student Support Services; Upward Bound; Migrant Education; and camps and conferences.



Savala DeVoge

Care and Share Food Bank making progress on Alamosa distribution center

By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA — Care and Share Food Bank, the organization that bought the former Budweiser distribution site on the outskirts of Alamosa last fall, is making progress on transforming the facility into a food distribution site.

Nate Springer, president and CEO of Care and Share Food Bank, told the Valley Courier a soft opening is scheduled for next month with the facility storing and distributing food. A grand opening celebration is scheduled for May 11.

Springer, who was named president and CEO of Care and Share last July, brings his 23 years of executive leadership and logistics management from the U.S. military to his new position.

Care and Share annually serves 291 partner agencies with 20.4 million pounds of food, providing 203,339 Coloradoans with food, and managing a fleet of trucks delivering food to partner agencies.

Care and Share is a non-profit that has annual revenues of \$54 million. Individual donations comprise 49% of revenue, government, 19%, and foundations, 18%. The group, incorporated in Colorado Springs in 1974, has a distribution center there and one in Pueblo.

Springer commented on the beneficial organization of the Alamosa facility, “Not only is it going to be great to have a distribution center in Alamosa to serve the San Luis Valley, but it will also cut our transportation time in half to our farthest outlying counties.”

Care and Share is not new to the San Luis Valley, and the



Photo courtesy of Care and Share

By May, trucks like this will be utilizing the Care and Share food distribution location in Alamosa to serve almost 300 partner agencies throughout Southern Colorado.

Alamosa distribution center will not compete with any existing food banks as it already partners with hundreds of agencies.

Last year, Care and Share trucks drove over 247,000 miles. The Alamosa center “will be able to get more food both in the San Luis Valley and to our partners in Southwest Colorado that are far away from us,” added Springer.

The 21-000 square foot facility in Alamosa has recently had its interior completely renovated and a new roof installed, said Springer. The Alamosa distribution center

manager is Denny Toner. He will oversee a staff of about five employees.

Volunteering has always been central to Care and Share, last year over 44,000 hours of labor were given to the organization. Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to visit: www.careandshare.org.

“It’s been a long time coming, but boy, this is going to be a game changer in the San Luis Valley and all of our partner agencies in Southwest Colorado,” said Springer.

San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2022-2023

GIRLS Class 1A

Sangre de Cristo 54	Creede 18
Sierra Grande 58	Moffat 22
Antonito 58	Liberty Tree Academy 24
Centennial 54	Cripple Creek-Victor 21
Crested Butte 56	Centennial 50
Kim/Branson 39	Centennial 35
Creede 46	Antonito 44

Class 2A

Sanford 49	Trinidad 18
Center 38	South Park 30
Del Norte 35	Trinidad 24
Monte Vista 54	Custer County 18
Sanford 50	Crested Butte 35
Sargent 45	Cotopaxi 32
Monte Vista 48	Center 37

Class 3/4A

Centauri 71	Bayfield 8
Alamosa 64	Montezuma-Cortez 23
Centauri 79	Montezuma-Cortez 26
Alamosa 52	Pagosa Springs 33
Alamosa 35	Pagosa Springs 28

BOYS Class 1A

Sangre de Cristo 53	Creede 44
Liberty Tree Academy 59	Antonito 48
Centennial 60	Creede 43
Sierra Grande 69	Moffat 37
Centennial 70	Cripple Creek-Victor 16
Nucla 66	Sangre de Cristo 56
Creede 45	Antonito 44

Class 2A

Cotopaxi 50	Sargent 34
Del Norte 84	Trinidad 30
Sanford 73	Crested Butte 40
Center 52	South Park 44
Custer County 59	Monte Vista 27
Sanford 70	Trinidad 15
Monte Vista 42	Center 38
Del Norte 55	Sargent 30

Class 3/4A

Centauri 55	Bayfield 38
Alamosa 51	Montezuma-Cortez 44
Alamosa 57	Pagosa Springs 41
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Get Rid of Guilt Once and for All

Are you bugged by a guilty conscience...carrying around baggage from a certain mistake or decision that produces feelings of regret or even self-loathing?

We've all said or done things that we wish we could take back. And while it's completely natural to grieve over a bad decision or mistake you have made, it is *not* God's plan for you to live with guilt and condemnation. Jesus came to set you free from that kind of life (see John 3:16-17; Romans 8:1).

As believers in Christ, God forgives our sins *completely*. Psalm 103:12 says, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us" (NIV).

That's how amazing God's love is! And when you trust God's promise of forgiveness, any burden of guilt that you have will be lifted from your shoulders. It may sound too good to be true, but it really *is* that easy.

Breaking the Habit of Guilt

I had a terrible problem with guilt for many years of my life. I grew up in an angry, unstable, abusive atmosphere, which caused me to become a negative, angry, judgmental adult who didn't like myself or anybody else for that matter. As a result, I often behaved in ways that I regretted later, especially in my relationships.

Through the years, guilt became so ingrained in me that I just didn't feel right if I didn't feel wrong. And I carried those negative feelings with me right into the early years of my ministry. For example, whenever I went to God in prayer, I would automatically focus on two things—my problems and my mistakes.

I'll never forget the morning God spoke to my heart and said, "Joyce, are you going to spend time with Me today or are you going to keep focusing on your sins?" At that moment, I realized God wasn't mad at me; He *loved* me. And He was encouraging me to drop the dead weight of my guilt.

God Does Not Expect Perfection



life and God knows that. He is full of mercy and He doesn't want you to get up each day and worry about what you did yesterday or what you might do wrong today. God wants you to trust His love for you and receive His forgiveness so you can move forward, completely guilt free.

Jesus said, "...Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete" (John 16:24). When you ask God for His forgiveness, don't just stop there. Take a moment and *receive* His forgiveness. Say out loud, "God, I receive Your forgiveness. Thank You for giving me a fresh start. Because of what You have done for me, I am filled with joy."

You don't have to waste any more time focusing on your mistakes and weaknesses. Spend time with God and learn from His Word. If you do that, you will *grow, grow, grow*.

Remember, God loves you and He is always cheering you on to victory.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching resource *The Fearsome Four*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *LOVING PEOPLE WHO ARE HARD TO LOVE* (FaithWords). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

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

Many people struggle with guilt because they think God expects more of them than what they can deliver. Some people even think He expects perfection, but that couldn't be further from the truth.

God's Word says in Romans 3:23, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." We are all in need of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The Bible also says that "where sin increased, grace increased all the more" (Romans 5:20). This verse isn't saying you should live a sloppy life and sin as much as you want; it means when you fall short of perfection in any area of your life, you will always have another chance to get back up, brush yourself off and try again with God's help.

What God Really Expects from Us

The apostle Paul explains what God requires of us in *Philippians 3:12-14*, which says, "Not that I have already obtained [righteousness], or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

God simply expects us to grow, and we can't do that if we're stuck in guilt. In Christ, we can forget about what lies behind us—the things we cannot change—and *press on*, doing our best in the present moment.

One thing that has helped me get over my guilt trips (which I used to take on a daily basis) is realizing they are totally, completely useless. They didn't help me behave any better. Actually, all they did was break the heart of God and make me act worse.

I have come to realize that the only way to make progress is to *forget what is behind*.

Race at Your Own Pace

We will never be perfect in this

ARTScape opens 2023-24 call for artists

CONTRIBUTED
ALAMOSA — The City of Alamosa is now accepting entries for the seventh annual “Alamosa ARTScape” art-on-loan outdoor public art exhibit. Alamosa ARTScape is open to professional and amateur artists. Applications will be accepted online only at www.callforentry.org/.

Art will be selected by jury in March and installed in September as part of the Alamosa ARTsFestival on Sept. 15-16 in downtown Alamosa. Installation will be followed by a public-invited artist’s reception on Friday evening, and other events throughout the weekend.

Seventeen sculptures have previously been purchased from the ARTScape exhibit in the last six years of the event.

Important Dates:

- Feb. 24 — Applications Due
 - After March 13 — Selection Notification
 - Sept. 15 — Installation
 - Sept. 15-16 — Alamosa ARTs Festival
- For more information about the



Courtesy photo

The piece is named ‘Sweet Apple.’

City’s public art program, please contact Jasmine Husmann at (719) 589-2024.

Processing for most state income tax returns to begin no later than Feb. 10

CONTRIBUTED
DENVER — The Colorado Department of Revenue (CDOR) announced Monday, Feb. 6, that processing for the majority of state income tax filers will begin no later than Feb. 10 and that people can still file their income tax returns right now through all methods except for the state’s Revenue Online platform. Coloradans can use Revenue Online to file their state income taxes no later than Feb. 22.

Last November, Coloradans voted to lower the income tax rate to 4.4%, which coupled with multiple legislative changes created a much larger end-of-year programming workload for the Department, resulting in a delay.

“The Department’s employees are working to resolve the situation as fast as possible to reduce any inconvenience this may have for taxpayers, said Mark Ferrandino, Executive Director of the Department of Revenue. “We are committed to making sure our systems are thoroughly tested to prevent any errors that could result in additional delays in processing returns and refunds for Colorado taxpayers after the fact.”

The Department will strive to beat the deadlines, with the dates being the absolute latest the Department anticipates the delays to persist. Up-to-date information on the delay can be found by going to tax.colorado.gov and clicking on the banner.

Saguache County Sales Tax Grants now available!

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners will be taking Grant Applications for Saguache County Sales Tax Grants until 3:00PM, Friday, February 17, 2023. To be eligible grant applications must be for either: Emergency Services/Public Health and Safety; Youth and Senior programs, projects, or organizations; or Renewable Energy projects/Business Opportunities and Job Creation. Grant applications are available on our website at saguachecounty.colorado.gov - use “sales tax grant applicationform5” or you can contact the Saguache County Administration office at 719-655-2231 to request a copy of the grant application.
No. 1658 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, January 5, 12, 19 and 26 and February 2 and 9, 2023.

ATTENTION GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The Saguache County Board of County Commissioners are accepting scholarship applications for graduating seniors who will be graduating high school in 2023. Commissioners will be awarding graduating seniors’ college scholarships that will be paid through the Marijuana Excise Tax funds. Scholarships may be used at a trade school, college or university but you must reside in Saguache County to apply and possibly receive scholarship funds. Applications are due by April 14, 2023 and are available through our website at www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov to download the application or by contacting Wendi Maez at 719-655-2231 or by email at wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov.
No. 1662 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, February 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6, 2023.

**A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
 CENTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**
 §1-13.5-501, 1-13.5-1102(3), 32-1-905(2), C.R.S.

To the electors of the Center Fire Protection District of Saguache, Rio Grande, and Alamosa Counties, Colorado.
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on the 2nd day of May, 2023, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. At that time, two (2) directors will be elected to serve four (4) year terms. Eligible electors of the Center Fire Protection District interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form from the District Designated Election Official (DEO):
 Kimberlee Schuett
 P. O. Box 845
 Center, CO 81125
 The Office of the DEO is open on the following day: Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 360 E. 8th Street, Center Firehouse.
 Or
 Request a Self-Nomination form through e-mail: Centerfire1941@gmail.com
 The deadline to submit a Self-Nomination and Acceptance is close of business on February 24, 2023, 5:00 p.m. including e-mail requests. (not less than 67 days before the election). NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, an application for an absentee ballot shall be filed with the designated election official no later than the close of business on Tuesday preceding the election, April 25, 2023.
 CENTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
 Kimberlee Schuett
 Designated Election Official
No. 1660 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, January 26 and February 2 and 9, 2023.



Courtesy photo

Rio Grande National Forest is moving into its new headquarters, pictured, in Del Norte this month.

Rio Grande National Forest headquarters closes doors in Monte Vista

CONTRIBUTED
MONTE VISTA — After nearly a half century in the office west of Monte Vista, the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) headquarters closed its doors on Friday, Feb. 3, for the last time. Forest headquarters will be moving to Del Norte this month upon completion of office furniture and data systems installation in the new building.

“This is a bittersweet departure from Monte Vista,” said Dan Dallas, who has been the Rio Grande National Forest Supervisor since 2007. “While the moving of our headquarters may seem like the end of an era, the Forest remains committed to the community of Monte Vista. We’ll still be here, involved in community events and will engage the community on larger

national forest issues.” Dallas pointed out that the RGNF is a member of the steering committee for the Recreation Economies for Rural Communities program in Monte Vista.

Deputy Forest Supervisor, Andrew Kehler echoed Dallas’ words and added, “I am grateful for all the hard work and dedication from our employees, the school district and members of the community that led to this uncommon milestone in the Rio Grande National Forest’s journey. We look forward to operating from our new, more efficient building.”

In October 2017, the Del Norte School District initially approached the RGNF with a unique opportunity to donate the old high school and land to the Forest. Through tremendous

effort by the school district and Forest Service, this opportunity became reality in September 2020, when the title was transferred to the Forest Service. Major renovations were completed, and the Forest accepted the building from the contractor in late January. Finishing touches will continue into the year as weather and supplies permit.

All public services provided by the RGNF, including firewood permits, transplant, and map sales will only be available at its ranger district offices in Saguache, Del Norte, and La Jara.

A dedication ceremony and open house for the new location are being planned for this spring.

For information on the Rio Grande National Forest, call 719-850-2374.

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Photo by Patrick Shea

Dozens of Mountain Valley School District students walked out of classes on Feb. 1 in protest over the school board's decision to not renew Superintendent Jeff Bollinger's contract.

BOARD

Continued from Page 1A

cast their vote of no-confidence, and 120 people signed a petition expressing No Confidence in the MVS Board of Education.

Bollinger took the job in July, inheriting discipline issues and a variety of district challenges. During his decades in education, Bollinger has been a superintendent, a teacher, a principal, and a coach. For volleyball season, he stepped in to help the middle school coach, in addition to performing superintendent duties.

"Our team has made some incredible improvements in the school district," Bollinger explained as students returned to school after walking through Saguache. "We focused on discipline and access to opportunities for students. We have kids taking more college classes and credits here in one semester than in the entire history of Mountain Valley."

During the MVS BOE meeting on Jan. 24, the board voted 4-1 to not renew Bollinger's contract.

"I watched the board meeting through the link with my aunt," explained Milley Knight, one of the MVS students also taking courses through Trinidad State Junior College. "I decided that what they are doing is not right, and it wasn't fair to our teachers and our absolutely amazing superintendent Mr. Bollinger."

Knight said she hoped community members would join the meeting at the school that night.

Later, students, staff, law enforcement, and community members filled the auxiliary gym. Following the Pledge of Allegiance led by younger MVS students, audience members heard a reading from Yvette Reinsel, a vote of no-confidence led by Kevin Wallich, and a request from David Hammel for four members to resign immediately. These four board members include Christian Archuleta, Mona Lovato, Lisa Hammel, and Lacy Reed. Jim Jaminet was the only board member who voted to renew Bollinger's contract.

The meeting concluded in short order, but Bollinger addressed the crowd before they dispersed. He thanked them for all their support, and said, "You're not going to save me. This is bigger than me. This is a fight for your school. This is a fight for your community."

The next MVS BOE meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Feb. 21 at Mountain Valley School.

Some Coloradans can apply for property tax rebate

(The Center Square) – Income-eligible Coloradans can now apply for up to \$1,044 in rebates for property taxes, rent, and heat payments, Gov. Jared Polis's office said on Monday.

To be eligible for the Property Tax/Rent/Heat Credit (PTC) Rebate program, Coloradans must have a total individual income of less than \$16,925 or be seniors or disabled. The program is also available to married couples with a total combined income of less than

\$22,858, according to the Colorado Department of Revenue.

"This money-saving opportunity is one of over 100 ways we are continuing to save Coloradans money," Polis said in a news release.

DOR Executive Director Mark Ferrandino said the "mission is to support all Coloradans with a focus on how we support underserved and underrepresented communities. We want to remove any barriers to information and ensure equal access for everyone who interacts with the

department."

According to information released by Polis's office, the PTC rebate could provide relief to over 13,000 Coloradans since 2019 and could provide \$7 million in relief this year.

"For tax year 2022 only, there is a refundable income tax credit that may be available for seniors who are unable to take advantage of the senior property tax exemption," the release added. "This credit phases out based on the applicant's income and is up to \$1,000 for joint filers."

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BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble performing Feb. 16 at Adams State

CONTRIBUTED
ALAMOSA — The BYU Department of Dance International Folk Dance Ensemble and Mountain Strings will present Journey: Reflections, a 90-minute voyage of dance and music that explores the heartbeat of the world's cultures at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16, at Adams State University's Plachy Hall.

Journey: Reflections entertains with Irish hard shoe, American clogging, Ukrainian Hopak, Indian bhangra, and much more. Since 1964, the International Folk Dance Ensemble has represented the United States and American culture at folk dance festivals throughout the world.

Combining ethnic traditions with exquisite costumes, BYU's International Folk Dance Ensemble will take you on a worldwide voyage through

dance — from Korea to Poland to the United States.

For over 60 years, IFDE has earned accolades at the world's most prestigious folk dance festivals, performing in 29 countries spanning four continents. A select group of BYU's most skilled dancers, singers, and musicians, IFDE is currently the largest and most versatile program of its kind.

Join the dancers for 90 minutes as they portray cultures from all over the world. Experiencing the ensemble's furious footwork, pulsing rhythms, live music, and vibrant costumes will leave you with a special kind of wanderlust.

Tickets are \$10 per person and are available for purchase at <https://byu-folkdancealamosa.eventbrite.com>. Plachy Hall is located at 97 Stadium Dr., Alamosa.



Courtesy image

The BYU Department of Dance International Folk Dance Ensemble and Mountain Strings will present Journey: Reflections at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16, at Adams State University.



Courtesy photo

Reinke Manufacturing, a global leader in irrigation systems and precision irrigation technology, has recognized Central Pump in Center with a Reinke Diamond Pride award. Pictured from left to right are Reinke President Chris Roth, and Central Pump owners Julie Geiman and Joe Geiman, and Reinke West Central Territory Manager David Hoferer.

Reinke recognizes Central Pump with Dealer Award

CONTRIBUTED
DESHLER, Neb. — Reinke Manufacturing, a global leader in irrigation systems and precision irrigation technology, has recognized Central Pump in Center with a Reinke Diamond Pride award for its performance in the last year.

"Reinke is honored to work with Central Pump to help them serve the growers in their areas," said Chris Roth, Reinke president. "We're proud to award their efforts and we appreciate their dedication as we continue to develop and implement precision irrigation equipment and technology to help growers

increase yields and profitability."

Reinke dealerships from across the United States and Canada come together annually for the company's sales convention to recognize select Reinke dealers for their hard work and commitment to serve growers.

The Reinke Pride awards are determined as part of an incentive program that distinguishes superior achievement levels according to an evaluation based on a dealership's exterior and interior housekeeping and maintenance, indoor and outdoor displays, safety, retail environment, merchandising, professionalism, promotions, event participation and market share.

CPW's big game license distribution, preference point comment form live until Feb. 20

CONTRIBUTED
DENVER — Colorado Parks and Wildlife is considering changes to policies and regulations that direct the distribution of big game hunting licenses in Colorado. To help inform this process, CPW is looking for input from residents and nonresidents interested in big game hunting in Colorado.

CPW is encouraging the public to complete this comment form and share their thoughts on the current big game license distribution process. The comment form will be open through Feb. 20. Results from this comment form will be shared with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to inform their decision-making process on big game license distribution.

- Changes that are being considered:
- A preference point banking system
 - Averaging group applicant preference points
 - Updating the high-demand hunt code split from 80% to residents and 20% to nonresidents to 90% for residents and 10% for nonresidents
 - An across-the-board license allocation of 75% to residents and 25% to nonresidents

The topics under consideration were requested by the CPW Commission. The results of the comment form will be discussed with the Commission at its March 15-16 meeting.

Changes that have already been made:
 In November 2022, the Parks and Wildlife Commission approved an update to big game license allocation. The three-year preference point average that is used to determine high-demand hunt codes that are allocated 80% to



Courtesy photo

Elk photographed at sunset near Elkhead Reservoir.

residents and 20% to nonresidents was updated such that CPW will use the most recent three years (with a one-year lag).

The Commission decided to retain the six-preference point threshold used to determine high-demand hunt codes, which added about 1,200 deer and elk hunt codes to the 80/20 allocation of high-demand hunts. This change will be effective for the 2023 big game hunting season.

Why is CPW evaluating big game license distribution now?

Due to the complexity of the subject as well as on-going interest from stakeholders, the Parks and Wildlife Commission requested that license distribution be reviewed separately from the upcoming Big Game Season Structure. Members of the Colorado General Assembly also showed interest in making changes.

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Senior CONNECTIONS

How to start a seniors' social club

Various changes are associated with aging, and these can be physical, mental and emotional. Though each person manages these changes in their own way, there's no denying that social interaction can benefit people from all walks of life as they navigate their golden years.

The Foundation for Senior Care says socializing can give seniors a sense of purpose, stimulate the mind, relieve boredom, potentially prevent feelings of depression, and give individuals something to look forward to. The senior living center Aston Gardens says socialization provides a significant boost to the cognitive health of older adults, helping to prevent or delay conditions that can affect memory.

Individuals looking to cultivate healthy social interactions may turn to clubs and other groups. If there's a dearth of opportunities, individuals can start and promote their own social club using this useful guideline.

Decide on the purpose of the group

Social clubs can meet and be organized around any number of themes or interests. Social clubs may meet to discuss gardening, crocheting, reading, or other shared hobbies. Friends also may be interested in doing food and beverage sampling. In such instances, a luncheon social club makes perfect sense.

How to protect long-term cognitive health

Cognitive health is not something to take for granted. Although a certain level of memory loss can be expected as people age, when the ability to clearly think, learn and remember is compromised, those changes can affect an individual's ability to perform daily activities and should serve as a cause for concern.

Brain health should be a priority for everyone. The National Institute on Aging says brain health is an umbrella term that encompasses a host of factors, including:

- cognitive health, which is how well you think, learn and remember
- motor function, or how you make and control movements
- tactile function, which is how you feel sensations; and
- emotional function, or how emotions are interpreted and responded to.

Individuals can safeguard brain health — particularly cognitive health — by taking these steps.

Be more health-conscious

Working with doctors, individuals can put their health first. This includes getting routine screenings, managing chronic health problems, limiting or avoiding alcohol and nicotine products, and getting the recommended amount of sleep each night.

Manage high blood pressure

All chronic conditions cause long-term repercussions, but the NIA indicates that observational studies show having high blood pressure in mid-life increases the risk of cognitive decline later in life. Lowering blood pressure lowers the risk for mild cognitive impairment and possibly dementia.



Turn to social media

Meeting details can be posted in a community bulletin or on a message board at a local house of worship. However, the internet can be a speedy messenger and help like-minded people figure out how to connect. Facebook groups are one way to organize social clubs, as is the website Meetup.com. The latter is a large online network of offline groups that meet all over the country and the world. The website makes it a snap to organize a local group or find an existing club.

Check for competition

Conduct a search of groups already meeting within a 50-mile radius to see if an existing group already meets your criteria. If not, proceed full speed ahead as you establish your own club.

Challenge your brain

Harvard Medical School says nurturing social contacts, engaging in stimulating mental activities like reading and doing puzzles, seeing new places, and learning new things can help keep the brain in top form.

Manage stress

Stress can take its toll on the body, and there is reason to believe that it may adversely affect cognitive health as well. Make every stride to reduce stress, whether that involves taking vacations, meditating, laughing with friends and family, or engaging in relaxing activities that relieve stress.

Get enough vitamin D

Vitamin D is linked to a host health benefits, including its potential to promote a healthy brain. Individuals can get more time outdoors to get vitamin D naturally from the sun and eat foods rich in vitamin D. If doctors find that vitamin D levels are exceptionally low, supplementation can help.

Pay attention to hearing loss

Certain hearing loss has been linked to cognitive decline, says Healthline. Researchers in Italy concluded that people with central hearing loss had a higher risk of mild cognitive impairment than those with no hearing loss or peripheral hearing loss. Individuals with central hearing loss are urged to speak to their physicians to determine if they can take preventive action to stave off further decline.

Cognitive health should be a priority. Adults can employ various strategies to reduce their risk of cognitive decline as they age.

Establish consistent meeting times

Most people prefer a schedule so they can plan their days accordingly. Choose a regular meeting time and place to hold the social club; otherwise, it can be confusing to accommodate everyone. Inconsistency also can make it hard to get the club off the ground.

Start small and then build

For those new to hosting social clubs, it may be better to begin with only a few members as everyone gets into a groove. As the group becomes more established, it can be opened up to more members. Although it may be wise to cap membership so that things are more easily managed.

Social clubs are a great way for seniors to stay connected and active. When there isn't one that meets a person's interests, it's relatively easy start one from scratch.

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Monte Vista Cemetery addresses sea of tumbleweeds

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

MONTE VISTA — If there is one thing the San Luis Valley is well known for, it is the epic windstorms that blow throughout the year. With the wind comes blowing sand, growing sand dunes and, in the Monte Vista Cemetery's case, a sea of tumbleweeds.

Patrons of the cemetery visiting their families and friends during the holiday season noticed an overabundance of the annoying weeds throughout the cemetery recently and have inquired about what can be done to clear the debris from headstones and the ditch that runs along the expanse of the area.

The Monte Vista Cemetery board was more than willing to answer the concerns and the fact of the matter is clear, something must be done, something will be done and that it is just a matter of getting the problem resolved.

The cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in the Monte Vista area, dating back to the late 1800s when the town was first established. Many communities, including Del Norte used the cemetery for several years before establishing others along the way, but the Monte Vista Cemetery remained the main location for lost loved ones even to this day.

The cemetery is managed by a non-profit board who is comprised of volunteers who work countless hours to ensure the cemetery is cared for in perpetuity. The board receives donations from several area donors and for whom they are grateful but the cost of care for the cemetery is high and though the board is willing to do the work, they need help to make sure the cemetery remains in tip top shape. Prices at the cemetery remain low compared to others because of the volunteer base that supports the majority of work done and the board wants to keep it that way.

"We have some really amazing people that support us, and the cemetery and we are very grateful; as are the families who can bury loved ones for nearly half the cost. We are not on a city or county budget, and we rely solely on donations. Even our water rights are minimal at best. We do the best we can with what we have," said board member Kathy Ellithorpe.

When tumbleweeds rolled into the cemetery a few weeks ago, it was obvious that a problem was building and figuring out a way to resolve the issue was a top priority for the board.

"We know about the issue and are working to come up with a plan to get rid of the tumbleweeds. The main issue is the massive amount of tumbleweeds and trying to find the best solution on how to get rid of them really comes down to one thing, we are just going to have to dive in and get them out," stated a board member.

The tumbleweeds are almost six feet deep in some areas and some may think simply burning them could solve the issue, but other factors come into play. Areas where the tumbleweeds are the thickest are among the tombstones where they are entangled and piled up.

"Our concern is not for the grave-stones, but the low-lying branches of the surrounding pine trees and the dead pinecones and other debris that are under the tumbleweeds. If we were to burn, it could get out of control very quickly and that wouldn't solve a thing," stated a board member.

The solution, as far as the board can see, is to get in there with pickups

or dump trucks and remove the weeds by hand and pitchfork.

"We are just going to have to go in and get rid of them by hand. There is no other way around it," stated a board member.

As spring approaches, the board will be seeking volunteers to come and help with the weeds. In the meantime, they are doing what they can to help with the situation. For more information, visit www.montevistacemeteryassociation.com.

"The Monte Vista Cemetery has many ups and downs throughout the years, but we have always persevered through the hard times and flourished in the good times. Thanks to the many hours of dedication of all those who have served on the Board, past and present, and to all those who unselfishly take the time to help prepare the Cemetery for Memorial Day, we are eternally grateful. We would also like to thank all of those families that have donated funds to the Cemetery in order for us to update our equipment and improve the grounds. Without the help of all of you, our Cemetery would not be the beautiful and final peaceful resting place for our loved ones," stated a board member.



The Monte Vista Cemetery is working on a plan to remove an excess amount of tumbleweeds blown into the area. The cemetery is run by a non-profit volunteer board. They will be seeking all the help they can get to remove the tumbleweeds.

Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell



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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 montevistaclass@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

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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 or call 719-937-5083.

07 Help Wanted

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. Reli-

able 4-wheel/all-wheel drive vehicle is also a must. Knowledge of gasoline and diesel engines required. Mechanical and operational understanding of heavy equipment, snow cats, automotive electrical systems, hydraulics/hydrostatic drive systems, transport buses, and metal fabrication are all a major plus. WCSA offers competitive wages along with career building opportunities. Starting pay between 50-100k, with benefits, depending on experience and physical ability. Applications are available at www.wolfcreekski.com. Email to wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com or mail to P.O. Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. (3-29)

Center Consolidated School District is accepting applications for the position of full-time year-round Custodial Position for the 2022-2023 School Year. School Year Hours are

1:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. Summer Hours are from 7:00 A.M. to 4 P.M. Qualifications; High School Diploma or GED, or, such alternative as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Benefits include health insurance, paid vacation. Must be able to pass a background check. Applications can be found on the District Website <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities> Non Certified Application or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE (3-1)

The Creede School District is hiring Special Events CDL Bus Drivers. Primary duties are to drive students, staff and chaperones to school events. Position pay is \$18.00 per hour. Please contact Keith Crispell, Superintendent at keith.crispell@credek12.net and or Alan Feuerbacher, Director of

Transportation at alan.feuerbacher@credek12.net for more information. (3-1)

Ecodynamics Inc is hiring a pump technician. No experience required

but hard working, drug free and clean driver license are non-negotiable attributes. Call 719-852-2662 for more info or stop by at 5492 US Hwy 160 E, M.V. with resume. (3-1)

ATTENTION HOUSEHOLDS WHO RECEIVE SNAP



After February 2023, your SNAP benefits will decrease due to recent congressional action, as the temporary increase to SNAP benefits is ending. February 2023 will be the last month that temporary increased SNAP benefits (emergency allotments) will be paid. For more information, visit cdhs.colorado.gov/snap-ea-ending

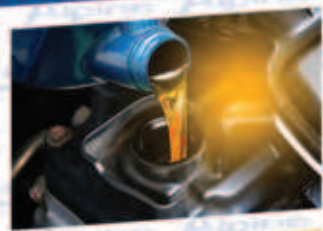


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Valley Wide Classifieds

Elementary Music Teacher needed at Del Norte Elementary School for the remainder of the 22-23 school year. We are seeking an experienced, hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.coor contact Amy at 719-657-4050. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (2-15)

The Mineral County Sheriff's Office is seeking an Emergency Management (EM) Director / Search and Rescue (SAR) Coordinator. The Director should be proficient at organizing, planning, coordinating, and implementing county emergency operations and disaster services including but not limited to: Coordinating disaster operations with first responders and other agencies in the county along with adjacent jurisdictions. Supervise the operational coordination and training of the Mineral County SAR personnel. Planning, organizing, and directing the functions, operations and services of the EM Office. Position is FT w/benefits, 40 hours/week, some weekends and emergency situations. Strongly preferred: Two to three years of related experience (experience is defined as being directly involved with decision-making, plan writing, training, exercise and active participation in response, mitigation, preparedness, and recovery phases of emergency management.). Any combination of education, training, and experience which provides the required knowledge, skill, and abilities to perform the essential function of the position. Requirements: must be 21 years old or older, able to pass a pre-employment criminal and financial background check. Must possess/obtain/maintain a valid Colo. DL without any restrictions which affect job performance. Mineral County residency with 12 months of established employment. Applications available from Mineral County HR office at 1201 N. Main Street, Creede or at 719-658-2331 or at mineralcountycolorado.com/jobpostings. (2-8)

The Mineral County Sheriff's Office is seeking an Executive Assistant to the Sheriff. The Executive Assistant (EA) serves as aide to the Sheriff by providing a variety of responsible and highly confidential administrative support and secretarial duties. In addition to assisting the Sheriff, the executive assistant is prompt in providing courteous and

professional service to citizens, visitors, and co-workers. Experience in organizing, office management, prioritizing, communications including Google products, Microsoft Office Suite, printer/copiers/fax, text, landline, and cellular phones. Position is FT w/benefits, 40 hours/week, some weekends and emergency situations may arise. Requirements: must be 21 years old or older, able to pass a pre-employment criminal and financial background check. Must possess/obtain/maintain a valid Colorado DL without any restrictions which affect job performance. Mineral County residency with 12 months of established employment. Applications are available from Mineral County Human Resource office at 1201 N. Main Street, Creede or at 719-658-2331 or at mineralcountycolorado.com/jobpostings. (2-8)

The BOE of Center Schools is now

accepting applications for a **High School Football Coach** for the 2023-2024 School Year. Qualifications: Colorado Teaching Credential and/or Colorado High School Activities Association Coach's Certification or, such alternative qualifications as the Board may find appropriate and acceptable. Please send a letter of interest to: Center High School Athletic Director ldonaldson@center.k12.co.us or contact the District Of-

ice call (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (2-15)

The BOE of Center Schools is now accepting applications for the position of **Substitute Cafeteria Cook** for the remaining 2022-2023 School

Year. Qualifications include High School Diploma or any qualifications deemed acceptable by the Board of Education. For more information and application materials, please call (719) 754-3442; or, visit the District's website at www.center.k12.co.us and

PART-TIME SALES

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

RIO GRANDE COUNTY IS SEEKING A COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Bachelor's degree from accredited college or university in Public/Business Administration with two or more years related experience or equivalent combination of education and experience required. Salary starting at \$85,000. Application and job description available online at www.riograndecounty.org or call Human Resources at (719) 657-4217.

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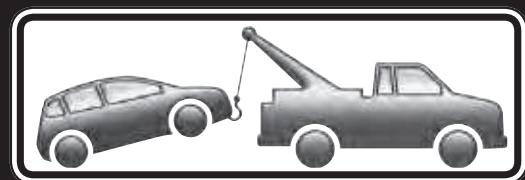
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Valley Wide Classifieds

click on "Administration" and "Non-Certified Staff Member Application Materials". Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (2-15)

WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge is hiring for Operator I positions... \$18.00/hour NO CDL REQUIRED! REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must have a current and valid Driver's License. Applicants should have a high school diploma or GED and six months or more of relevant experience. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening and criminal background check. Operator I is a full-time position — applicants must be able to operate light and heavy equipment and perform manual labor in the maintenance, repair and minor construction of roads, streets, bridges, signs, markings and related facilities. Applicants must be physically capable of periods of sustained physical exertion and may be required to lift and move up to 75 lbs. to 150 lbs. Applications are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office 305 3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 — 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website — saguachecounty.colorado.gov under the Road and Bridge Department tab. Please fill out and submit the County Application. A complete job description is available at the Road and Bridge Office. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge — at the address listed above, sent by email to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov or faxed to: 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until qualified candidates are hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (2-22)

14 Business

Properties For Rent

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17 Real Estate For Sale

35.71 acres between Monte Vista and Alamosa on County Line Road, borders highway, good grass, easy access, power and ready to build on. Priced \$109,000. Call **Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty Inc** 719-873-1700. TFN

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31 Health

Blow-Flex Treadmill treadclimber TC\$5000 great condition \$450 Ken @719-658-2370 (3-1)

32 Fuel & Heating

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36 Miscellaneous

Cash for quality non-fiction books and lp records. Jeff 720-315-9145 (2-15)

Propane Refrigerators Sold Here. Call For Options and Prices. We Also Stock Solar Powered Refrigerators and Freezers. Bontrager's Variety Store, 9726 S. County Road

3E, Monte Vista. (719) 852-0500 TFN

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38 Machinery, Tools, Equipment

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42 Feed & Seed

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65 Professional Services

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

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



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Courtesy photo

Onstage at the 2022 Adams State Gives Day, alumnus Freddie Jaquez had the audience clapping and moving to his popular cumbia guitar performance. He will return to the delight of audiences for the 2023 event scheduled for Feb. 16.

ASU talent will light up stage

Fourth annual ASGD is Feb. 16

Individual National Champions will round out the on-stage, live event.

Students will staff a live telephone bank to accept pledges made during the talent show. Viewers can call in to make a gift or a pledge to 1-844-GIVE-ASU or

844-448-3278. Viewers can make gifts online at adams.edu/foundation/online-donation.

Gifts and pledges can also be made before and after the event by contacting the Adams State University Foundation Office at 719-587-7609.

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The fourth annual Adams State Gives Day is expected to inspire and entertain as alumni and friends pledge financial support and give back to the university. The 90-minute talent show begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16. There are two ways to enjoy this year's event — live, in-person audience or livestream at adams.edu/live.

Back by popular demand, alumnus Freddie Jaquez will bring the audience to their feet with his traditional cumbia music.

Adams State School of Visual and Performing Arts Director John Taylor and Alamosa Mayor Ty Coleman will co-host the fast-paced evening of fun and celebration.

The show features a range of talent including Adams State music ensembles; dance by Semillas de la Tierra, and dramatic interpretive readings created from actual letters from the very first Adams State freshman class by gifted theatre majors.

A special recognition of the 2022 Adams State Women's Cross Country Division II National Champions and Wrestling

CAC opens call for entry for 2023 Willow Creek Journal

CREEDE — The Creede Arts Council announced that the call for entry for the 2023 Willow Creek Journal is officially open. The Willow Creek Journal is a community-centered annual anthology.

“Through the journal, we celebrate and nurture the creativity of artists of all ages,” CAC officials stated.

The Willow Creek Journal features poetry, prose, photographs, and artwork. The 2023 call for entry is online at <https://creedeartscouncil.com/willow-creek-journal> with details and requirements for submission. The deadline to submit work is Feb. 28.

For more information, email creedearts@outlook.com or call 719-658-0312.

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