

Shorts

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.

Veterans and homeless luncheon is Feb. 4

ALAMOSA — A free McRib meal for veterans and homeless will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Feb. 4 at the First Christian Church, 518 First St., Alamosa.

Vehicle theft suspect caught

COSTILLA COUNTY— A suspect has been arrested and a vehicle recovered in a reported auto theft in Fort Garland on Thursday, Jan. 26.

The Costilla County Sheriff's office said a dark blue 2013 Toyota Tacoma with a camper shell was stolen Thursday evening from the El Dorado in Fort Garland and recovered with the help of the public and the Alamosa Police Department.

According to the Costilla County Sheriff's Facebook page, the suspect was a male in his 20s or 30s with shoulder length black hair partially covering his face. He was seen walking around Fort Garland for most of the afternoon. No identification for the arrested suspect was given.

Conejos County students named to UC Boulder Dean's List

Five exceptional undergraduates from Conejos County have been named to the Dean's List at the University of Colorado Boulder's College of Arts and Sciences.

To be included on this list — which includes a notation on their transcript and a letter from the dean — students must complete at least 12 credit hours of CU Boulder coursework in a semester and earn a term GPA of 3.750 or better.

For fall 2022's semester, 20 percent of the College of Arts and Sciences' more than 15,800 undergraduate students were named to the Dean's List.

The following students from Conejos County were named to CU Boulder's Dean's List for fall 2022: Maya Garcia, Giovanna Martinez, Molly Nehring, Omar Armenta and Evani Ruiz.

Baca Grande incorporation sidelined by district court

BY JOHN WATERS

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The day after District Judge Crista L. Newmyer-Olsen dismissed a petition filed by the Citizens for Proposed Town of Baca Grande to incorporate the area near Crestone, the proposal is now uncertain.

Lisa Cyriacks, a committee member of the citizens group, told the Valley Courier they are considering their legal options.

"There's the opportunity to appeal or resubmitting a petition; it is under serious consideration. We haven't yet had the opportunity to meet as a group, but I think people are committed. Our motivation is making improvements to the community," said Cyriacks.

The Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) was formed in 1972 and encompasses over 14,000 acres of land in Saguache County that the citizens group is proposing to incorporate. The Baca, as it is known locally, is divided into 4,550 privately owned lots with 3,500 owners.

Please see BACA on Page 2A



The Baca Grande subdivision near Crestone in Saguache County has about 1,200 residents. On Jan. 30, a district court judge dismissed a petition to incorporate the area into a municipality.

Photo by John Waters

Center alum receives True Blue recognition



Center Town Board Trustee Richie Barela regularly returns to his alma mater to cheer on the Vikings. He recently received the inaugural Center School District True Blue Award for his sustained support of the school district. The Center School District introduced the True Blue Viking award in January to honor people who faithfully support the district. Current Center Town Board Trustee Richie Barela graduated from Center High School and then served two terms on the school board. If you scan the seats during a Vikings competition and don't see Barela, check the concessions stand. He often volunteers to serve his home-cooked dishes for fund-raisers and special events.

Photo by Patrick Shea

Southern Rocky Mountain Agricultural Conference Feb. 7

BY MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — The 41st annual Southern Rocky Mountain Agricultural conference and trade show will begin its three-day run Tuesday Feb. 7, at the Outcall Event and Conference Center at SLV Ski Hi Complex. The theme this year is "Surviving and Thriving: A Conference on Resilience and Sustainability."

Every year hundreds of people have attended the event, and according to pre-registration, this year will be no exception. The conference is sponsored by the Colorado State University Extension, the Colorado State University Research Station,

and the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce. Paid registration is a requirement to enter all discussions held at the event complex, the trade show sponsored by the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce, is a free event and open to the public.

This year's Keynote Speaker will be Jimmy Emmons. Emmons is a Soil Health Mentoring Coordinator, and is also a part of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. Emmons is a Worldwide Director in soil health organization and a district coordinator for the USDA's Farm Production and Preservation Program.

Featured sessions this year will include "Running on all Cylinders,"

with Clint Wilson and "Succession Planning," with Jeff Tranel. There will also be a State Legislative Update with Dan Waldvogel, the Director of External Affairs for Rocky Mountain Farmers Union.

San Luis Valley Area CSU Extension Director Larry Brown is excited about the upcoming conference.

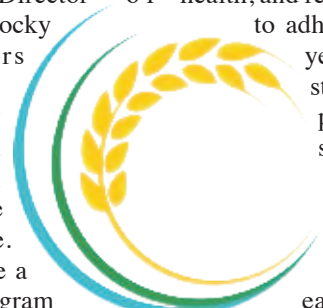
"I believe we have a strong education program planned," Brown said. "We have strong pre-registration for that too. We have sessions for the potato industry including production

practices, marketing outlooks, and research on disease control. We have a very strong day on soil health, and regenerative agriculture to adhere to our theme this

year. We also have a very strong day for livestock producers, with sessions on nutrition, marketing outlooks, and survivability of the calves and lambs during the birthing and early neonatal period.

We have demonstrations on potato equipment, drones, virtual livestock fencing, and local hemp

Please see AG on Page 2A



BY PATRICK SHEA

CRESTONE — The first showing of the film "GRIM — a Philosophical Murder Mystery" will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the T Road Brewing Company in Crestone on Feb. 4. Produced by musical multidisciplinary artist Tokyo Cigar, the 30-minute film will showcase the people and scenery of Crestone.

Tokyo Cigar's art targets ears, eyes, and hearts through his music, music production, video production, writing, and illustration. He created a mix of words,

drawings, and design in his graphic novel, "The Shadow's Face." His Spotify list is long, and his website (www.tokyocigar.net/) shows the full range of talent.

Tokyo Cigar said, "During the creation and filming of 'GRIM — a Philosophical Murder Mystery,' I was both a captain and passenger."

He developed the concept, directed the shooting and production, starred on-screen, and also operated the camera.

Why not add another creative skill? Fellow

Crestonian Grant Haywood listened to the instrumental album Tokyo Cigar created called "GRIM — a Philosophical Murder Mystery." When he said the music sounded cinematic, Tokyo Cigar figured scoring music for movies would complement the full range of creativity. He took the project in a new direction.

Without dialog, the mostly silent film showcases the beauty and unique characters of Crestone. These people became the actors who allowed Tokyo Cigar to be a passenger on the trip. So far, Tokyo Cigar's journey has continent-hopped between Nigeria, Maryland, Ireland, Virginia, the United Kingdom, and now Colorado.





Courtesy photo

River Valley Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center paid special tribute to Bonnie Bowling on her 100th birthday on Jan. 19.

Bonnie Bowling — RVRHC's first resident — turns 100

Skilled nursing facility honors special resident on her milestone birthday

CONTRIBUTED DEL NORTE — River Valley Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center paid special tribute to Bonnie Bowling on her 100th birthday, inviting residents at the facility to celebrate with Bonnie at a festive party, including family, friends and a large birthday cake.

Born on Jan. 19, 1923, in Port Arthur, Texas, to parents Floy and Ralph Rachal, Bowling spent most of her life on the Gulf Coast of

Texas. She is the mother of three and came to Del Norte to be close to her son John Butler and daughter-in-law Betty, who live in South Fork.

Karen Martinez, River Valley Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center's administrator, pointed out that Bowling was the first resident of the skilled nursing facility when it opened in 2017, back when it was still called River Valley Inn.

"Bonnie is such an inspiration to her family and friends," said Martinez. "She's been a favored resident since she first moved in over five years ago, and the entire facility was excited to celebrate her milestone 100th birthday. The party marked an incredible century of memories and experiences.

"We are grateful to have Bonnie in

our lives," she added, "and we look forward to many more celebrations at River Valley. Bonnie is our first resident and holds a special place in our hearts."

River Valley Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center is a 60-bed skilled nursing facility in Del Norte, providing long-term care, short-term care, rehabilitation, occupational therapy, physical therapy, rehab-to-home, speech therapy, palliative care and respite care. The center is currently accepting new admissions for short-term rehabilitation and long-term care. For more information, contact the facility at 719-657-1105 or visit the River Valley Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center at www.rivervalleyrhc.com.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Jan. 22 and Jan. 28, 2023.

Sheriff's office staff helped with two ambulance rides and a mental subject in Moffat. They also assisted other agencies, provided information,

conducted three welfare checks, and monitored a civil standby. Staff tended to one abandoned vehicle, two traffic complaints, and two traffic stops. They patrolled Saguache eight times and issued a citation for false registration displayed on a car.

In addition to keeping an eye on five controlled burns, deputies followed

up on reports of suspicious activity in Moffat, theft in Center, and property found in Saguache.

ARRESTS

• A 46-year-old Center man was arrested and held with a \$1,000 bond on three counts of the crime of violating a protection order.

AG Continued from Page 1A

fiber processing. We will have panel discussions on cover crop management and grazing, weed control, and livestock vaccination programs. We also have educational sessions on farm family estate planning and on farm family health. and of course, we have our water educational sessions which focuses less this year on the politics of water and more on the management of water."

Brown said there were 100 pre-registered vendor booths for the trade show, and he was excited to see how the vendors and participants like the new schedule.

"We will give everyone a couple of

hours in the morning to eat breakfast and socialize and visit the trade show," Brown said. "Everyone can also visit the demonstrations and then we will start the educational sessions at 9:45 instead of 8 o'clock in the morning."

Brown said that the extension is grateful for all the sponsors this year, stating that there are companies that have come out of the woodwork to offer sponsorships.

"The sponsorships are vital to help our conference grow and vital to keep the cost for participants so reasonable."

Brown said that the SLV Area CSU Extension hospitality rules apply for

the conference which means come early, stay late.

"I want to thank our partners in this including our sponsors, CSU Extension, CSU Research Station, and the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce," Brown said.

The Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference and Trade Show is for all agriculture production providers, and everyone involved or interested in agriculture production.

For more information on the upcoming conference or to register for the conference, call the SLV Area Extension office at 719-852-7385 or visit the website at www.agconferencesrm.com.

YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

Orion

If you've been outside at all in the evening, I'm sure you've been amazed by the crystal-clear sparkling sky filled with thousands of stars. The "star" of the winter night sky is my favorite constellation, Orion the Hunter, which is filled with amazing objects.

Sitting high in the southern sky this time of the year, Orion is hard to miss. Tonight, the Moon is slightly to its left, and Jupiter is slightly to its right. The full moon is Feb. 5, and the new moon is Feb. 20.

Orion's 3-star diagonal belt is the most obvious and famous directional object in the winter sky. To the lower left of the belt is Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. The upper right of the belt leads you northwest to the red star Aldebaran, and to two "naked eye" star clusters: the Hyades and Pleiades.

There are three stars in Orion's head that form a triangle. His arrow always points north and is also used as a navigational guide. The sword hangs down from the belt and ends in the Orion Nebula, which is also visible with the naked eye. Binoculars will show more of their spectacular detail.

Betelgeuse is Orion's super giant red star which sits in his right shoulder. Stars appear red when they're old and



close to ending their life by exploding. Betelgeuse is the second-brightest star in Orion, and the eighth-brightest star in the sky.

Blue, white Rigel sits below the belt in Orion's left foot. It's 775 light years from us and 40,000 times brighter than our Sun. Blue, white stars are the youngest and hottest stars in the sky. This supergiant star is Orion's brightest, and the 6th brightest star in the sky. Eventually it will pass its supergiant status and collapse into a white dwarf.

The star Procyon is left of Orion. Betelgeuse, Sirius and Procyon form the Winter Triangle asterism. Aldebaran, Rigel, Sirius, Procyon, Castor and Capella form the giant Winter Circle. Tonight, the Moon sits in the middle of this asterism. See if you can identify it. An asterism isn't an official constellation but forms a shape that people can identify.

BACA Continued from Page 1A

Last September, the POA voted to increase assessments by 30% from \$493 to \$640 levied on each owner's lot. Not all of that is paid to the POA, as about 24% of property owners are not in good standing — they owe money to the association.

In fiscal year 2023, the association reported \$2,293,140 in assessment revenue with unpaid assessments of \$504,490. Employee expense was \$832,282, and legal and professional costs were \$358,790.

The association is not an incorporated municipality, relies primarily on assessment fees, and does not have the authority to collect property taxes. If the area were to incorporate, the new town or city could do so, according to Cyriacks.

"We're committed to exploring ways to get funding to expand and improve services in ways the POA is not able to do. That hasn't changed," she said.

The association maintains the 102 miles of roads on the Baca and provides fire and ambulance service for its members. In 2023, the fire and ambulance services received \$146,000 in government grant funding.

The idea of incorporating the Baca is not new. In 2003, concerned citizens commissioned a feasibility analysis that gained little tangible traction.

The process to form a municipality is a four-step process. Step One: Petition to district court. Step Two:

Incorporation elections. Step Three: Organization of a new city or town. Step Four: Home rule charter. Judge Newmyer-Olsen dismissed step one.

Last August, the Citizens for Proposed Town of Baca Grande submitted a step one petition to the district court to further the idea of incorporating the Baca into a municipality. If approved by the court, an election on the incorporation idea would have moved forward. The POA petitioned the court to dismiss the filing by the citizens group and Judge Crista Newmyer-Olsen agreed.

The Valley Courier has reached out to the Baca Grande Property Owners Association seeking comment and has not received a reply as of press time.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

The iceman cometh

It looks like another round of ice here in North Texas and of course that means thousands of wrecks as people have no idea that they need to simply slow down in such conditions. I got to thinking, a dangerous proposition according to Miss Trixie, about how people across this nation respond to different kinds of weather.

Born and raised in Kansas, we had the worst extremes you can imagine and if not dodging tornadoes we were hunkering down in a major blizzard. Kansas is known for its wide-open spaces and in Western Kansas at least, when a tornado was spotted by the weather station spotter, we all went outside to see it.

And blizzards being announced days in advance simply involved getting bread and milk and making chili or soup. Living in the country we all had our own tractors to dig ourselves out but that was only after several days of nonstop sledding on our big hill.

We also would laugh about some hurricane force winds in the coastal states being 45 mph as that was not too bad of a day in windy old Kansas. The only thing holding back the wind in those barren plains was a string of barbed wire and that didn't do much good.

So, the weather to us was just a small inconvenience in many ways. However, my cousin lives right on the San Andreas Fault and has earthquakes and while she is terrified of tornadoes, she thinks nothing of the earth opening and swallowing her. No thank you.

In Colorful Colorado, a major blizzard may shut the schools down and suspend many commercial activities which only relate to those same people heading to the ski slopes. Even normally sane Texans can be seen trying to navigate horrible roads to strap two boards on their feet and pay huge sums to ride them down a mountain. Of course, if they were home in the south and a snowflake hit them in the butt, they would be housebound by the wonderful whiteness and this week looks to be a doozy for us down here for sure.

We have a local weather station girl who I lovingly refer to as Bug Eyed Betty as well, her eyes bug out whenever she makes a particular point in the forecast. The more severe the weather the more she bats her eyes and the last run on tornadoes we had they were going so fast she about took off in flight. DFW airport was trying



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

to land her on runway 178. True story, almost. And she is forecasting a doozy of an ice storm too.

Miss Trixie and I were just in our initial throes of perpetual happiness during a major ice storm here in Texas one time and we just settled down and watched it all happen around us. Happy to just be together. Remember those days? Man were we ever naïve.

But this time poor Miss Trixie is back out in Amarillo with her dad who is ailing to some degree and Ol' Dutch and Mr. Cooper are stuck holding down the fort and feeding cows.

I was supposed to start a new job helping my son with his business this week but decided not to enter the demolition derby currently being held on the streets of Dallas as the ice has already hit and they are playing the "exchanging insurance information" game as we speak. It will be awful the amount of wrecks they will have, and I am sure when it's shown on the national news, people in Minnesota and Michigan will laugh at how helpless they have become on slick roads due to living in the South.

But wherever you abide this winter season, strap on the appropriate gear, hook up the generators, slow your butt down and try and survive until the next weather front comes through. And remember the famous old saying. If you don't like the weather just wait a few hours and it will change.

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.

Atmospheric rivers endanger West

Moab, Utah, gets just eight inches of rain per year, yet rainwater flooded John Weisheit's basement last summer. Extremes are common in a desert: Rain and snow are rare, and a deluge can cause flooding.

Weisheit, 68, co-director of Living Rivers and a former Colorado River guide, has long warned the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation that its two biggest dams on the Colorado River could become useless because of prolonged drought.

Although recently, at a BuRec conference, he also warned that "atmospheric rivers" could overtop both dams, demolishing them and causing widespread flooding.

Weisheit points to BuRec research by Robert Swain in 2004, showing an 1884 spring runoff that delivered two years' worth of Colorado River flows in just four months.

California well knows the damage that long, narrow corridors of water vapor — atmospheric rivers — can do. Starting in December, one atmospheric storm followed another over the state, dumping water and snow on already saturated ground.

The multiple storms moved fast, sometimes over 60 miles per hour, and they quickly dropped their load. Atmospheric rivers can carry water vapor equal to 27 Mississippi Rivers.

These storms happen every year, but what makes them feel new is their ferocity, which some scientists blame on climate change warming the oceans and heating the air to make more powerful storms.

In California, overwhelmed storm drains sent polluted water to the sea. Roads became waterways, sinkholes opened up to capture cars and their drivers, and houses flooded. At least 22 people died.

Where do these fast-moving storms come from? Mostly north and south of Hawaii, then they barrel directly towards California and into the central West, says F. Martin Ralph, who directs the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego.

"Forty percent of the snowpack in the upper Colorado in the winter is from atmospheric river storms penetrating that far inland," he adds.

The real risk is when storms stack up as they did in California.



That happened in spades during the winter of 1861-1862, in the middle of a decade-long drought, when the West endured 44 days of rain and wet snow. California Governor-elect Leland Stanford rowed to a soggy oath-of-office ceremony in flooded Sacramento, just before fleeing with state leaders to San Francisco.

Water covered California's inland valley for three months, and paddle wheel steamers navigated over submerged farmlands and inland towns. The state went bankrupt, and its economy collapsed as mining and farming operations were bogged down, one quarter of livestock drowned or starved, and 4000 people died.

In Utah that winter, John Doyle Lee chronicled the washing away of the town of Santa Clara along the tiny Santa Clara River near St. George. Buildings and farms floated away leaving only a single wall of a rock fort that townspeople had built on high ground.

Weisheit knows this history well because he's been part of a team of "paleoflood" investigators, a group of scientists and river experts. To document just how high floodwaters rose in the past, researchers climb valley walls. The Journal of Hydrology says they seek "fine grained sediments, mainly sand."

It's a peculiar science, searching for sand bars and driftwood perched 60 feet above the river.

The Green River contributes roughly half the water that's in the Lower Colorado River, and in 2005, Weisheit and other investigators found six flood sites along the Green River near Moab, Utah. Weisheit says several sites showed the river running



Writers on the Range
by Dave Marston

at 275,000 cubic feet per second (cfs).

If the Green River merged with the Colorado River, also at flood, the Colorado River would carry almost five times more water than the 120,000 cfs that barreled into Glen Canyon Dam, some 160 miles below Moab, in 1984. That epic runoff nearly wiped-out Glen Canyon Dam.

Now that we've remembered the damage that atmospheric river storms can do, Weisheit believes that Bureau of Reclamation must tear down Glen Canyon — now.

He likes to quote Western historian Patty Limerick, who told the Bureau of Reclamation, at a University of Utah conference in 2007, what she really thought: "The Bureau can only handle little droughts and little floods. When the big ones arrive, the system will fail."

Dave Marston is the publisher of Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West.

What also counts is where the snow falls

By Dave Marston

This week Writers on the Range explores the possibility of dangerous flooding in the Colorado River Basin. But there's something more to think about: What if the U.S. Agriculture Department's forecasting weather mechanism has a giant blind spot?

SNOTEL, an automated system of snowpack measurement, is run by the Agriculture Department to monitor

water levels during the winter. Almost all its sites are located at high elevations.

Three years ago, on Feb. 20, 2020, Durango journalist Jonathan Romeo, reported that the nearby San Juan Mountains registered an "average" snowpack. Mid and lower elevations, however, were bare, "with no measurable snowpack."

That year, "average" wasn't a helpful predictor as runoff was only 54% of

normal, due to a hot May and not enough "low snow."

The SNOTEL sites in Colorado range from mid-8,000 feet of elevation up to the mid-11,000s. McClure Pass, elevation 8,774, near my hometown of Paonia, shows 15.1 inches of water equivalent, which is 170% of normal.

Overall, the snowpack for the Colorado River Basin is 135% of normal.

A recent series of storms illustrate

that. Jeff Givens, who's known locally as the "Durango Weather Guy," reported 49 inches of snow in his neighborhood of Durango West, which sits at 7600 feet of elevation, after snowstorms January 17 and 19. But measurements in nearby Silverton at 9,200 feet, only 40 miles away, show that only 20.5 inches fell.

Durango Weather Guy's predictions this year have all come with the notice:

"We're seeing greater accumulations at mid and lower elevations than high." Given there is a huge amount of low and mid-elevation terrain and lots of snow, raises chances for a big spring flood.

Dave Marston is the publisher of Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West.

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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://byufolkdancealamosa.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.

Community Foundation of the SLV selects Medina as new Executive Director

CONTRIBUTED ALAMOSA — The Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of the San Luis Valley (CFSLV) is recently announced it had unanimously chosen Jason Medina as the organization's next Executive Director.

"I could not be more honored to lead this foundation," Medina says. "The future of the San Luis Valley is strong and sustainable, largely due to the work of our nonprofits. I am proud to have the opportunity to promote the advancement of our nonprofit sector and help bring economic development to our communities, while maintaining our cultural identities."

Medina, who currently serves as the Director of the San Luis Valley Small Business Development Center, will succeed Mike Roque, the

organization's Executive Director of six years, on Feb. 1.

"After an exhaustive nation-wide search, we are pleased to have found the best individual to assume leadership of our growing foundation," said Flora Archuleta, the Chairperson of the CFSLV board of directors. "Jason has deep community roots in our valley and a strong public/private background. We are delighted he's accepted the position."

As a fourth generation San Luis Valley native, Medina spent his childhood in his family-owned grocery store called "La Tiendita" in San Luis, the oldest town in Colorado. After graduating from Centennial High School in San Luis, he attended Adams State University, where he received a bachelor's in psychology. He has a diverse background, including seven

years in public education, six years in local government, and over 10 years in public housing. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Center.

"We are thrilled to have Jason on board," said Roque, outgoing Executive Director of CFSLV. "He is a proven leader with deep roots and relationships in the valley, and the strong ability to expand on the success that our foundation has built over the past six years."

Archuleta expressed the board's gratitude to Roque as he departs as Executive Director. "Mike has been a driving force in creating a solid foundation that brings visibility to the Valley. He has developed strong relationships with major donors, and we have been honored to work with him."

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Eaglecrest wins Valley Classic Tournament

By Ken Hamrick

CENTER — This year's Valley Classic high school wrestling tournament had a record number of teams competing this past weekend at the CHS gym.

"There were 29 teams," said Center High School wrestling coach Rodney Mondragon. "It was a great competition. A lot of these 2A teams were able to see what they are going to see at state and regionals. It was huge for a lot of them."

The tournament attracted some larger schools highlighted by eventual team champion Eaglecrest.

"Eaglecrest, a 5A school, came out and ended up winning the tournament," Mondragon said. "Salida is a 3A school. We had seven or eight championship matches where we had top-ranked kids going head-to-head with each other. You can't beat that."

Eaglecrest scored 200.5 points and had nine individual placers. The Raptors, however, had no individual champions.

North Fork was second with 181 points and it had seven placers. Sam Ware was the only Miner to win a championship as he pinned Eaglecrest's Riley Neumeyer in 49 seconds.

Centauri did the best of any San Luis Valley school in attendance as the Falcons placed third with 169 points. Centauri had six placers including two champions. Erik Mestas won the 175-pound championship as he pinned Eaglecrest's Ladanian Gordon in 1:59, and Josh Polkowske was first at 165 after pinning Crowley County's Skeater Baker in 2:51.

The Falcons had one other finalist in Riley Valdez who was second at 120.

Centauri's other placers included Diego Hernandez, fifth at 132, Ivan Lopez, fifth at 144, and Skylar Montage, fifth at 190.

Monte Vista finished in fifth place with 137.5 points. The Pirates also had six placers led by Kevin Cisneros, the champion at 144 pounds. Cisneros won by a 5-0 decision over North Fork's Lane Stroh.

They had a second placer in Jacob Pacheco who was second at 150.

The other Monte Vista place winners were Jeremiah Baumgardner, fourth at 126, Damian Lopez fourth at 126, DeAngelo Archuleta fifth at 138, and Jaxon Martinez fifth at 175.

Center took seventh place with 126 points. The host Vikings had seven placers including one finalist in Martin Palma who took second place at 157 pounds.

Also placing for Center were Aaron Valadez who was third at 144, Andre Meraz who was fourth at 150, Jordan Duran who was fifth at 106, Jesus Valadez who was fifth at 165, Chayse Bouet who was sixth at 132 and Francisco Villa who was sixth at 113.

Sargent placed 17th with 55 points, and the Farmers had one placer in Trenton Lovelace who took third at 215 pounds.

The remaining SLV teams in attendance saw Sierra Grande-Centennial place 26th with 11 points, Antonito was 27th with 8 points, and Del Norte and Mountain Valley were both 28th with 7 points.

The Outstanding Wrestlers were Buena Vista's Caleb Camp in the lower weights, and Salida's Drew Johnson in the upper weights.

VALLEY CLASSIC

Team scores
Eaglecrest 200.5, North Fork 181, Centauri 169, Mancos 140, Monte Vista 137.5, Buena Vista 130, Center 126, Trinidad 123.5, Delta 120.5,



Centauri High School's Josh Polkowske (top) takes down Crowley County's Skeater Baker in the 165-pound championship match at the Valley Classic on Saturday. Polkowske won the match and the Falcons finished third as a team.

Photos by Ken Hamrick



Left: Monte Vista High School's Kevin Cisneros (right) takes down North Fork's Lane Stroh in the 144-pound championship match. Cisneros won the championship and the Pirates finished in fifth place.

Salida 97, Limon 80, West Grand 78.5, St. Mary's 77, Crowley County 75, Fowler 74, Merino 67, Sargent 55, John Mall 52, Olathe 49, Las Animas 31, Byers 30.5, La Veta 30, Primero 16, Soroco 14, Rye 13, Sierra Grande-Centennial 11, Antonito 8, Del Norte 7, Mountain Valley 7, Custer County 4.

Championship matches

106 - Waitley Sharon (Fowler) pinned Derreck Buford (Crowley County), 2:51

113 - Traven Sharon (Fowler) dec. Sam Johnson (Salida), 5-2

120 - Coen Schmidt (Merino) maj. dec. Riley Valdez (Centauri), 10-1

126 - Caleb Camp (Buena Vista) dec. Anthony Isek (St. Mary's), 3-1 (SV)

132 - Eddie Bowman (Trinidad) dec. Levi Martin (Mancos), 5-4

138 - Dillon Burford (Crowley County) pinned Brandon Vannest (Mancos), 5:14

144 - Kevin Cisneros (Monte Vista) dec. Lane Stroh (North Fork), 5-0

150 - Dominick Cuccinelli (St. Mary's) pinned Jacob Pacheco (Monte Vista), 2:35

157 - David Arellano (Buena Vista) pinned Martin Palma (Center), 4:22

165 - Josh Polkowske (Centauri) pinned Skeater Baker (Crowley County), 2:51

175 - Erik Mestas (Centauri) pinned Ladanian Gordon (Eaglecrest), 1:59

190 - Gabe Schubarth (Limon) dec. Marcel Gordon (Eaglecrest), 9-6

215 - Drew Johnson (Salida) pinned Jake Armijo (Trinidad), 0:55

285 - Sam Ware (North Fork) pinned Riley Neumeyer (Eaglecrest), 0:49

Third-place matches

106 - Adonias Cantu (Eaglecrest) pinned Dawsen Drozdik (Delta), 1:58

113 - Payson Pene (North Fork) pinned Matthew Valdez (Delta), 2:15

120 - Ethan Diaz (Eaglecrest) dec. Andrew Isek (St. Mary's), 11-4

126 - Aijah Gabaldon (Eagle Crest) pinned Damian Lopez (Monte Vista), 2:19

132 - Bernard Espinoza (John Mall) pinned Peyton Armstrong (North Fork), 4:51

138 - Tyler Frank (Merino) dec. Charlie Miller (North Fork), 4-2

144 - Aaron Valadez (Center) pinned Kyle Kincaide (Delta), 3:30

150 - Colton Montoya (Buena Vista) dec. Andre Meraz (Center), 3-2

157 - Thayne Lundy (Eaglecrest) pinned Jeremiah Baumgardner (Monte Vista), 1:46

165 - Keon Bandy (Limon) dec. Wyatt Howell (West Grand), 9-5

175 - Cole Dainty-Guilfoyle (Mancos) pinned Ahren Schubarth (Limon), 4:07

190 - Colten Vannest (Mancos) pinned Isaiah Cosby (John Mall), 0:52

215 - Trenton Lovelace (Sargent) pinned Cody Netherton (Las Animas), 0:24

285 - Blake Terryberry (West Grand) pinned Elliot Sam (Mancos), 2:43

Fifth-place matches

106 - Jordan Duran (Center) dec. Trevor Piatt (Olathe), 7-0

113 - Jaedynn Pham (Eaglecrest) dec. Francisco Villa (Center), 6-3

120 - Alex Mattinez (Trinidad) pinned Kyle Chaffin (Delta), 0:24

126 - Jon Yapoujian (Byers) tech. Fall Calhoun Hill (Salida), 16-0, 3:18

132 - Diego Hernandez (Centauri) by def. over Chase Bouet (Center)

138 - DeAngelo Archuleta (Monte Vista) pinned Derrick Sievertsen (North Fork), 1:41

144 - Ivan Lopez (Centauri) maj. dec. Joe Probst (West Grand), 15-7

150 - Gabe Rangel (Eaglecrest) pinned Daniel Owens (North Fork), 3:38

157 - Brayden Nix (La Veta) pinned

Chase Ripley (Olathe), 2:01

165 - Jesus Valadez (Center) maj. dec. Jakob Carver (North Fork), 15-4

175 - Jaxon Martinez (Monte Vista) pinned Andrew Kaus (Merino), 3:23

190 - Skylar Montage (Centauri) pinned Eli Mock (Olathe), 2:11

215 - Gavin Unrein (Fowler) pinned Eli Flowers (Buena Vista), 3:42

285 - A.J. Bowman (Trinidad) pinned Oscar Gonzales (Byers), 3:36

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Courtesy photo

Society Hall is thrilled to welcome back Walt Wilkins, Susan Gibson, Josh Grider and Kelley Mickwee from the Red River Festival group, with special guest Michael Hearne at on Sunday, Feb. 5.

Red River Songwriters with special guest Hearne back at Society Hall

CONTRIBUTED
ALAMOSA — Some of the most talked about shows at Alamosa’s Society Hall venue in recent years have been an amazing gathering of several of the most popular and successful Texas singer-songwriters working today, called the Traveling Red River Songwriters Festival. Society Hall is thrilled to welcome back Walt Wilkins, Susan Gibson, Josh Grider and Kelley Mickwee from the Red River Festival group, with special guest Michael Hearne at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 5. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25

at the door and are available at the Green Spot, 711 State Ave., Alamosa, or online at www.societyhall.org. The concert will also stream live on the Society Hall Facebook page. The Traveling Red River Songwriters are a collective of individual artists and writers that team up annually for a tour to Red River, N.M., for the Red River Songwriters’ Festival, a festival founded by these writers in 2011. Between the five artists you will hear folk, country, soul, roots, rock and roll, and a whole lot of harmony singing. A short list of these artists’ accolades

includes Nashville publishing deals, a multi-platinum country single, international touring, and more than 25 albums released between them. Society Hall audiences have enjoyed shows in past years by all these artists individually or in a duo configuration. Tickets are available at the Green Spot or online at www.societyhall.org, and the concert will also stream live on the Society Hall Facebook page. For more information about the festival in Red River, visit www.redriversongs.com.

There is still time to submit a Title II project proposal

CONTRIBUTED
LAKEWOOD — The Greater Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) is still accepting proposals for Title II projects to be implemented in fiscal year 2023. Proposals will be accepted through close of business on Feb. 17. Interested individuals and organizations are encouraged to apply for project funding, which will be provided through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. The act provides payments to counties as compensation for the loss of tax income associated with federal land within their boundaries.

The proposed projects must provide direct or indirect benefits to natural resources on National Forest lands in Colorado or Wyoming, except for Black Hills National Forest, which falls under a separate RAC. In the past, projects have accomplished watershed restoration, stream stabilization, invasive plant treatments, native plant reestablishment, wildlife and fish habitat improvements, enhanced soil productivity, and road maintenance. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to coordinate with Forest Service staff and partner agencies to ensure that the proposal is complete

and meets the intent of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. The proposals must also be pre-approved by the district ranger or forest supervisor where the project resides. Project applications and instructions on how to submit a proposal are available online at the Greater Rocky Mountain RAC website at www.fs.usda.gov. Additional information about the Secure Rural Schools Act can be found at www.fs.usda.gov/main/pts/home. Questions can be directed to Nicole Hutt, Greater Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator, at nicole.hutt@usda.gov.

Practical Tips to Maximize Your Time

We all have the same amount of time – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And the longer I live, the more I discover that time is too valuable for us to waste any of it. That’s why it is so important that we learn to live *on purpose, for a purpose*. The truth is if you make wise decisions now, you will have a better future. But if you waste your time, you will have regrets. And regrets are terrible because you can’t go back and do anything about them. That’s why we need to do the right thing when we have the opportunity to do it instead of blaming our circumstances or how we were raised or how the world is for the way we live. We can learn how to cooperate with God and make changes that will make something good happen in our lives.

Are you a participator or spectator?
 Ephesians 3:20 is an exciting verse people like because it says God “is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams]” (AMP). But if we stop there, we don’t fully see what this scripture is saying. It goes on to say “according to His power that is at work within us.”

God is able to do great things as His power works *in* us and *through* us! So it’s not just about God doing things for you – He wants to do things *through* you. We are meant to be partners with God who participate in His plans, not merely spectators.

We have to stop wishing life would change and start taking action! We need to pray, spend time with God and study His Word, and as He speaks to our hearts, we need to step out in faith. I want to encourage you not to let fear keep you from moving forward. If you are afraid of making the wrong choice, then make a determined decision to take a step of faith – do it afraid! – and trust

God to show you if you’re going in the wrong direction. Because sometimes we can’t find out what the right direction is until we step out and find out.

Participate with prudence.
 In Proverbs 1:1-5, we learn some of the main ways we hear God’s voice as we seek Him. Verse 4 says, “That prudence (good judgment, astute common sense) may be given...” (AMP). The Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines *prudence* as “the ability to govern and discipline oneself by the use of reason; shrewdness in the management of affairs; skill and good judgment in the use of resources.” A prudent person is disciplined and a good manager. He won’t waste his money, time, energy, talents or his words. We see this in the following scriptures:

Proverbs 10:19 says the prudent person “controls his lips and keeps thoughtful silence.”

Proverbs 12:16 teaches that “the [arrogant] fool’s anger is quickly known [because he lacks self-control and common sense], but a prudent man ignores an insult.”

And Proverbs 31:16 describes the prudent woman as one who carefully considers new opportunities before making a decision and uses her time in ways that benefit her.

These are just a few verses that reveal ways you can be prudent. I want to encourage you to study them and look up others that will help you get more revelation of how you can be prudent.

Are you busy or fruitful?
 God created you to live on purpose, for a purpose! He has not called you to be busy – He has called you to bear good fruit! He’s given you free will so you can make good choices in every single area of your life.

It’s easy to get caught up in the busyness of everyday life in the world we live in today. We all need to take time on a regular basis to think about



how we’re spending our time so we can evaluate whether we’re being fruitful and making progress in the things we should be doing.

I like to do this before I go to bed at night. I think through the things I did that day to see what I accomplished. Doing this helps me discover anything that caused me to waste time and lose my focus on the things I needed to do.

Take time to honestly examine the way you’re spending your time. Pray and ask God to reveal things that need to change, ways you can make better choices that line up with His wisdom, and then lean on Him for the strength to make changes. You’ll find that as you make choices guided by the Spirit of God, you won’t end up with regrets – you’ll be fulfilled, peaceful and excited about how He is working in your life!

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prudence>, accessed January 26, 2023.

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s three-teaching resource Living on Purpose for a Purpose. 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.

3 steps to simplify tax prep so you can file on time

The deadline to file tax returns in the U.S. in 2023 is Tuesday, April 18. With that deadline looming, now is a good time to consider these three basic tax preparation tips, courtesy of the Internal Revenue Service.

1. Access your IRS account. Individuals can access or create their IRS account at irs.gov/account. That ensures taxpayers have the latest information about their federal tax account and enables them to see information about their most recently filed return. A visit to irs.gov/account also allows individuals to make payments and apply for payment plans, among other options.
2. Organize your tax records. The IRS urges taxpayers to wait to file their returns until they have all of their records, including:
 - Forms W-2 from employer(s)
 - Forms 1099 from banks, issuing agencies and others payers, including unemployment compensation, dividends, pension, annuity or retirement plan distributions
 - Form 1099-K, 1099-MISC, W-2, or other income statement if you worked in the gig economy
 - For 1099-INT if you were paid interest
 - Other income documents and records of digital asset transactions, including convertible virtual currency and cryptocurrency, stablecoins and non-fungible tokens (NFTs)
 - Form 1095-A, Health Insurance Marketplace Statement, to reconcile advance payments or claim Premium Tax Credits for 2022 Marketplace coverage
 - IRS or other agency letters
 - CP01A Notice with your new Identity Protection PIN
3. Check your Individual Tax Identification Number. The IRS notes that an ITIN only requires renewal if it has expired and is needed on a federal tax return. An expired ITIN can delay the processing of a return, which in turn can delay tax credits and refunds.

Taxpayers filing with the help of a licensed tax professional are urged to contact that individual to inquire about any additional information they may need to file a return on time. Make such an inquiry well in advance of the deadline to file so you have sufficient time to gather all of the necessary documentation.

More information about filing taxes is available at irs.gov.

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BOYS

Monte Vista 50	Cotopaxi 44
Sierra Grande 61	Antonito 41
Moffat 65	Creede 43
Sanford 68	South Park 14
Sangre de Cristo 67	Centennial 50
Pagosa Springs 60	Centauri 41
Alamosa 62	Ignacio 43
Custer County 53	Del Norte 41
Crested Butte 60	Sargent 42
Alamosa 75	Bayfield 55
Centauri 50	Ignacio 33
Del Norte 70	Moffat 25
Sierra Grande 64	Creede 22
Liberty Tree Academy 58	Antonito 47
Sanford 57	Custer County 43
Sierra 54	Sangre de Cristo 33
Sierra Grande 48	Primero 36
La Veta 54	Sangre de Cristo 40
Sierra Grande 53	John Mall 36
Monte Vista 50	Cotopaxi 44
Sargent 48	Center 37
Centauri 55	Montezuma-Cortez 43

GIRLS

Creede 48	Moffat 17
Sierra Grande 60	Antonito 33
Sangre de Cristo 66	Centennial 43
Sangre de Cristo 50	Swink 33
Sierra Grande 44	Creede 23
Antonito 57	Liberty Tree Academy 20
Del Norte 64	Moffat 20
Sierra Grande 61	Primero 34
Sangre de Cristo 67	La Veta 36
Sierra Grande 68	John Mall 18
Custer County 44	Centennial 39
Del Norte 46	Custer County 29
Sanford 46	South Park 18
Monte Vista 44	Cotopaxi 16
Sanford 45	Custer County 16
Crested Butte 36	Sargent 30
Center 37	Sargent 30
Alamosa 55	Ignacio 43
Centauri 43	Pagosa Springs 39
Centauri 52	Ignacio 26
Alamosa 57	Bayfield 22
Centauri 75	Montezuma-Cortez 35

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Saguache County Clean Commute Challenge begins Feb. 1

By EVAN SAMORA AND SARAH KOEHN FREY

SAGUACHE COUNTY — Thanks to a Saguache County sales tax grant, a Saguache-based community group is partnering with the Northern Saguache County Library to start a “Clean Commuting Challenge” in Saguache County.

Participants in the Saguache County Clean Commute Challenge (that’s SCCCC!) are paid to replace their oil powered drives with clean means of commuting- to work, the post office, grocery store, etc.

Allowable “clean commuting” is defined as a human powered means of transportation, whether it be walking, bicycling, skateboarding, etc.

The Saguache County Clean

Commute Challenge program goals are simple: to encourage people to commute cleanly, promote life-improving habits, and to reach an initial goal of accumulating four carbon credits through the TerraQuest phone application.

Participants will track their clean commuting mileage using the TerraQuest phone application and will receive an incentive of \$.50 per mile to commute cleanly in addition to the TQX crypto token provided by TerraQuest. Payouts will occur on a regular basis, the frequency of which will depend on the number of participants.

According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 23.5% of the residents

of Saguache County suffer from obesity. Risks associated with obesity are numerous and negatively impact many aspects of a person’s life, increasing the risks of debilitating disease, including diabetes, heart disease, cancer, joint damage, depression, etc. Gunnison County has an obesity rate of only 7.2% and Chaffee County higher at 14.8%; both of which are significantly lower than Saguache County.

The communities within Saguache County are all small enough as to be easily traversed by a clean human powered travel. Despite this fact, a great majority of people choose to drive a fossil fuel-powered vehicle to travel the short distances within the communities to their destination.

Human-powered forms of transportation burn calories, raise metabolism, improve mental health, and provide people with a perspective of the world that they do not obtain looking through the windshield of a car.

The average car produces one pound of carbon emission per mile driven, between burned fuel to travel and the energy input required for the production of the vehicle.

The Saguache County Clean Commute Challenge operates on the premise of offsetting carbon emissions by using a clean means of commuting. Our challenge goal is 4 carbon credits (4 metric tons of carbon emissions), or 8,810 clean commuting miles. Reaching this goal keeps 8,810

pounds of carbon emissions from being deposited into the atmosphere.

“We would like to thank the Saguache County Commissioners for their decision to fund this program,” organizers stated.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

• The Saguache Clean Commute Challenge begins Feb. 1 and utilizes a phone application created by TerraQuest.

• Download the TerraQuest phone application from either Google Play or the App Store.

Create an account.

• Go to Programs, enter the invitation code “scccc2023”.

• Track your clean commutes using the TerraQuest app.

Public comment period open for SLV Region Hazard Mitigation Plan

CONTRIBUTED

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The San Luis Valley Region and its six participating counties — Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache — are in the final stages of a planning effort to assess risks from natural, human-health, and human-caused hazards and to identify ways to reduce those risks.

A planning process that began in February 2022 has resulted in a draft update to each county’s existing Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) in one cohesive, regional plan, stated Bobby Woelz, director of Saguache County Office of Emergency Management.

An HMP is required under the

Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 to be eligible to receive certain federal disaster assistance and grants for hazard mitigation projects.

The plan is available for public review and comment Jan. 30 to Feb. 14. Following the public comment period, the plan will be submitted for final approvals and ultimately adoption by all involved jurisdictions.

Download the Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OvSLfg_cLcMm5x3j48nZ9czpNtv9v1P8/view?usp=sharing.

Submit public comments here: <https://forms.office.com/r/Ecz2id0Pyj>.

People are enjoying Winter Barn Dance and Social Series

CONTRIBUTED

The Winter Barn Dance and Social Series has been “a hog-killin’ time” for those who love to dance, or just want to get out of the house and have something fun to do during the winter months.

San Luis Valley residents Eric and Amy Dean began hosting the dance events this year, which began in Saguache and then moved to other public community buildings throughout the Valley, to try to make it as easy as possible for Valley residents to be able to attend.

As Amy put it, “The Valley is a big place, and winter driving can sometimes be a challenge.”

Amy thought of the idea during the winter of 2021, after businesses were beginning to reopen and people were tired of feeling “couped up” and wanted something fun to do.

She said, “she wanted to do something that was positive, created a good and clean family atmosphere, and would allow the community to come together.”

Amy admits Eric kind of got roped into it, but together they made the idea a reality and it has been well received by all who have attended.

The couple plays dance music through their sound system, and rooms are decorated in a “barn dance” theme with lots of twinkling lights.

Fresh popcorn, water and coffee is available at no charge, and additional refreshments are available. Names are drawn from a hat throughout the evening for door prizes.

The next dance will be on Feb. 24 at the High Valley Community Center in Del Norte. All dances take place on a Friday night and run from 7 to 10 p.m. The final event of the series will be in March, and as Amy put it “will go out with a bang! It will be extra special, so watch for details!”

Eric and Amy would like to give a great big “thank you, part’ners!” to all who have supported them and their dances this year and are looking forward to another fun season next year.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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 application form 5” 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.

The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing at the Saguache County Courthouse located at 501 – 4th Street, Saguache, Colorado, on the following date:

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 2023 AT 1:00PM

to consider public comment on possibly adopting a Saguache County Nuisance Ordinance.

To view the proposed changes, you may contact the Saguache County Land Use Department – PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov, or by calling 719-655-2321 or you may view the changes on our website at www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov. Written comments will be accepted until Friday, February 3rd, 2023 at 3pm, and may be sent to Saguache County Land Use Department at PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or email to atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov.

By: Tom McCracken, Chairman
Chairman, Saguache County Board of Commissioners

No. 1661 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, January 26 and February 2, 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.

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.

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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:
- 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

Contest will have Coloradans decide state's 150th anniversary license plate

CONTRIBUTED

LAKESWOOD — Coloradans have a chance to help make history by voting in the Historic Colorado Contest, which opens on Feb. 1.

Until then, the Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles will share more than 90 contest submissions from the Under 13 division that were named honorable mentions.

The DMV will honor the young Coloradans by sharing the graphics over the next nine days on the DMV's Facebook and Twitter as well as the Historic Colorado Contest's webpage.

"We were thrilled with all the hard work and creative thought that went into all the submissions, particularly from young Coloradans," DMV Senior Director Electra Bustle said. "This is a fun way we can honor the effort Colorado's future dedicated to the state's 150th Anniversary License Plate."

The Historic Colorado Contest first asked residents to design, and ultimately vote on, the Centennial State's 150th anniversary license plate.

Coloradans can vote at DMV. Colorado.gov/HistoricColorado from Feb. 1 until Feb. 15. There Coloradans will be able to vote in two different divisions — 13 and older, and younger than 13. The winning design of the 13-and-older division will be used to make the 150th anniversary license plate.

After the votes have been tallied, Gov. Jared Polis and the DMV will unveil the chosen design as well as present both winners with a \$1,000 grant as well as a commemorative license plate.

Coloradans should visit DMV. Colorado.gov/HistoricColorado, for more information. The 150th Anniversary License Plate is expected to launch in the fall.

The Historic Colorado Contest is a low-cost effort to honor Colorado's history and 150th anniversary with a commemorative license plate.

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 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.



Courtesy photo

Elk photographed at sunset near Elkhead Reservoir.

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Photo by Diane Drekmann

Alamosa's Herbert Marx lived through the Holocaust. His family died in the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Alamosa's Marx recalls surviving the Holocaust

BY DIANE DREKMANN

ALAMOSA — Eighty-eight-year-old Herbert Marx is a lively gentleman who is clearly interested in Germany and soccer.

Marx was an eyewitness to the atrocities committed by Hitler and the Nazis during World War II. Marx was born in Karlsruhe, a small German town, while Hitler was in power.

Herbert's mother, Selma, was Jewish, and had to wear a badge identifying the family as such. When Marx was 6 years old, Nazis came into his town, loaded him, his mother, grandmother, and three aunts into a railroad car used to transport cattle.

"I can still remember the smell," Marx said. He said after two days of travel, they were taken to a concentration camp in Gurs, France, near Toulouse. The man he thought was his father, David Marx, was not Jewish, and therefore not sent to the concentration camp.

"One day, Catholic nuns took me away," he said. "I found out they were French Resistance Fighters. We went over the mountains like 'Sound of Music'."

Marx went to several orphanages, until arriving in Bex-les-Bains in the French area of Switzerland. He found out later he was spared because his mother sacrificed her body in exchange for the life of her son.

In 1946, the International Red Cross came to the orphanage and informed Marx he had lost his entire family was killed in the gas chambers at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Marx had an aunt and uncle in New York, Leopold Marx and Johanna Bender, who had immigrated to America before Hitler came into power. Marx spent the remainder of his childhood in New York and New Jersey with his aunt and uncle.

After high school, he was drafted and became a private in the US Army. The Army wanted Marx to sign a document which would make him an American citizen because Marx had valuable skills as an interpreter, being fluent in German, French and English.

Marx became an American citizen in August 1955, and was stationed in Germany. Marx fondly remembers, "I re-enlisted after two years for love. My first wife, Ida, was Catholic. The Army did not allow us to get married because I was Jewish. We got the special blessing from the Pope to get married, but not from the Army."

Marx was stationed near his hometown of Karlsruhe. He remembered his address from childhood before the war, went there, and discovered a man living there named Berthold Palmert, who he learned was his biological father. That was his only communication with this man.

Marx spent 20 years in the Army, and 20 years at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Marx worked for the Secret Service for 26 years. Six years were spent at Peterson AFB. Marx raised his seven children in Colorado Springs.

Throughout the twists and turns of his life, one constant has been soccer.

Please see MARX on Page 3

Coffeehouse opens in San Luis

BY DIANE DREKMANN

SAN LUIS — There is a new restaurant and coffee company in San Luis. After months of planning, the San Luis Coffee Company opened Jan. 20 during a snowstorm.

Despite the cold weather, the inside is warm and inviting, with the aroma of coffee in the air.

One is first drawn to penny floor. How many pennies were used?

"That is secret. And will be revealed in a contest in the future," said owner Kathleen Aragon.

Her manager, Chastity, and long-time employee Justin saw a penny floor in Texas and owners David and Kathleen Aragon thought it was a great idea.

Originally from Wisconsin, Kathleen met David in Colorado. David Aragon has deep roots in San Luis.

"We wanted to be here in the Valley and start a business in San Luis because David's family is from (there)," Kathleen said.

The San Luis Coffee Company is open 7 days a week from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Aside from serving a variety of coffee, coffee drinks and doughnuts, the restaurant also has made-from-scratch panini sandwiches and sweet treats, like biscochitos and blondies — a blonde brownie with chocolate chips.



Photo by Diane Drekmann

After months of planning, the San Luis Coffee Company opened Jan. 20.

"We use organic ingredients whenever we can," Kathleen said. "The coffee comes from many countries around the equator, like Peru, Colombia, Guatemala, Ethiopia, Honduras, and San Salvador. We work with small farms that practice fair trade and provide living wages."

San Luis Coffee Company roasts the coffee beans on-site, then packages and sells them.

Kathleen is excited to be able to create jobs.

"The idea is to do something, to be a part of the community," she said.

A wall of the restaurant will be dedicated to local artists, who can showcase and sell their work.

The Aragons want San Luis Coffee Company to be a gathering place. In a side room of the restaurant, they hope "...to have a business center with computers, printers, and be able to offer business classes."

For more information, call 414-559-0061.

Adams State Migrant Education Program receives SLV Federal Bank donation



Courtesy photo

The San Luis Valley Federal Bank Board of Directors approved a donation of \$1,000 to the Adams State University Migrant Education Program (MEP). Pictured, left to right, Kyle Burnett, SLV Federal Bank Marketing Officer; Edgar Martinez, MEP; Mark Bechaver, SLV Federal Bank CEO; Karla Guaderrama, MEP; Diana Morales, MEP; Marisa Aguilar, MEP; Alfonso Nuñez, MEP; Esmeralda Martinez, MEP Director; Diana Gonzalez, MEP; Walter Roybal, SLV Federal Bank Commercial Loan Officer; Minga Francisco, MEP; and Joe Martinez, SLV Federal Bank President.

D Mountain Parks and Recreation continues to seek funding

RG County approves \$25,000 request from group

BY LYNDIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — Representatives from D Mountain Parks and Recreation met with Rio Grande County Commissioners on Wednesday, Jan. 18, to discuss plans for Voss Field and Centennial Park which are also known as the Del Norte Athletic Fields.

D Mountain Board members Karie Lichtenfeld and Grace Young gave a brief update on work that has been done at the fields in the past year and shared the hopes of the organization as they move forward.

Lichtenfeld stated that the organization has met with the Town of Del Norte and gained support for future projects at DNAF that will continue to improve the area for public use. According to Lichtenfeld, the meeting with the town went great and D Mountain has their support.

"We met with the Town of Del Norte's Trustees on Jan. 11, 2023, and they approved our request to support



the application to MLB-YDF in the amounts of \$9,000 cash and \$6,300 in-kind," stated Lichtenfeld.

Major League Baseball's Youth Development Foundation (MLB-YDF) has invited D Mountain to submit an application for grant funding that would help with costs associated with improving the baseball field at Centennial Park.

"They liked our letter of inquiry, and they invited us to apply with a full application. A requirement of their grant, unlike GOCO, is that you have to have 50% of the cost secured. We are asking the county for a little bit more money than we have before for this reason," explained Young.

Originally, D Mountain requested about \$15,000 from the county to help with costs to improve the baseball field and surrounding park, but now, with the request to submit a full application to the MLB-YDF for the potential of more funding, decided to ask for an additional \$10,000 in order to meet the required 50% secured funding.

If the application for the MLB-YDF is approved, D Mountain will then be asked to submit a full grant request. According to Young, they would know whether they were approved to submit

a grant request through MLB-YDF by mid- to late-February.

"We are sure that the invitation to submit a full application to MLB-YDF will greatly increase our chances of being asked to submit a full proposal to GOCO. Luckily, we will know whether MLB-YDF has awarded us the grant by the end of February, beginning of March when they hold their next board meeting. If we get the

grant, this means that we will be able to have more funds for the baseball field that we will integrate into the GOCO grant application. However, we must have a local match of at least 50% for MLB-YDF," explained Young.

Young added that even if they do not get funding through MLB-YDF, D Mountain is still applying for grant funding through GOCO which will help with improving the ballfield and

park. The hope is that D Mountain will secure both funding sources and be able to finish the proposed improvements much faster than previously hoped.

Rio Grande County Commissioner Scott Deacon motioned to give D Mountain Parks and Recreation the \$25,000 request, it was seconded by Commissioner Tyler Ratzlaff and passed by Commissioner Chairman Gene Glover.

BLM plans two pile burns in San Luis Valley

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — The Bureau of Land Management is preparing to conduct pile burns in two locations this winter, with exact dates to be determined by weather and fuel moisture conditions. Pile burns are conducted each winter to remove dead wood and other flammable materials from forested areas. This process is critical to maintaining the health of the forest ecosystem and to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, BLM officials noted.

- Biedell – 3,000 piles. Legal Location: T43N R6E sections 21 and 22. Piles are large hand piles and the surrounding fuel type is Ponderosa Pine, Douglas fir, Aspen, and grass. The project is located on BLM lands 8 miles north/northwest of LaGarita, two miles north of the Lime Creek subdivision on Saguache CR 42K.

- Macintire Mansion piles – 2 piles. Legal Location: T35N R11E section 7


and 18. There are two machine built piles containing Cottonwood debris from the protection of the old mansion and debris from maintaining ditches. The project is located on BLM lands four miles east/northeast of Sanford.

Pile burns may continue through April. Smoke from the pile burns will be visible throughout the day of a burn, mostly during the warmest part of the day. With cooler temperatures in the evening, smoke may linger and accumulate in low-lying areas. Notifications of confirmed burns will be published on the BLM Colorado Fire Facebook and Twitter accounts, which can be found at www.facebook.com/BLMColoradoFire and twitter.com/BLMColoradoFire.

According to the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division, "Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health." For more information, see www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health.

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~ Paul K., Google reviews

Skiers flocking to Wolf Creek



Courtesy photo

Wolf Creek Ski Resort is reporting a total of 235 inches of snow for the year, bringing them closer to their average of over 400 inches. The resort is in full swing, and skiers are flocking to the area to hit the slopes and enjoy the fresh powder.

MARX Continued from Page 1

“Soccer is my life,” Marx exclaims. Marx has been an international referee for soccer for 30 years. He is still a proud member of the German Soccer Federation, with a Deutscher Fussball-Bund banner on his door along with a banner of his favorite team, FC Bayern Munchen. Marx is also a member of the United States Soccer Federation.

Marx explained the process of refereeing. There are different referee levels. Each level has different patches.

“You can move up the ladder and get promoted,” he said. “At each level, there are assessments. Are you qualified to appreciate the games?”

Marx began coaching elementary children, eventually becoming an assessor and assigner-assigning officials to games.

Marx has been a referee for high school soccer and college. A college referee is considered a professional because they are paid. The rules are slightly different for each.

“I am the only international referee who ejected a head of state from a game,” he said. “I was referee for a girl’s soccer game in Colorado Springs when President George Bush came jogging by. He was in town for some event. I ejected him!”

Marx shared one of his most special memories.

He and his wife Ida were having their 50th wedding anniversary. Ida was in poor health and on life support. The soccer community had 2,000 special gold coins minted. One side with both their faces, names, anniversary date of Sept. 30, 2006. The other side had one of Marx’s famous sayings, “Gotcha!” when a player makes a penalty. Marx was also known for “Time for a Beer” when it was halftime. The special coins were and are still being used today for coin tosses at the beginning of games.

Marx retired as an international referee when he was 80 years old. Marx settled in Alamosa to be close to his daughter, Sandie Wehe.

A few years ago, coming over La Veta Pass, Marx was involved in a head-on collision, resulting in brain surgery. Doctors used part of his hip to repair his skull. His “black-, orange-, yellow-striped German blood” saved him, he jokes.

Today, Marx is single and enjoys an active lifestyle.

In July 2022, Marx went to the Social Security Administration to see about receiving \$255 burial allowance to bury his last wife, Shirley. The Social Security Administration informed Marx that “they had no

record that he was an American citizen.” The naturalization papers from August 1955 were too old. The Social Security Administration took Marx’s naturalization certificate and sent it to Homeland Security.

Marx sent an email to Congresswoman Lauren Boebert, asking for assistance with the Social Security Administration to verify his citizenship. He has a current American passport.

Marx has shared his story in a YouTube video titled “From Holocaust to Freedom.”

“In 1996,” Marx said, “Steven Spielberg enterprises’ staff came to my home in Colorado Springs and made a 2 1/2-hour tape of my life. That tape is in the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C.”

People often ask Marx, even today, if he hates the Germans for killing his family.

“The German people did not kill my family. The Nazis did,” Marx said. “The German government censored everything, and the German people did not have any idea what was going on.”

International Holocaust Memorial Day is Jan. 27.

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07 Help Wanted

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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 Office 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-

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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 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)

POLICE OFFICER – The City of Monte Vista is seeking qualified applicants for position of Police Officer. Applicants must be POST certified as a Colorado Police Officer. Selected applicants must be able to pass a physical, physiological evaluation, pre-employment drug test and extensive background check. Must

be able to work shifts. Starting salary \$44,720-47,320 DOE plus excellent benefits and retirement. A \$5,000 hiring bonus is available with a two-year commitment. See hiring agreement for details. Application and complete job description may be found at www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov If you have questions, please call the HR Office at 719-852-8284 or email to hrmanager@ci.montevista.co.us Open until filled. EEO/ADA (2-1)

12 Houses for Rent
House for rent, Del Norte, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, all appliances including washer and dryer. \$1,250 plus utilities. No animals. 303-667-8265. (2-8)

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36 Miscellaneous
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54 Snowmobiles/ATV's
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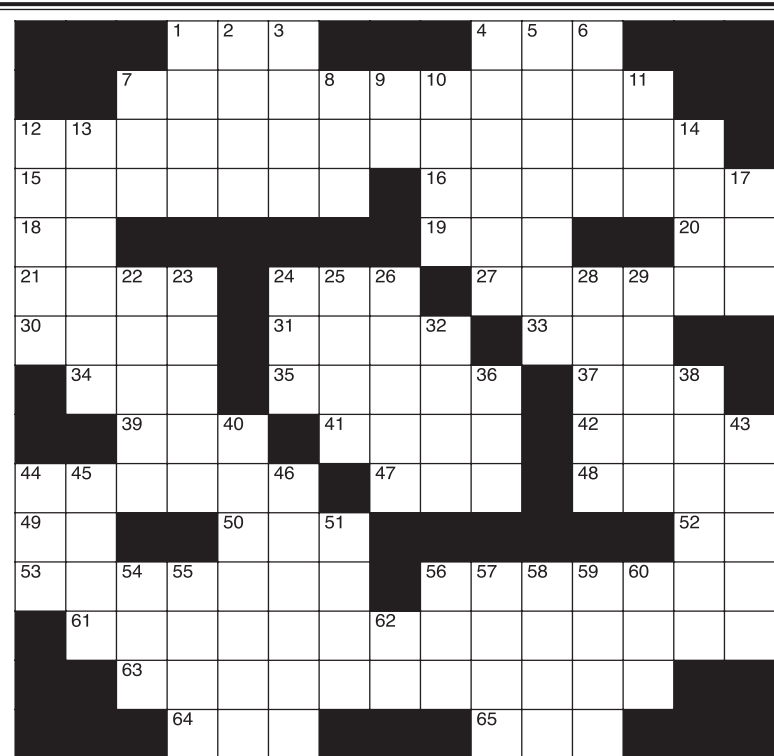


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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Unhappy
 - Clairvoyance
 - One who works under you
 - What happens there stays there
 - Not ingested
 - Got the picture
 - One thousandth of a gram
 - Breakfast item
 - About
 - Tall deciduous trees
 - Safe keeping receipt
 - Cowardly
 - Pueblo people of New Mexico
 - Herring-like fish
 - A very large body of water
 - Angle (abbr.)
 - Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
 - White clerical vestment
 - Cool!
 - Matchstick games
 - Thick piece of something
 - A state that precedes vomiting
 - Burned item residue
 - Jaguarundi
 - Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
 - The home of "60 Minutes"
 - Dorm official
 - Give cards incorrectly
 - One who is learning the job
 - Popular R.L. Stevenson novel
 - Attentively



- CNN's founder
- Criticize
- Fijian capital
- Assist
- Elected lord in Venice
- The capacity of a physical system to do work
- 2012 Oliver Stone film
- Parent-teacher groups
- Midway between south and southeast
- Moved quickly on foot
- Handheld Nintendo console
- "Top of the Stairs" playwright
- Electronic data processing
- "Dog Day Afternoon" director
- Leaned
- About aviation
- Mountain is a popular type
- Lake along Zambia and Congo border
- Heroic tales
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- "Star Trek" villain
- Hand gesture popular on social media
- Renters have one
- Tubular steel column
- Database management system
- Similar
- Providing no shelter or sustenance
- Death
- What a sheep did
- Midcentury Asian battleground
- Horizontal passage into a mine
- Mortified
- Improper word
- No seats available
- Financial obligation
- It can be hot or iced
- Tough outer skin of a fruit
- ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
- Misfortunes
- Negative
- Camper

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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Four behavioral health projects serving rural Colorado funded by \$200k in competitive CDA grants

CONTRIBUTED
BROOMFIELD — The Colorado Agricultural Commission has approved funding for four projects through the new Rural Mental Health Grant Program. The Colorado Department of Agriculture will distribute nearly \$200,000 in funding to improve how mental and behavioral health services are delivered across Colorado's rural communities.

"Farm and agricultural stress comes from so many different sources, yet there is a stigma around accessing services. Whether you're dealing with the effects of climate change, anxiety and depression, struggling after deployment, or wrestling with other symptoms, rural communities have unique needs and need more opportunity to access services that can help," said Commissioner of Agriculture Kate Greenberg. "The number of applications the program received shows there is an extreme need across Colorado to support mental and behavioral health services in our rural communities."

The Colorado Department of Agriculture received 55 applications for organizations serving 63 of Colorado's 64 counties, requesting more than \$3.3 million in funding with the average request of approximately \$65,000. The Rural Mental Health Grant Program was funded by a one-time appropriation from the Colorado General Assembly during the 2022 legislative session.

The grants were considered by a review panel, which included a member of the Agricultural Commission and experts in mental and behavioral health services. Review criteria included evidence of funding impact and demonstrated need of target populations. The review panel issued recommendations for funding, which were approved by the Colorado Agricultural Commission.

The four awarded applicants are:

- Community Health Initiatives will provide resilience and skills training to at-risk communities in Western Colorado, serving military, first responders, cancer patients, and aging adults and their families. The training teaches families practical skills to help them meet the challenges of military life such as deployments, stress, injury, and other transitions. Total grant amount: \$61,000.

- Loving Beyond Understanding, Inc. will increase availability and quality of care and services for LGBTQ+ community, including trans and nonbinary people, by providing counseling sessions to youth and parents. The project also

funds cultural competency training for existing medical professionals and other service providers who interact with LGBTQ+ people in rural communities in Western Colorado. Total grant amount: \$61,000.

- Northwest Colorado Health will increase access to direct and indirect behavioral health services during primary and dental visits, while assuring providers maximize

clinic time. Serving Routt and Moffat county, this funding will allow NCH to increase patient care and outreach to rural and agricultural communities. Targeted plans will be developed in collaboration with community partners such as the CSU Extension Office, the Community Agriculture Alliance and local 4-H Clubs. Total grant amount: \$27,500.

- Project Protect Food Systems Workers will distribute care kits and perform mental and behavioral health outreach to agricultural workers across the state. The goal of the project is to increase awareness of services and reduce stigma associated with seeking mental and behavioral health services among their target demographic, which includes low income, Spanish-

speakers. Total grant amount: \$50,000.

The four projects will touch 34 rural Colorado counties and provide services to several different at-risk and underserved populations including: agricultural workers, LGBTQIA+ youth and families, veterans and emergency responders, and cancer patients and their families.

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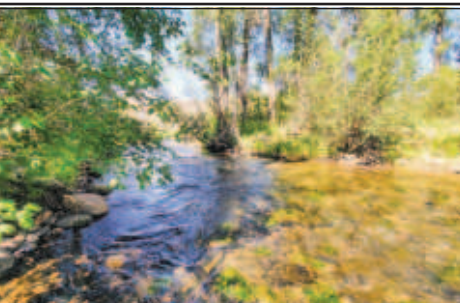
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2951 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork
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Must See Custom-Built 5,350 sq. ft. Commercial Property in Fabulous South Fork, CO. Great Highway 160 exposure!! This building is extremely well built. The building 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 3/4 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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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
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FOR SALE!

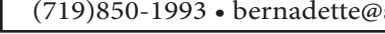
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with beautiful furnishing, accessories and decor. The kitchen with eat in counter, gorgeous custom cabinetry, granite countertops and butler pantry is your dream kitchen for entertaining your family and friends. Separate office space off the dining 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

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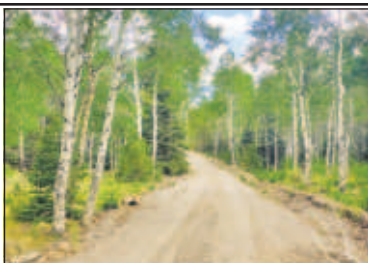
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Vest Drive
Vests for Veterans
Warm Hearts, Warm Homes!
Drop off a new or gently used women's or men's vest. Stay for a cup of coffee and sign up or call for a Free Home Market Evaluation with Bernadette Gingrass

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FROM 'FOR SALE' TO 'SOLD'
Steffens & Company Realty, INC
719-850-1993
Bernadette Gingrass, Broker Associate
30635 US Hwy 160 • South Fork
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This South Fork Beauty checks all the boxes, both his and hers - and is a fun place for family and friends. Custom built Log home tucked in the trees and backs up to the National Forest. The property has a beautiful view and Mighty Rio Grande with world class fishing. The property, the main floor consists of an open area with beautiful carved mantel stone fireplace, custom stained-glass ceiling. Stunning entrance to behold! Custom designed beautiful designer backplash and large eat in counter space overlooking over the living area with custom soft close cabinets and plenty of storage and room for all your entertaining. Kitchen has wonderful large butler pantry with pantry sink and beautiful custom stained-glass door. The Detailed Check Boxes include radiant floor heating with four zones and two Rinnai on-demand water tanks. Light Touch lighting system and electrical in the floor. Master bedroom is on the main floor with sitting area with luscious mountain views. Master bath with beautiful large tiled walk-in shower. Guest bedroom and bath will close automatically with additional sleeping areas including office space and additional large size bedroom with barn door and bath. Enjoy your 3-car garage with large workshop and more than enough room for all your mountain toys. Your family and friends will love the upstairs bungalow above the garage with kitchenette, living area, built-in beds additional bedroom and bath. Bring your family and friends to gather to enjoy the great outdoors! Boarders National Forest, with streams, creeks, lakes rolling topography, open fields, pine, fir, aspen trees, mountain views and abundant wildlife! Beautifully designed home tucked peacefully into the woods and easily accessible to town, Wolf Creek Ski Area and the Rio Grande Golf Course Resort. Once in a lifetime Opportunity! This property perfectly captures the best of both worlds between outdoor recreation and exceptional entertainment. Start your dream and Call/Text me to schedule your personal showing today! \$1,395,000 MLS #796960

37 Million Court • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
(719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com