

Shorts

Blood drive on Feb. 1 at Del Norte High School

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte National Honor Society is hosting a blood drive with Vitalant from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Feb. 1 in the Del Norte High School Library. Anyone interested in donating will need to contact Katie Turner at ktturner@urtigers.co to schedule an appointment.

Monthly Del Norte Food Bank Distribution Jan. 21

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Food Bank will be open for its monthly food distribution from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21. The Del Norte food bank serves Del Norte and South Fork and is situated in the alley behind the Pioneer United Church at 630 Spruce St., Del Norte. Anyone in need of food assistance is welcome.

Adams State BOT meets Friday

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Board of Trustees will meet at 8:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 20, in the Richardson Hall Board Room, located on the third floor.

Members of the public who desire to address the Board must sign the "Public Comments" sheet prior to the meeting convening.

4UR Ranch, SJNC hosting ski, snowshoe event Feb. 4

CREEDE — The 4UR Ranch and San Juan Nordic Club (SJNC) are hosting a free cross-country ski and snowshoe event from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4, at the 4UR Ranch.

Cross-country ski lessons for all levels start at 10 a.m. and run until noon. After lunch there will be a skate-ski lesson. This is a rare opportunity to experience the beauty of the privately owned 4UR Ranch.

Bring lunch and a camp chair to sit by the fire and enjoy a short talk before the afternoon skiing. The SJNC will provide hot drinks and all the grooming of the ski trails. Membership dues and donations are appreciated to keep equipment and volunteer groomers running.

Go to sanjuannordic.org to sign up for ski lessons, where to rent skis, and driving directions. The event may be canceled due to low snow.

Moffat BOE concerned about security

BY PATRICK SHEA

MOFFAT — During its regular meeting on Jan. 16, the Moffat Board of Education heard results from a new auditing firm. The board also went through second readings of policy documents, approved boiler improvements for the school, refined wording for the district's "Just and Fair" policy and considered tactics for security.

After adjusting the agenda, the board received financial audit results from Jessica Bogner from Wall, Smith, and Bateman Inc. This was the first year Bogner's firm audited financial statements for the Moffat School District. The analysis comes from data

as of June 30, 2022.

"In our opinion," Bogner read from the report, "these financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with our standards. This is what we call an unmodified opinion. This is the type of opinion that you want."

Bogner explained that they did not give an opinion on the district's internal controls. But for federal funds, they *Please see SECURITY on Page 6A*

The Moffat Board of Education scored high marks on its audit and discussed safety and other issues on Jan. 16.

Photo by Patrick Shea



Marron's roots sink into Saguache ground

BY PATRICK SHEA

SAGUACHE — Newly elected Saguache County Commissioner Liza Marron has been active in the San Luis Valley for 35 years.

Born outside of Cleveland in Parma Heights, Ohio, Marron was the oldest of three children. Her family moved to Davenport, Iowa, when she was in third grade. She had her first horse at age 14.

"I loved living there," Marron recalled. "My first job was de-tasseling corn. I've always loved the agricultural life. That was really a great place to grow up." In 11th grade, Marron's family moved from Iowa to Birmingham, a suburb of Detroit. She graduated from Wylie E. Groves High School and attended Michigan State University. To pay for her third year in college, Marron



Photo by Patrick Shea

Sworn in on Jan. 10, newly elected Saguache County Commissioner Liza Marron shook hands with District 12 Judge Amanda Hopkins.

took a summer job on the west side of Rocky Mountain National Park.

She was 19 years old and said she "had an amazing experience and fell in love with Colorado."

Marron stayed. She joined the Young Adult Conservation Corps and worked another year before taking a job at the Snow Mountain Ranch *Please see MARRON on Page 6A*

First week on the job, Rep. Martinez has been 'a little busy'

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Matthew Martinez, newly elected Colorado state representative for the San Luis Valley and District 62, has only been in office for five days, but he has hit the ground running.

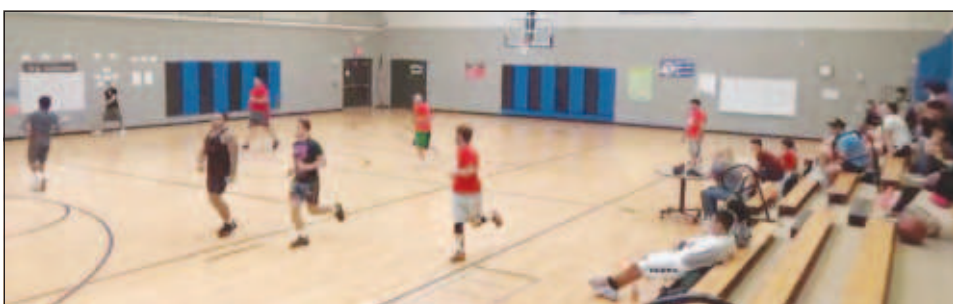
Despite a schedule that sounds not unlike a 10-cities-in-5-days tour that just happens to take place beneath the gold dome of the State Capital, the former Marine and director of Adams State University's Prison College Program has already introduced one bicameral piece of legislation with four more bills on the way.

"It's been a little hectic," he says, "but it's good. It's really good."

Rep. Martinez's first piece

Please see MATT on Page 7A

CPD charity basketball tournament



Photos by Patrick Shea

Members of the Hose Draggers referred to the tournament bracket for their next game during the charity basketball tournament at Center High School on Jan. 15. Games ran on two gyms at Center High School for the charity basketball tournament on Jan. 15. Raising funds for a family recently displaced by fire, the Center Police Department hit the hardwood with more than a dozen teams in their charity basketball tournament on Jan. 15. The Center Police Department faced a group of youngsters from Del Norte during their charity basketball tournament on Jan. 15.

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Second robbery reported in less than a week

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — A second “armed” robbery in less than a week is under investigation by the Alamosa County Sheriff’s Department.

Officers were dispatched to Dollar General, 366 Santa Fe Ave., about 9 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, where employees said an unknown male dressed in red hoodie and grey sweatpants, and wearing a medical mask, got away with \$620 in cash. The suspect approached the cash register as if to purchase an item

and pulled out a small pocketknife and demanded the money in the register. Employees complied with the demand and the suspect fled on foot. Deputies arrived on scene and canvassed the area as well as using the ACSO K-9 unit to track the suspect.

Sheriff Robert Jackson said the robbery has some similarities to an armed robbery at City Market on Jan. 10.

The Alamosa County Sheriff’s Office is investigating this incident and is requesting assistance from the community in identifying the suspect in the surveillance photo. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Alamosa County Sheriff’s Office at 719-589-6608 or Colorado State Patrol Dispatch at 719-589-5807.



Courtesy photo

The photo taken from surveillance video shows the person the Alamosa County Sheriff’s Office suspects of robbing a Dollar General in Alamosa on Jan. 15.

OBITUARIES

Orville (Jay) Roberts

Longtime Valley resident Orville (Jay) Roberts, 76, passed away on Jan. 11, 2023. He was born on Aug. 21, 1946, in Nampa, Idaho, to Lauren Phillip and Loretta Marie (Finneran) Roberts.

As a young man, Jay served in the United States Coast Guard during Vietnam. He married Laura Alice Monez on July 31, 1965, in Denver, Colo. Jay owned and operated Park Ave Liquor and Terry’s Liquor for many years before starting a Napa Parts store in Llano, Texas. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, exploring the mountains on his side by side, flying his RC model planes and traveling the world with his wife.

Jay is survived by his wife of 57-plus years, Laura Roberts of Alamosa, his children Larry

(Shanna) Roberts of Monte Vista and Sherry (Preston) Warren of Marble Falls, Texas, his grandchildren, Matthew (Brittney) Roberts, Jordon Roberts, Cameron Roberts, Tyler Jay Roberts, Kaitlynn Roberts, Bailey Roberts, Joshua (Ashley) Johns, Amanda (Kerry) Soileau, Samuel Farrell and Carter Farrell, his great-grandchildren, Briar Soileau, Oliver Jay Johns and Ellis Soileau and numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Merv (Barbara) Roberts and Wayne Roberts, nephew Danny Roberts, and niece Cindy Goggins.

Cremation was selected and a memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023, at the



Alamosa Christian Reformed Church in Waverly.

To express condolences or to view a video tribute, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com. Rogers Family mortuary in Alamosa is in care of the arrangements.

Carolyn Lou Kimball

Monte Vista resident Carolyn Lou Kimball, 93, passed away on Jan. 6, 2023. She was born on July 12, 1929, in Harrisville, W. Va., to Chester William and Alberta Marion (Lambert) McKitrick. She earned her bachelor’s degree in nursing from Ohio Valley School of Nursing in Steubenville, Ohio.

Over her many years of nursing, she worked locally at the Alamosa Hospital, the Del Norte Hospital and was the school nurse for the Del Norte School District. She was an avid Avalanche and Bronco fan and was a member of the Monte Vista Methodist Church.

She is survived by her son James (Charlene) Blankensop II of Monte Vista, her grandchildren, Jason, Heather, Jamie, C.J. III, and

Kristan, her great-grandchildren, Jessica, Cameron, Ryan, Trevor, Hunter, Dakota, Donovan, Halia-j and Mia, her sister Sharon D’Angelo, her niece Terri Andrews and her cousin Bert Webster as well as numerous other extended family members.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her parents, her daughter Lessa McDaniel, her sister Lois Coletti and her brother Tommy McKitrick.

Cremation was chosen and a memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 20, 2023, at the Monte Vista Methodist Church. Contributions are suggested to the Monte Vista Methodist Church and may be made in care of the funeral home office.

To express condolences, please



visit www.rogersfunerals.com. Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista is in care of the arrangements.

State fire agency announces Community Risk Reduction Week 2023

CONTRIBUTED

LAKESWOOD — The Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) is taking part in Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Week. CRR Week is a grass-roots effort by an informal group of fire safety professionals from across the nation.

The goal of CRR is to reduce the occurrence and impact of emergency events for both community members and emergency responders.

CRR Week 2023 kicks off on

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a National Day of Service, which was Monday, Jan. 16. CRR Week runs through Sunday, Jan. 22.

The idea is to help promote the awareness of CRR within the fire service by having a week where everyone can do CRR programs and demonstrate its importance to the fire service.

Follow CRR on social media via YouTube, Facebook and Twitter @CRRweek. Learn more at crrweek.org.

Randi Kay Scherer



Randi Kay Scherer passed peacefully in her sleep in the early morning of Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022, in her bed at the Scherer’s cabin home in the Big Horn Mountains outside of Buffalo, Wyo., at the age of 70.

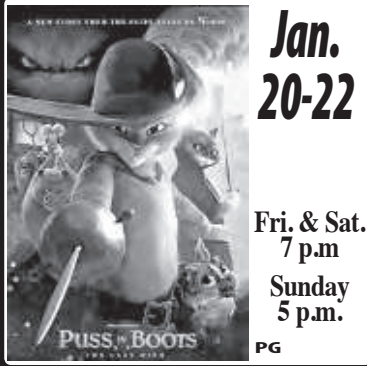
The memorial service will be held on Saturday, Jan. 14, at 3 p.m. (MST) at Journey Church in Gillette, Wyo., 3601 Southern Dr., Gillette, WY 82718.

Please visit www.MountainViewMinistry.faith, for additional details. For online condolences, please visit www.harnessfuneralhome.com.

PART-TIME SALES

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

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Kyle Rigenbach Named to SNHU Dean’s List

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Kyle Rigenbach of Monte Vista has been named to Southern New Hampshire University’s Fall 2022 Dean’s List. The fall terms run from September

to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s

List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire

University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with a 90-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Travel 2023 style

This week finds Miss Trixie and Ol' Dutch traveling in the great State of Texas as her dad had to have heart surgery in, of all places, Amarillo, Texas.

I don't know if you have ever been out that way or not but let me tell you the wind blows non-stop, and the jack rabbits carry backpacks because it's so far between places. It's a dry remote place yet still bustling with activity from the oil strikes of past decades.

Having made the journey with a short overnight stop with Gidget and Moon Doggy at Wichita Falls, we finally fought our way across the open plains and found the hospital. Ol' Dutch, contrary to his normal tight fisted Scottish heritage, sprang for a nicer hotel and like most places these days, it came with a free breakfast. As all of you know from last week's rant, there's no such thing as a free lunch and this certainly holds true for breakfast too as it's all figured into the cost of the room.

I have to say they did put on quite a spread with egg and sausage, biscuits and gravy, cereals by the pull knob, Texas shaped waffles and a newfangled robot pancake maker. Ol' Dutch usually has to make himself a Texas waffle even though I do not eat it just because I like the process of seeing that contraption do its thing. But I resisted and maybe I have hit my waffle watching limit I don't know.

Miss Trixie, however, found the robot pancake maker and we stood mesmerized as the machine made perfect non-burned golden cakes spitting them out the end like a cow eating green hay. Big nice flat golden-brown patties. I guess country folk coming to the city do stand out?

Ol' Dutch, ever the social animal, found a tiny table in the corner away from anyone else that awarded me a view of all the people coming and going for their free breakfast. And I was rewarded for choosing such a seat as they came in a mad rush for the plentiful food scattered around like a Weight Watchers On the Wagon convention.

What I began to notice was all the people coming to eat in their jammies and sweats. Here we had everyday normal people who would normally never be seen in public in this state of undress, parading around like the Miss Universe Pageant sans the talent portion save for one old gal who was sucking down sausages like a contestant in a weenie eating contest. Boy could she ever suck sausages.

All of them had their hair scattered



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

about their noggin in a classic bed head design and there was no make-up to be seen on any of them. Now I am not saying some of them were ugly but Ol' Dutch, a 30-year veteran of the railroad, feared that the sight of some of them near the tracks would make a train take a dirt road.

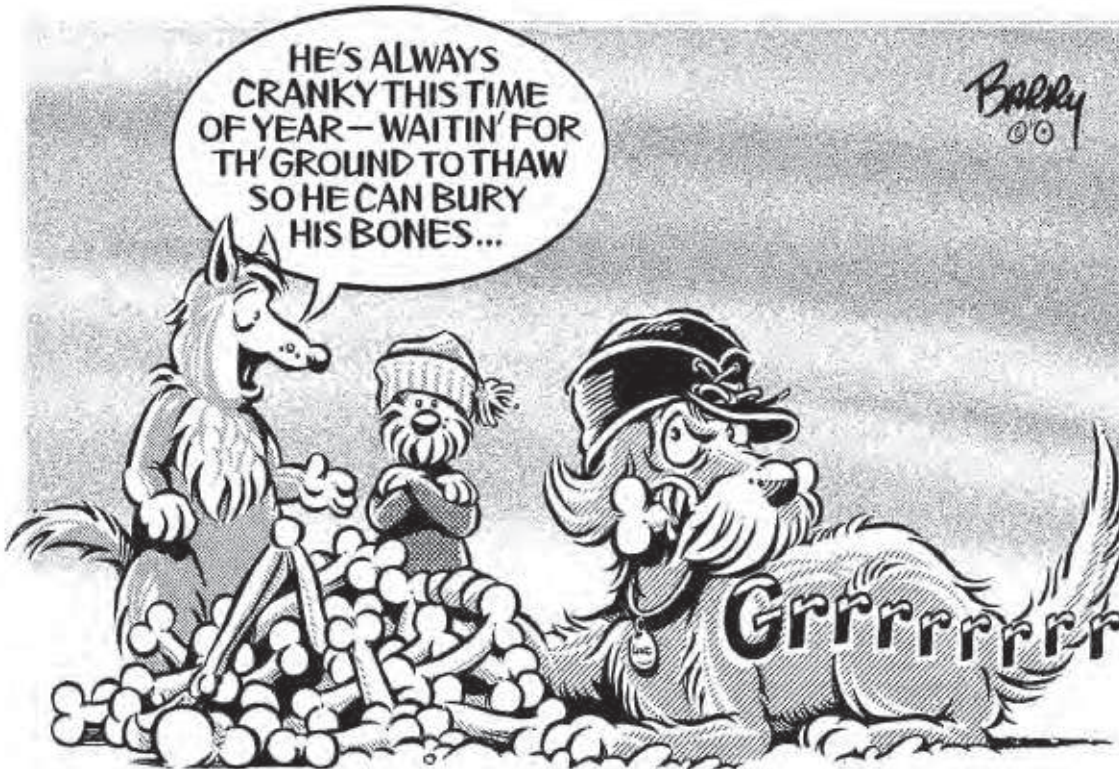
Which got me to thinking-a risky proposition according to Miss Trixie-that maybe, just maybe it would be a good idea if people who were dating could each book a room at a hotel like this and then meet in the morning bright and early without all the preparatory war paint and pageantry of normal dating life.

That way we get by all the false advertising that a person comes across during the mating dance and get right to the "how do you look in the morning" phase. That would later save a lot on arguments, therapy, joint counseling, church going and divorce lawyers. Let's just cut to the chase and thereby find out just how bad it might be and see what we can live with right from the git-go.

So here we sit waiting for news about Trixie's dad and hopefully we can start home again tomorrow. If not and we have to stay over the weekend, Ol' Dutch remembers taking a wrong turn here, which is called normal for me, and driving past the First, Second, Third and Fourth Baptist church on that same street.

You may laugh at that, but someone once said, "There are more Baptists in Texas than people", and this just proves that point most clearly.

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.



LETTERS

An open letter to the BoCC and Saguache County residents

Editor,

It is encouraging to read that the Saguache County Commissioners are taking corrective steps as recommended in the most recent audit of county finances.

Audits can be challenging, and rightly so. Audits provide valuable insight and focus for improving how governments provide programs and services.

Annually, independent auditors examine bank statements, bookkeeping records, and financial transactions to determine the validity

and reliability of the information presented by the various county departments.

The SC Board of County Commissioners are responsible for the presentation of accurate financial information. They also have the burden of allocating adequate funds to ensure the various departments under their oversight have the resources they need to complete the process of providing services to the citizens. Audits can be a valuable tool of verification and analysis to aid the county in fulfilling obligations of service.

Audits of local governments aid in building public trust. To achieve a culture of accountability, local governments need to be aware of areas where there is a lack of accountability.

I take this opportunity to recognize that the commissioners are taking steps and implementing the corrective actions discussed with the auditor at the meeting on Sept. 19, 2022.

Accountability in local government is more important now than ever before.

*Lisa Cyriacks
Saguache County*

Del Norte Food Bank thanks community for support

Editor,

Volunteers at the Del Norte Food Bank extend our gratitude to all of the local businesses and organizations that supported the Del Norte Food Bank in 2022: Pioneer United Church, Del Norte Bank, Mountain King Potatoes, Lowe's

Market, Del Norte, Del Norte Family Dollar, South Fork Dollar General, Edward Jones, Del Norte Branch, Val Alto, Del Norte Rotary Club, Del Norte VFW Post # 8121, South Fork Kiwanis, South Fork Church of Christ Youth Group, Alamosa Food Bank, La Puente and Care and Share

of Southern Colorado.

In addition, there were numerous individuals who supported us with both monetary and food donations. A big thank you to you all. We could not have operated without you.

*Morag Hunt
Del Norte Food Bank*

YOUR NIGHT SKY

Orion's Winter Circle

Since the full moon was on Jan. 6, it will start to get dimmer now making the sky easier to look at. The new moon will be on Jan. 21. I love snow, and we're finally getting some since last year was a massive drought.

Venus and Saturn are next to each other, and you should be able to see them. Just look in the southwest an hour after

the Sun sets. Jupiter is in the East and is also bright. It's just a matter of how low it is which lets us see it, because we have a lot of mountains. Mercury is low in the SE, and you should be able to see it 45 minutes before Sun rise.

Now that the constellation Orion the Hunter is standing up straight in the sky, you should be able to see the Winter Circle going around him. His left foot star Rigel is part of the Winter

Circle. I usually tell you about this every winter. It contains a total of seven very bright stars. It is 65 degrees high and 40 degrees wide.

The top star is Capella, and the bottom star is Sirius, which is the brightest star in our sky. There are two stars on the right and three stars on the left. It is a large object and covers almost half of the southern sky.

To observe it, first find Orion. Then

look below him and to your left. That's where you'll find the bright star Sirius. Then look to the left and start going up. The first bright star you'll see is Procyon. A little farther up you'll see the pair of Pollux and Castor. They're the head stars of the constellation Gemini the Twins.

Then look above them to your right. That's when you'll find the upper star Capella which is very high in

the sky. Then start looking down on the right to find Aldebaran which is the Bull's eye star. A little below that you'll see Orion's left foot Rigel. Now you've seen all the stars. The best time to look for them is 8 or 9 p.m. So go out and have fun looking at the night sky!



BY DARLENE DANKO

CENTER POST-DISPATCH

THE CENTER POST-DISPATCH (USPS 775-900) Published weekly (every Thursday) by Valley Publishing. (719) 852-3531 at 835 First Ave., Monte Vista, Colorado 81144-1423. Official newspaper of the Town of Center, and a legal newspaper in Saguache County.

Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144

Main office, Want ads and Subscriptions: (719) 852-3531

Periodical postage paid at Monte Vista, Colo., 81144

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144

Subscriptions: \$45 one year in the San Luis Valley; \$40 one year seniors (65 and older) in the San Luis Valley; and \$55 one year out of the San Luis Valley. (719) 852-3531

News Media Corporation website: <http://www.newsmediacorporation.com>

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River restoration near Alamosa benefits fish, birds, and hikers

By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA — Last fall, the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP) partnered with the City of Alamosa, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to stabilize streambanks, restore riparian areas, and enhance aquatic habitats along the river on Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge.

The (RGHRP), is a non-profit organization founded over 20 years ago with a mission to restore the Rio Grande River and watershed health. The group works to improve the function of the Rio Grande and provide high-quality water throughout the river, support existing agricultural lifestyles, and contribute to groundwater recharge.

In September of last year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed detritus along the river and hauled away 24 old cars, 20 household appliances, numerous tires, and tons of concrete.

According to Emma Reesor, executive director of RGHRP the group had previously worked with the city in restoration efforts along the river in the Alamosa Riparian Park. After that successful effort, RGHRP studied the river downstream and began work on the site near the wildlife refuge.

Grants were obtained from state and federal agencies and from the non-profit American Forests.

Cooley and Sons Excavating of Mosca was retained for excavating, channel and bank shaping, and the instillation of rock and habitat structures. The company planted young willow trees along the river.

The restoration efforts also include areas along the river owned by private individuals.

“Additional work has been done further downstream, extending the benefit [of restoration] to the river as a whole. From a restoration perspective, it is really important to look at that big picture. It was great the private landowners were interested and excited to partner with us; it really made the project bigger and more impactful,” according to Reesor.

Both the native Rio Grande chub and Rio Grande sucker will benefit from the restoration efforts said Reesor. The sucker was largely extirpated from its historic range and has since been re-introduced.

The area is open to the public and can be accessed by the Toivo Malm trails maintained by Alamosa Parks and Recreation. The trails are located off South River Road in Alamosa, about a quarter mile from the Alamosa



Photos by John Waters

As part of restoration efforts along the Rio Grande, these willow trees were planted to provide streambed stabilization and to provide habitat for a variety of birds including the southwestern willow flycatcher.

Recycling Center. There are several park benches along the trail where hikers can rest and take in stunning views of the river, the Blanca Massif and the Culebra Range. The trails offer excellent birding opportunities, and, on a hike earlier this week, Alamosa resident Marlys Hersey spotted a great horned owl and a bald eagle.

Alamosa COVID-19 community testing site continues ASU

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The COVID-19 community testing site at Conour Hall on the Adams State University campus will continue to offer testing five days a week, according to the Alamosa County Public Health Department (ACPHD).

The new days and hours of operation will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, starting Tuesday, Jan. 17. Testing will be PCR tests by nasal swab, with results being available in 48 to 72 hours.

To deal with the distance from the designated parking places in the Conour Hall parking lot, testing site staff will come to your car to do testing, if wanted. The phone number to request a staff

member come to the parking lot is 800-959-0465.

“It is important for citizens in the San Luis Valley to have access to no-cost PCR testing as well as having expanded testing already in place in case there is a surge in COVID-19,” said Beverly Strnad, ACPHD Interim Director. “We are fortunate to have partnerships with ASU and Mako Labs in order to provide this service, since state support of all community testing sites ended Jan. 15.”

Persons who have a medical provider, and particularly those at increased risk for severe illness, are encouraged to seek medical evaluation and testing with their provider. The community testing site provides a COVID-19 testing

opportunity in addition to provider testing and home antigen tests, which are widely available.

Community members are encouraged to have home antigen test kits, which are available at no cost, and utilize the community testing site if needed as well. If a home test is positive, it is not necessary to confirm with PCR testing, although some persons may wish to do so. If a person has COVID-like symptoms and a negative home test, it is a good idea to get a PCR test, as it is more sensitive.

For questions about COVID-19 testing or vaccination, call Alamosa County Public Health at 719-589-6639 or visit the San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership webpage at slvphp.com.



Restoration efforts led by the Rio Grande Headwaters Project include removing trash and detritus along the Rio Grande. Old cars and tons of concrete seen here along the river in the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge were carted away.

The Folly of Fickle Feelings

There are some people in this world who are extremely reliable. You can count on them for just about anything and somehow, they'll always come through. However, I've found that many people are not very reliable.

Maybe you know someone who is a nice person, but if you ask them to do something, you're just not sure if they're going to follow through. In other words, they're unreliable.

I've discovered that feelings are a lot like unreliable people—we can't depend on them to be what we want or need them to be all the time. Not only that, they aren't necessarily interested in what's best for us. And they always want to have their way.

Feelings get us excited about going shopping when we really don't have any money to spend. They entice us to eat cheesecake when we're trying to avoid extra calories and lead us to stay up late working or watching TV when we need to get up early the next day. Then after the damage is done, we have to deal with the consequences.

Our feelings are fickle—they change like the wind. Yet it's amazing how much we let them have their way in our lives. But as believers in Christ, we have something much better and more dependable to follow than our feelings—and that's the Word of God.

Conquering Confusion with the Truth

When we feel strongly about something in our heart, it's not always easy for us to determine whether or not we're really in agreement with God (see Jeremiah 17:9). Thankfully, God's Word doesn't leave us lost in confusion. Hebrews 4:12 says that the Word of God is “sharper than any two-edged sword...exposing and judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart” (AMP).

So, if we really want to rise above our feelings, we must let the Word of God be the final deciding factor in our

decisions. There will be times when we can't find a verse for the specific issue we're dealing with. But we can always pray and ask God for wisdom (see James 1:5).

In the meantime, we need to trust Him, be patient and keep on praying. Remember that God is always available to help us live *beyond* our feelings and do what pleases Him.

Set Your Mind to Do What's Right

The first step toward managing our emotions is found in Colossians 3:2. It says, “Set your mind and keep focused habitually on the things above...not on things that are on the earth....”

There are many things in this world that could easily affect our minds and emotions—and we need to learn how to rise above them all. When negative thoughts are building up and trying to take control of your emotions, take a few minutes to set your mind on God and His Word.

It also helps to speak positively about whatever is bothering you. Here are a few examples to give you an idea of what I'm talking about: “My family may not be everything I'd like them to be, but I am thankful I have a family. My house is not as nice as I would like it to be, but it's still a nice place to live. I don't see how I'm going to get through this painful situation, but Jesus is with me and He will help me overcome it!”

How to Win a Spiritual Tug-of-War

Sometimes we want to ask God to instantly change our circumstances when we're struggling. But the truth is until we learn to be content in every situation we face, we will continue to be tested.

Jeremiah 17:10 says, “I, the Lord, search and examine the mind, I test the heart, to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds.”

There are a few different “buttons” the devil knows he can push to get



an emotional reaction out of me, so I make a point to prepare myself before that happens with the Word. I love Psalm 94:12-13. It says, “Blessed [with wisdom and prosperity] is the man whom You discipline and instruct, O Lord, and whom You teach from Your law, that You may grant him [power to calm himself and find] peace in the days of adversity....”

You see, the more we discipline ourselves to say no to our feelings and yes to the wisdom of God, the easier it becomes to defeat them in a spiritual tug-of-war. I want to encourage you to consistently take time to focus on what the Bible says. It will empower you to control those unreliable emotions and do what is best for you!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching resource *Why Do I Feel the Way I Feel?* 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.

San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2022-2023

BOYS

Alamosa 52	Ignacio 30
Centauri 43	Pagosa Springs 38
Sangre de Cristo 55	Trinidad 49
Mancos 40	Sanford 37
Del Norte 64	Center 44
Cotopaxi 57	Centennial 47
Escalante NM 55	Sanford 54
Antonito 51	Creede 40
Cheraw 43	Sierra Grande 36
Centauri 60	Bayfield 41
Alamosa 74	Montezuma-Cortez 51
Del Norte 45	Cotopaxi 30
Las Animas 71	Center 49

GIRLS

Sargent 50	Creede 13
Sangre de Cristo 36	Trinidad 9
Centauri 40	Pagosa Springs 28
Alamosa 39	Ignacio 34
Del Norte 39	Center 30
Sanford 45	Mancos 27
Crested Butte 73	Creede 14
Cotopaxi 54	Centennial 39
Sangre de Cristo 68	Lake City 10
Alamosa 36	Pueblo County 20
Sargent 37	Dolores 26
Sanford 38	Escalante NM 33
Lake City 45	Moffat 41
Creede 41	Antonito 22
Cheraw 52	Sierra Grande 31
Centauri 61	Bayfield 17
Alamosa 74	Montezuma-Cortez 30
Center 41	Las Animas 37
Trinidad 32	Centennial 29
Sierra Grande 62	Lake City 23

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File photo by Keith R. Cerny

With questionable ice conditions due to unseasonable warm conditions, organizers of the annual Rio Frio Ice Fest may have to resort to a dunk tank again this year for the popular polar plunge when the festival unfolds in Alamosa on Jan. 27-29. Alamosa City Manager Heather Brooks is shown getting 'dunked' at last year's event.

Ice Fest will be ready for January thaw

Save the dates, Jan. 27-29

By Keith R. Cerny

ALAMOSA — The Valley's normal January thaw may throw a damper on some of the activities upcoming just two weeks from now when the 14th annual Rio Frio Ice Fest returns Jan. 27-29.

With warmer daytime temperatures the Rio Grande has a lot of open water and probably won't be suitable for the unique 5k race on a frozen surface. Organizers said the show will go on with a different race route that may include running on the Blanca Vista pond just north of town if ice conditions allow.

Those conditions could also impact a couple of Sunday activities, the popular polar plunge, ice carousel and ice skating on the pond. It will be a "game time" decision if those events are possible.

Organized by the City of Alamosa Parks and Recreation, Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce and "Visit Alamosa," the ice fest committee chose "The 90s" theme to give the festival a whole new theme and look. Several 1990s related events are planned as well as ice sculptures depicting that era.

New this year will be an "air band" competition sponsored by the Alamosa Kiwanis Club

Saturday afternoon on San Juan Avenue between Main and Fourth, headquarters for many events including the famous "Fire and Ice" bonfire at 7 p.m.

Festivities begin Friday night with race packet pickups at Milagros Coffee House at 6 p.m. and a cross country/luminaria ski event at Blanca Vista Park, again snow conditions permitting.

Race packet pickup continues Saturday from 8-9:30 a.m. at the Alamosa Senior Center in Cole Park, followed by the race start at 10 a.m. on the bordering Rio Grande. Race awards will be given at 1 p.m. on San Juan Avenue.

Ice carving demonstrations begin Saturday at noon downtown and the information tent will be manned from 12-3 p.m. at Main and San Juan Avenue. Weather permitting, the SOCO Ice Bowl disc golf tournament, will be from 12-2 p.m. Saturday at the disc golf course north of town.

The new "Rio Frio Flight" will offer drink and snack samples from 3-4 p.m. on San Juan, featuring a drink "luge", carved from a block of ice, and possibly an "ice bar."

Downtown merchants, restaurants and bars are planning to feature 90s music and possibly movies from the era and are encouraging attendees to wear their best 90s attire.

For more details, go to www.riofrioice.com or rioraces.com.

Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship program is seeking participants

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship program offers cancer survivors in the San Luis Valley the opportunity to participate in an individualized exercise program conducted in a group setting which meets three times per week for 10 weeks. The program provides Adams State undergraduate and graduate kinesiology students experience in fitness testing as well as guiding and supporting program participants throughout the exercise program.

The Adams State University Department of Kinesiology will continue important research on the benefits of several types of exercise on the physical, mental, and social health of cancer survivors. The program is funded through local support from the SLV Health Foundation, including the Larry Holder Memorial Golf Tournament, after recently completing a two-year grant from the Colorado Cancer Coalition.

All cancer survivors ages 18 years or older are welcome regardless of gender, type, or stage of cancer. This spring's research study begins the week of January 23 with appointments for individual fitness testing. There is no cost to the participant, but completing the entire twelve weeks of the study is crucial to ensure accurate results are obtained. The study consists of one week of pre-testing followed by 10 weeks of exercise, with post-testing starting the week of April 17. Federal and local COVID-19 guidelines for safe indoor activities



Courtesy photo

Participants in the fall, 2022 Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship program demonstrate a lunge position while stretching as part of cool-down activities at the end of class. The Adams State Department of Kinesiology is seeking volunteers to participate in the study this spring.

will be followed.

Every participant will take part in the exercise program and each individual, randomly selected following pre-testing, will be participating in either a resistance training circuit plus cardio training or yoga instruction plus cardio training. At the end of the study, group results will be calculated, and the groups will be compared for changes in fitness and overall health.

Interested participants are encouraged to attend a pre-registration meeting at 12 p.m. or 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 11;

or 12 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12; or 12 p.m. or 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19, in the Adams State East Campus Building, room 101. The East Campus Building is located on the corner of First Street and La Veta Avenue in Alamosa.

For more information, or for those who can't attend one of the scheduled pre-registration meetings, please contact the Adams State Kinesiology Department program coordinator: Inès Curti at 859-684-3511, or curtiines@gmail.com or Peggy Johnson at 719-589-0593, or pvjohanson@adams.edu.

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MARRON

Continued from Page 1A

YMCA camp near Grand Lake. She worked the front desk in the winter and dude ranch operations in the summer. "That was a wonderful experience getting paid to ride horses," Marron recalled. "We would ride six days a week, and on the seventh day we'd ride for fun with the crew."

Marron also became active in the Rocky Flats Truth Force and took regular trips over the Continental Divide to protest the nuclear weapons plant outside of Boulder. She recalled her days as a young student when she had to hide under the desk for nuclear drills. She made presentations at elementary schools in Granby and Kremmling to discuss nuclear proliferation.

After Snow Mountain Ranch, Marron worked on the Quaker Ridge Dude Ranch in Woodland Park. She also wrote for the Ute Pass Courier, covering city and county meetings and reporting news while producing her weekly horse-themed feature called "Hoofbeats." Marron's horse column touched on Ute Pass Saddle Club events, western style competitions, and ranch life in general.

Marron married and had two children in Woodland Park before moving to the San Luis Valley in 1988. Her husband was hired as a ranch hand for the High Meadows Buffalo Ranch near Center, and Marron was a co-wrangler mother.

The most dangerous task she could remember involved removing all the ear tags from the herd so they would look natural for a Busch beer Super Bowl advertisement. They worked seven days for an expensive 30 seconds on-screen.

Throughout the year, Marron helped herd the buffalo, run them through chutes, and vaccinate them.

"I worked outdoors from the time I was 19 until my first job at the Saguache County Department of Social Services," Marron recalled.

"This kind of feels like full circle because I started out my first office job," for the county, the new commissioner noted.

In 1997, Marron took a new job mentoring students for a nonprofit organization. She ran her "Pilots for Prevention" in the Center, Moffat, and



Photo by Patrick Shea

Newly elected Saguache County Commissioner Liza Marron signed her name after reading the oath with District 12 Judge Amanda Hopkins.

Saguache schools. Marron also bought her house in Saguache and went back to school at Adams State University. She earned a degree in Spanish and then received her master's in counseling in 2009.

When the funding for the school program ended in 2005, Marron put her muscle into Tom McCracken's Green Earth Organic Farm on the north side of Saguache. Along with her three children, Marron helped raise her niece and became a foster mother, ultimately steering eight people through childhood.

In 2009, Marron initiated the San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition with help from others. She became the executive director. More than a dozen years later, the coalition now supports 30 living-wage jobs and manages a \$3 million budget. As Marron adopts commissioner duties, a team of support will steer the organization.

Marron attended three days of training run by Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI) and County Technical Services Inc. from Jan. 11 to 13. They touched on land use, budgets, road and bridge, human services, public health, media, and legislation — basically all the departments in Saguache County government.

Marron inherited many of the responsibilities Tim Lovato handled. She will be the liaison for the Saguache County Museum, for example.

"We definitely had a peaceful transfer of power here," Marron said. "Tim has been a great mentor to me. I have great respect for him."

SECURITY

Continued from Page 1A

addressed internal controls because it exceeded \$750,000 during the fiscal year. Passing this threshold triggers an audit.

"Concealed Carry discussion" was the first item under New Business on the agenda.

"Today was a quick response from the county, but that was the first time ever," noted Joe Garcia, Moffat's Superintendent and Principal. Garcia notified law enforcement of a credible threat between students, and officers from the Colorado State Patrol and Saguache County Sheriff's Department responded quickly. They took statements and filed a case.

Garcia noted that three other schools in the San Luis Valley have dedicated personnel with a concealed carry permit. Whereas basic training for concealed carry authorization is not cheap, the four-day training for educator authorization costs four or five times more. Liability costs are also higher for school districts with dedicated staff legally permitted to carry a gun in the school. Educator permits require a higher level of authorization and training.

Board members found more cons than pros with the idea of storing a gun for an authorized employee to access in case of an emergency. They agreed this was not a discussion they wanted to have, but it needed to be addressed. Proximity to law enforcement creates added complications for Moffat.

Board member Bill Eastman said, "We're out here 45 minutes from having somebody show up."

Food Services Director and board secretary Tina Serna asked, "Are there other means of protection? Another way to deter the person to some degree?"

Tina Eastman said, "I wouldn't want to bring pepper spray to a gunfight."

Discussion of other options did not ensue.

"Our safety team did go to a crisis management training this past Wednesday," Garcia noted. "We're trying to get those things in place, whether it's a bomb threat or an active shooter and all the crazy things we talked about."

Tactically, they discussed scenarios that would require different solutions, depending on the location of the conflict.

"That's a discussion for our safety team to have. We've got to be on the same page," Garcia said.

Tina Eastman reiterated, "We have not been able to get the Saguache County Sheriff's Office to do any walk-throughs with us in the school this year for any safety planning."

The board will conduct a working meeting at Grammy's Kitchen on Jan. 23 to discuss superintendent evaluation and district boundary lines. With new population data, they need to refine the boundaries. The board will conduct their next regular meeting on Feb. 21, starting at 5:30 p.m.

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MATT

Continued from Page 1A

of legislation is "simple and straightforward." Titled "Department of Corrections Earned Time for College Program Completion", H.B.23-1037 will pertain mainly to Adams State University and the Pell Program for incarcerated students.

If passed, the bill will apply to non-violent offenders only who will earn one year off their sentence in prison for a degree earned from a regionally accredited college or university. The bill also allows non-violent offenders to earn six months off their sentence for every certificate earned.

"There's no upfront cost to the state, and that cost savings (from less time spent in prison) will be returned to the four colleges in the program — Adams State, Trinidad State College, CSU Pueblo and Pueblo Community College," he said.

The rest of the savings will go to the Department of Corrections so they can continue to offer educational opportunities for incarcerated students, he says.

"But here's the big thing. Pell grants — funded by the federal government, not the state — are coming back for incarcerated students in July 2023, so they'll actually have money to do this," Martinez added.

Part of the motivation for Martinez in writing the bill was getting some money into higher education institutions for doing what they're already doing without increasing taxes. The bill, if passed, will also expand colleges' student populations by educating students they wouldn't normally have access to.

"It doesn't just reduce the state budget, it re-allots that money to rural higher education institutions," he said.

Martinez cites his favorite statistic. "If an incarcerated student earns a master's degree while in prison, the recidivism rate is 0%," he said. "They become connected to education. They become productive members of society. They don't re-offend. That's a real statistic. It's amazing."

H.B.23-1037 was co-sponsored and introduced into the senate by Sen. Julie Gonzales (D).

Martinez's next bill addresses the implementation of Gov. Jared Polis' Green Energy Initiative that requires all city and county buildings to meet the 2016 building code by 2024. His legislation is asking for a 2- to 4-year extension for every city and county in the San Luis Valley, challenged by a state initiative that was required but unfunded.

"The cities and counties in the Valley are really struggling with that," he says.

Martinez is also working on a bi-partisan bill with Representative Anthony Hartsook (R-Dist. 44), who is also a veteran like himself. Currently, Martinez says, the VA is limiting veterans to three mental health visits a year unless they are in a crisis situation.

"After those three visits, by policy, they cut them off," he said.

Martinez says the policy was passed several years ago but was not implemented until this year.

Under Martinez's and Hartsook's legislation, veterans would be allowed to go to the behavioral health center, group or counsellor of their choice, and the state would reimburse those providers for up to ten visits a year.

"We want Colorado to take care of their vets," Martinez said.

Martinez is also partnering with Rep.

Barbara McLachlin of Durango (D), Chair of the Education Committee, on legislation that will allow for colleges and institutions to allow sabbaticals to staff members, such as program directors and above to attend additional training, conferences or to earn additional certificates for their position that will improve the students' educational experience.

"It doesn't force the colleges and institutions to do that. It allows them the freedom to implement that policy, if they can," Martinez said.

In response to a request for re-classification from Saguache County, Martinez has one more piece of legislation that he's writing with Sen. Cleave Simpson. He declined to discuss it further until he and Simpson are deeper into the process.

"I've been a little busy," he says and laughs.

Martinez has clearly been "a little busy." When asked how he's feeling, he says, "I'm still in awe of everything. I took it all in when I stepped on the floor for the first time on Monday for the swearing in ceremony. And I thought to myself, this is such a big honor to be able to represent everyone from the district. I thought, somebody from my background, raised by a single mother. We lived with my grandparents in their house until I was 13 years old. And now, being able to represent all the people in the district, I hope it gives hope and inspiration to others that have been in my situation that they can do this, too. I really want to be a good voice and a strong advocate for the district and to really bring our stories (to elected officials in Denver) and let everyone know what we're about in the Valley."

RGNF Divide District announces Five Below Timber Project

Public notice and comment periods beginning

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — The Rio Grande National Forest's Divide Ranger District announced Friday, Jan. 13, the development of the Five Below Timber Management Project. The proposed project would implement a variety of forestry treatments including even-aged timber harvesting. The project area encompasses 14,330 acres and is centered approximately six miles southeast of South Fork, Colorado, entirely within Rio Grande County.

The district ranger has determined that harvest openings larger than 40 acres are necessary to achieve desired ecological conditions in the planning area by managing at scales similar to those that could result from natural disturbance events.

"The project area is in need of new openings that will create an age-class diversity across the landscape," said Timber

Program Manager Kevin Duda. "Restoring varied ages of timber in forested areas promotes better forest health and resiliency while providing wood products to the timber industry." Duda added that the larger openings also serve to create a variability in wildlife habitat that will change as the forest matures.

The Five Below Timber Management Project proposal is currently being analyzed and reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations. An official comment period began with the publishing of the project's legal notice in the Valley Courier on Friday, Jan. 13.

To learn more about the project, visit the official project page that holds all published information on the project — www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=62319.

For more info on the project contact Duda at 719-849-0854 or kevin.duda@usda.gov.

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

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.

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US Highway 285 road cut questions answered

By **PATRICK SHEA**

SAGUACHE — Just south of Saguache on US Highway 285 where the foothills level out, a string of road cuts puzzle motorists unfamiliar with the highway's history. Why not go around onto the flat ground instead?

Before 1930, US 285 skirted the hills. South of Saguache, the highway ran east of the current route. Federal Aid Project 68-B funded the first cuts in 1931, but this left two rolling hills. In 1954, Federal Aid Project F025-1(8) flattened the rollercoaster to a consistent elevation of roughly 7,700 feet. This improved safety and made a straight shot to the junction of US 285 and Colorado Highway 114 without going through the streets of Saguache.

However, the cuts still obscure visibility and have been the site of accidents, including one fatal collision with a motorcyclist in the summer of 2022. Wildlife accounts for another number of collisions. The hay barns and fields on the east side of the road attract deer and antelope that descend and cross between the cuts, often when visibility is compromised.

Safety and efficiency ultimately

drove the road cut projects, but speculation about the reasoning echoes from locals and passersby. Wouldn't it be easier to just go around the hills?

Like many communities in Colorado, a straight road on the outskirts of town often earns the name "Gunbarrel." Other than a bend near the Korean War Memorial and Saguache County Road T, US 285 runs straight to Saguache from the Gunbarrel Station outside of Center. Some residents cite the gunbarrel theory for making the road cuts.

Others guessed private property issues forced the route around the fields south of Saguache.

Anecdotally, other people thought the cuts helped with flood mitigation during times when the blue waters of Saguache breached the surface.

Perhaps snow management drove the decision to level the road. Did motorists get stuck on the hills?

Questions will likely continue for people driving through the cuts for the first time. But one criticism can be dismissed. The path through solid rock was not the original design. The current route has its own safety issues, but it resolved other dangers.



The road cuts on US Highway 285 south of Saguache puzzle motorists who look east at the flat terrain where no cutting is required.

Photo by Patrick Shea



'Armed' robbery at City Market

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — A masked individual claiming he was armed robbed City Market about 7:45 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10, and reportedly got off with \$972 in random US currency, fleeing on foot eastbound.

The Alamosa Police Department reported that upon arrival at the store they were told that an individual walked into the store wearing a red, black and white "Levi's" hooded sweatshirt and a white facemask. The suspect handed the store clerk a note which indicated that he had a gun and was demanding money. Reports indicate that a gun was not seen during the incident.

APD is actively investigating this incident and is requesting assistance from the community in identifying the suspect in the



accompanying photo.

If anyone has any information, contact the Alamosa Police Department at 719-589-2548 or Dispatch at 719-589-5807. If spotted, do not attempt to approach the suspect, instead, contact one of the two numbers listed above.

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Courtesy photo

Wolf Creek Ski Area received several inches of new snow for the new year and is fully open.

Wolf Creek Ski Area fully open after series of storms

CONTRIBUTED

WOLF CREEK PASS — The sky has been mostly overcast and snowy the last seven days at Wolf Creek Ski Area in Southern Colorado much to the delight of skiers and boarders. A 22-inch storm helped to end 2022 with a bang; quickly followed by a New Year's Day storm that gifted an additional 40 inches of powder. Yet another new storm has rolled in the last 24 hours, leaving 7 inches of new snow, with continued snow through the remainder of the afternoon. Conditions are powder and packed powder with excellent conditions and extensive grooming

throughout the mountain. The steady storm pattern has increased Wolf Creek's all-natural midway base to 83 inches. All lifts are operating from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with all terrain open. Special events at Wolf Creek pick back up Sunday, Jan. 8, with the Fun Race Series. The modified giant slalom course is free to skiers and boarders with the purchase of a lift ticket. All ages and abilities are welcome to take on the race course. Ms. Monday's Ski and Snowboard Clinic returned Monday, Jan. 9, and is also open to all ability levels. The clinic offers lady skiers and boarders

a two-hour morning lesson and a full-day, all-mountain lift ticket for the special rate of \$107 for adults or \$88 for seniors. An excellent, qualified female instructor will teach the morning lesson. Baby Boomers, ages 50 and older, have a chance for the same packaged deal at the Forever Young Ski and Snowboard Clinic. The morning lesson will be instructed by a professional Baby Boomer instructor. Pre-purchase for clinic series is available at shop.WolfCreekSki.com. Lodging information can be found, along with the most up-to-date snow report, by visiting WolfCreekSki.com.



File photo

The Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show is expecting nearly 100 vendors for the trade show.

Registration open for the 41st Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference and Trade Show

BY LARRY BROWN
CSU Extension, SLV Area Ag Business Agent

MONTEVISTA — Learning never stops for modern-day agriculture producers. And the challenges and learning curve for farmers and ranchers keeps getting steeper. The Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show is unique among farm shows because it is a major educational event — with a trade show attached. The three-day conference is Feb. 7-9, in Monte Vista, at the beautiful, new Outcalt Conference and Event Center at SLV Ski Hi Complex. This is a hallmark event for delivering

relevant information to ag producers because the program is planned jointly by a committee of producers, industry representatives, CSU Research professionals and CSU Extension. The trade show is planned by a similar agribusiness committee working through the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce. Participants can register for a single day or for the full three days. "Our core cause in CSU Extension is to continually provide these critical learning opportunities, and everything we do in SLV Area Extension is designed to foster healthy youth and families, prosperous farms, ranches. **Please see SHOW on Page 2**

Results of 65th Monte Vista NWR Christmas Bird Count released

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge held its annual Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 17, 2022, in the San Luis Valley of south-central Colorado. Fourteen people (five teams) spent a total of 7 party hours and covered over 220 miles on the count. Weather conditions during the day were brisk with sunny skies and no wind. The day started out at 8 degrees below zero fahrenheit and rose to a balmy 31°F. The teams covered most of the 176 square miles of circle. This year's numbers were average. A total of 48 species were documented and 2,379 individuals, which is low. Sixty-three species is still the record. Best birds were Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, and Cassin's Finch. A Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen during count week. The information was sent to the National Audubon to be included in the National Christmas Bird Count. Via website (www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/) people can access

and see counts from previous years. Audubon also has a new tool called "Where Have All the Birds Gone" — www.audubon.org/conservation/where-have-all-birds-gone. "Thank you to all of you who helped with this year's count, see you next year on Dec. 16, 2023. Encourage all backyard feeder watchers to participate next year," officials stated. The following is a summary list of species and individual numbers of each that were documented during the 2022 event:
American Coot, cw, Eurasian Collared-Dove, 72, Peregrine Falcon, 1
American Crow, 22, European Starling, 502, Pine Siskin, 1
American Goldfinch, 16, Ferruginous Hawk, 1, Prairie Falcon, 2
American Kestrel, 5, Great Blue Heron, 1, Red-breasted Nuthatch, 10
American Tree Sparrow, 26, Great Horned Owl, 11, Red-tailed

Hawk, 39
American Wigeon, 30, Green-wing Teal, 3, Red-winged Blackbird, 138
Bald Eagle, 5, Horned Lark, 94, Rock Pigeon, 88
Belted Kingfisher, 1, House Finch, 71, Rough-legged Hawk, 4
Black-billed Magpie, 161, House Sparrow, 524, Song Sparrow, 48
Black-capped Chickadee, 7, Mallard, 58, Steller's Jay, 20
Brewer's Blackbird, 22, Marsh Wren, 2, Townsend's Solitaire, 2
Canada Goose, 257, Mountain Chickadee, 16, Western Meadowlark, 4
Cassin's Finch, 1, Mourning Dove, 1, White-breasted Nuthatch, 5
Clark's Nutcracker, 10, Northern Flicker, 11, White-crowned sparrow, 6
Common Raven, 41, Northern Harrier, 6, Yellow-headed blackbird, 1
Dark-eyed Junco, 32, Northern Shrike, 1, Yellow-rumped Warbler, cw



Red-tailed Hawk photographed by John Rawinski.

RGNF featuring ‘Avalanches on the Rio Grande’ in the next Forest Specialist Series

MONTE VISTA — The Rio Grande National Forest and San Juan Mountains Association are back for another year of hosting the online Forest Specialist Series. Matt Huber, Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) Forecaster, is the featured speaker

this month, 5 p.m. on Jan. 25. Huber is back again this year to share about local avalanche conditions. He has worked with CAIC since 2018 and currently focuses on highway avalanche safety on the southeast side of the San Juan Mountains. The online program will be

held in partnership with the San Juan Mountains Association. Visit the Rio Grande National Forest website or Facebook page for event information.

This event is part of the Rio Grande National Forest’s Forest Specialist Series, a once monthly online presentation to share information with our community. We hope you’ll

join us to learn more about your local public lands. The Rio Grande National Forest Website is www.fs.usda.gov/riogrande.



File photos

The Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show is set for Feb. 7-9 in Monte Vista at the Outcalt Conference and Event Center at SLV Ski Hi Complex.

SHOW

Continued from Page 1

and businesses, and strong, resilient, proud communities”, explains Larry Brown, SLV Area Extension Agriculture Business Agent and Director, and Agriculture Conference co-chair. The theme of the conference this year is “Surviving and Thriving – A Conference on Resilience and Sustainability.”

The educational program covers a wide variety of topics for potato, livestock, and alfalfa producers, as well as alternative crops research, and soil and water management.

The sessions begin Feb. 7 with legislative, industry, marketing, and pesticide applicator updates by professionals from Rocky Mountain Farmer’s Union, National Potato Council, and Potatoes USA.

They continue with sessions on potato production practices, varieties, and disease control by researchers and educators from Colorado State University and Oregon State University.

There will also be demonstrations of potato equipment by a local dealer, and breakout sessions on estate and succession planning, and Ag Producer health.

Feb. 8 is a day for soil health featuring Jimmy Emmons as the keynote speaker, a crop and livestock producer from Oklahoma who has seen his production and profitability improve significantly since implementing practices to rebuild his soil health.

It also features Oregon State Associate Professor Kenneth Frost discussing SCRI Soil Health practices for potato fields, and a panel of producers, consultants and scientists on building soil health using cover crops without grazing, and forage crops with grazing.

The afternoon sessions continue with cow-calf and ewe nutrition, calving and lambing workshop, and a livestock market outlook update for ranchers. Simultaneously there will be sessions for farmers on raising Camelina, rye, millet, dry beans, and other low water use alternative crops, and the economics of two versus three alfalfa cuttings in the face of limited water and high-water costs.

In addition, the Monte Vista Co-op will be demonstrating their drones, and there will be a demonstration on virtual livestock fencing.

Feb. 9 will begin with a weed control panel and a livestock vaccination panel. It will continue with a water theme including a 20-year review



The Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show has informational sessions on all three days, Feb. 7-9.

of river flows and climate on the upper Rio Grande, an update on the Aquifer Recovery Bill by Sen. Cleave Simpson and culminate with a panel of producers who have successfully implemented production practices resulting in water savings.

There will be private applicator training in the afternoon taught by a private consultant.

And then there is the trade show, featuring nearly 100 vendors offering a multitude of products and services to farmers and ranchers alike. Several of the vendors are also sponsors of the conference at various levels, and a complete list of these sponsors will be published when they are finalized and will be recognized at the conference.

Two hours’ time is allowed each morning prior to the educational sessions for producers to visit the trade show vendors, as well as several break times throughout the day.

Breakfast and lunch are served to participants and vendors all three days, and a social hour the first two evenings. These meals are sponsored by local banks and businesses, which will also be recognized individually as their sponsorships are finalized.

For information on registering for the educational sessions, call or email Larry Brown, SLV Area Extension at 719-852-7381 or L.Brown@colostate.edu.

For information on registering as a trade show vendor or becoming a sponsor, call or email the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce at 719-852-2731, chamber@montevistachamber.org or Kay Harmon, Conference Co-chair at 719-852-5638 or kay@ksaccounting.net

Up to date conference information and registration for both the educational conference and trade show can also be found on the official website, www.agconferencesrm.com.

Conour

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

All Senior adoptions are half off for the month of January, help our old friends spend their Golden Years in love and comfort!

JohnBoy is a unique guy who we believe is a Husky/Pittie mix 2 years old. He’s a very high energy young man who



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\$29 Keep Colorado Wild Pass now available to Coloradans during annual vehicle registration

CONTRIBUTED
DENVER — Nature enriches the Colorado culture, and with the newly released Keep Colorado Wild Pass, all Coloradans can easily access state parks and play an integral role in keeping the landscapes healthy for local communities and future generations.

Starting with the upcoming 2023 vehicle registrations, Colorado residents will see a \$29 Keep Colorado Wild Pass added to their annual vehicle registration through the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The \$29 pass fee is included in the vehicle registration price total of passenger vehicles, motorcycles, light trucks and recreational vehicles unless opted out during the DMV vehicle registration process.

The Keep Colorado Wild Pass offers a 60 percent savings in comparison to a traditional annual state parks pass. The pass provides car, bike and foot entry into Colorado state parks. To find a Colorado state parks map, visit the CPW Park Finder Tool. Money raised from pass sales will be used to support local:

- State park systems
- Search and rescue teams
- Avalanche safety programs
- Wildlife conservation efforts
- Outdoor accessibility and educational opportunities

The goal is to generate at least \$36 million annually. The first \$32.5 million will go toward state park maintenance and development, the next \$2.5 million will go toward search and rescue teams and \$1 million to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center. Any revenue beyond that will go to wildlife projects and outdoor educational programs. Read the 10 pass funding goals at: cpw.info/keepcoloradowild and cpw.info/keepcoloradowildpassspanish.
 “Whether you use the pass to visit state parks or just want to show support for wildlife programs and outdoor first responders, your contribution helps protect the outdoor lifestyle our communities treasure,” said Colorado Parks and Wildlife Acting Director Heather Disney Dugan. “Our agency is excited to offer affordable access to parks through this conservation pass and we are grateful for our state’s desire to invest more into protecting our great outdoors.”

Residents can get or opt out of the pass every year when registering a passenger vehicle, light truck, motorcycle and recreational vehicle with the DMV online, through a kiosk, by mail or with a customer service representative in person.

The pass is not transferable between vehicles and is linked to a specific license plate and registration card. When purchased, a Colorado Parks and Wildlife logo will be printed on the vehicle registration card which gives access to state parks when presented at park entrance stations.

“Choosing the Keep Colorado Wild Pass when registering your vehicle is a great way to support our state park system, search and rescue teams, and much more,” said DMV Senior Director Electra Bustle. “Being able to register your vehicle and purchase the state park’s pass at the same time is more efficient for our customers and supports the DMV’s vision to provide Coloradans a 21st Century customer service experience.”

Because vehicle registrations happen throughout the year, there will be situations where current CPW annual park pass customers will have overlapping annual passes. To address these issues, CPW established refund options to cover the time between when a current annual state park pass expires and when a vehicle registration is due.

Residents who purchase a Keep Colorado Wild Pass are encouraged to link the pass on CPW’s secure

third-party website, CPWshop.com. Benefits of linking the pass to a CPW account include displaying the Keep Colorado Wild Pass when visiting a Colorado state park via the My CPW App, and residents age 64 and older get a discounted camping rate (\$3 per night). The pass must be linked to a CPW account in order to request a pass refund or a prorated refund for an overlapping annual park pass.

All regularly priced CPW daily or annual park passes are still available to customers. Centennial Passes are also available for \$14 to residents enrolled in income-eligible state and federal programs.

To learn more about the Keep Colorado Wild Pass, visit cpw.info/keepcoloradowild or cpw.info/keepcoloradowildpassspanish.

To learn more about vehicle and license plate information, visit DMV.Colorado.gov.

Funding available to ag businesses seeking interns for 2023 growing season

CONTRIBUTED
BROOMFIELD—The Colorado Department of Agriculture’s (CDA) Agricultural Workforce Development Program (AWDP) is now accepting applications from businesses looking to hire interns for the 2023 growing season.

“By providing paid, hands-on internships in agriculture, we’re helping more young people gain access to education and experience that will help them decide if they want to pursue a career in agriculture,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kate Greenberg. “This program supports the development of future generations of farmers and ranchers and supports ag business owners in training the next generation.”

The AWDP provides financial incentives to Colorado farms, ranches, and agricultural businesses to hire interns and provide them with the hands-on training needed to begin a career in agriculture. Qualified businesses may be reimbursed for up to 50 percent of the actual cost of hiring an intern, up to \$5,000, in exchange for providing an educational experience to the intern. Since the program was created in 2018, CDA has funded more than 75 internships at farms, ranches, and agricultural businesses across the state (25 in 2022 alone).

To apply, qualifying agricultural businesses must complete an online application found on CDA’s website (ag.colorado.gov/awdp). Applications are open now and

will be accepted through Feb. 10. Applications received by the deadline will be evaluated by a team of reviewers, and award notices will be sent out late February.

Once businesses receiving funding are selected, CDA will publish a form for interns who are seeking an internship, so interested intern candidates can connect with them. Internship applications will be open in Spring 2023.

A recorded Q&A session about the Ag Workforce Development Program can be viewed online (ag.colorado.gov/awdp).

For more information on the AWDP, visit the website or contact Joanne Hernandez, CDA Grants Specialist, at joanne.hernandez@state.co.us.




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Bronwyn believes the keys to great healthcare are listening deeply and treating each patient the way she would want to be treated. She has a particular interest in integrative health, stress management, gut health, and helping patients make smart, healthy choices to support their personal goals. Bronwyn is originally from Richmond, Virginia, and came to the healthcare field because she loves the fascinating work to be done. In her free time, Bronwyn enjoys biking, camping, hiking, sewing, skiing, and yoga. She has clinical experience in family practice, urgent care, integrative health, and is also certified in mind-body medicine along with being a wellness coach.

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07 Help Wanted

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

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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)

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

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.monte-vista.co.us Open until filled. EEO/ADA (2-1)

The City of Creede is accepting applications for a Full-Time Public Works Operator/Laborer position. The position offers a competitive hourly rate based on experience and qualifications, along with health insurance, paid holidays, and earned paid time off. A clean and up to date driver's license is required. Applications can be downloaded from the City of Creede website at cityofcreede.colorado.gov, or picked up at the City of Creede Administration Office at 2223 N. Main Street Creede, CO 81130. Completed applications will be accepted until Wednesday January 25, 2023, at 2 p.m. Submit physically and/or mail to: Public Works Department, City of Creede, 2223 N. Main Street, Creede, CO 81130. Or also by email: Publicworks@creedetownhall.com.

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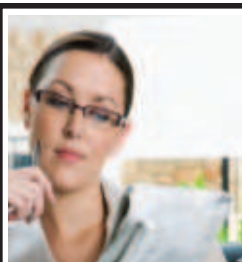
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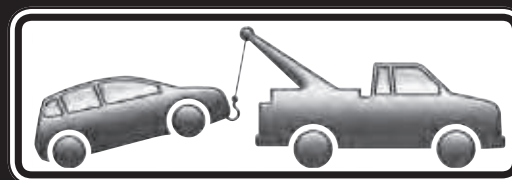
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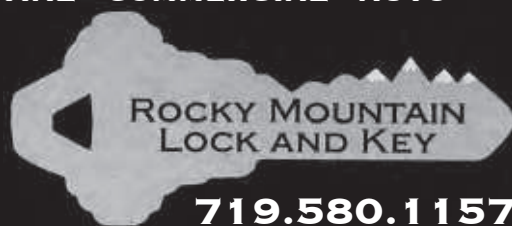


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Camels in the San Luis Valley

By DIANE DREMANN

CAPULIN — Nestled in a valley between Capulin and La Jara, is a unique farm featuring camels.

Matt and Meghan Stalzer own The Camel Farm. Meghan, aka the Camel Chick, spins camel and sheep wool, teaches spinning wool classes in nearby Alamosa, and makes fudge treats, using camel milk and other organic ingredients.

Pronounced foodge because of its smoothness, the Stalzer's camel fudge is so good people have said it is the best fudge they have ever eaten.

Meghan also makes soap out of camel milk.

In addition to the farm, the Stalzers have an unusual bed and breakfast, Camels and a Yurt, which provide visitors the chance to experience these animals and a slice of farm life with spectacular views of the San Juan Mountains and of the San Luis Valley.

They have a hard-sided yurt with a propane heater, wood stove, bed, futon, and coffee service, with enough room to sleep four people. The bed and breakfast is open year-round.

Why camels? It turns out camels are ideally suited for the harsh climate of the San Luis Valley.

"They tolerate temperatures from 140 to -40 below zero," Meghan said. "Camels love eating cactus and sagebrush. Their mouth has tentacles to help move the food into their mouth. Camels can change the pressure in their feet, like a car tire, for going on a hard or soft surface. They have three eyelids and furry ears."

Matt and Meghan Stalzer

have always been interested in homesteading.

One day, in the homesteading magazine "Grit," they saw an article about camels. The Stalzers went to a camel seminar in California in 2012, met other camel farmers, and the rest, as they say, is history.

In 2014, Matt found a piece of property near Moffat. The Stalzers started Mudita Camel Dairy with Big Momma Maya and her son, Niam.

Mudita is a Sanskrit word meaning "our happiness comes from your happiness."

Meghan shared the benefits of camel milk.

"It is naturally homogenized, like goat's milk," she said. "It has lower fat than cow's milk. Camel milk is good for lactose-intolerant people and is the closest to breast milk."

In 2018, the Stalzers found their dream property, 35 acres near Capulin with endless views of the San Juan Mountains and plenty of room for the camels. The property has a couple of centuries-old cabins left by the Martinez homesteaders long ago.

Currently, the Stalzers are not selling milk. But Big Momma is pregnant and they hope to sell camel milk again in the future. They plan to sell food from their garden at farmer's markets this summer.

The Stalzers have four female camels. Niam, the male is full grown. They also have four donkeys.

There are predators around but Meghan explains, "Donkeys are also known as guardian livestock. (Also) ...the unique smell of



Matt and Meghan Stalzer own The Camel Farm that is located between Capulin and La Jara. They have a bed and breakfast on the property — a hard-sided yurt.

the camels is off putting to the coyotes."

Along with camels and donkeys, there are ducks, chickens, and a special 5-year-old boy who embraces his parents' lifestyle.

To find out more about The Camel Farm, the fudge, soap, or the bed and breakfast, Camels and a Yurt, go to www.camelbnb.com or go to Facebook and look for The Camel Chick.

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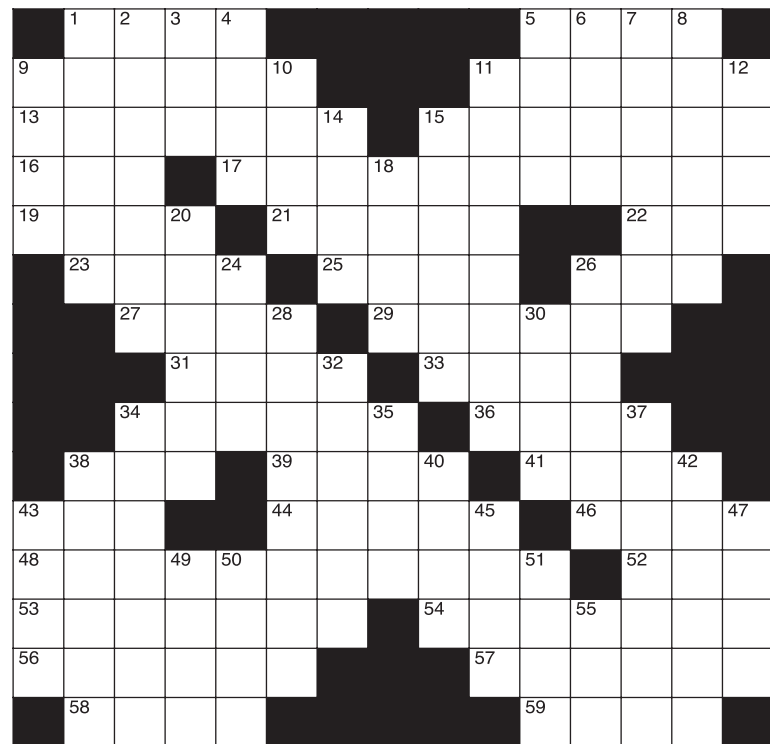
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CLUES ACROSS

1. A way to communicate
5. Historic city
9. Not the same
11. Hitting a horse to clear a jump
13. One hurt the Titanic
15. Fine dense cloth
16. Architectural structure
17. Where Serena works
19. Stringed instrument
21. Estimate
22. Where sailors work
23. Popular Terry Pratchett novel
25. Popular slow cooked dish
26. Twisted Sister's Snider
27. "Office Space" actor Stephen
29. Put the ball in the net
31. Ancient Greek city in Thrace
33. High school math subject
34. Looked into
36. Rhode Island rebellion
38. A pea is one type
39. You can put it on something
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic Sun god
46. Ancient Greek City
48. Beheaded
52. A place to stay



53. Inanely foolish
54. Most unnatural
56. "Dennis" is one
57. Soothes
58. Exam
59. Leaked blood

CLUES DOWN

1. Triangular bone in lower back
2. Building toy
3. Pointed end of a pen
4. Insect repellent
5. College army
6. Highly spiced stew
7. Exploited
8. Main course
9. A bottle that contains a drug
10. The most worthless part
11. Everyone needs one nowadays
12. Japanese wooden shoe
14. Antelopes

15. A way to cut
18. Brooklyn hoopsters
20. Gradually receded
24. Ripped open
26. College grads get one
28. Amino acid
30. Unruly gathering
32. Legislative body
34. Resembling pigs
35. Russian assembly
37. Take over for
38. Put in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
45. Witnesses
47. Some build hills
49. de Armas and Gasteyer are two
50. Ancient people of Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Unwell

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

Photos by Diane Drekmann

The Camel Farm features four female camels. Pictured are Big Momma and daughters Myra and Kristine.



Below: Niam is the lone male camel of the Camel Farm.



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Charming D-Log 1,807 sq ft 2-bedroom 2 bath mountain home with attached garage and circular drive. Your perfect get away or full-time residence located in the well sought-after neighborhood, Ponderosa Estates. This home has a large Master/Guest room upstairs with full bath that could easily be used for large family rec room or used as a bunk room with plenty of sleeping space for guests if so desired. You have lots of options! There is an additional room upstairs you can use for craft/hobby room or small home office. Top of the stairs landing is adorable sitting area that would make the perfect spot for a relaxing reading hook to enjoy a good book. This home has an open floor plan with eat in kitchen and large living room area with wood burning stove that will keep you cozy and warm all winter long. Kitchen door leads out to a nice back deck with large yard and beautiful views of the mountains. Perfect for that first hot cup of coffee in the mornings. Downstairs bedroom off the kitchen area has been used as the main bedroom with hallway bath and located on the main floor. This residence is close to town and only moments away from the Rio Grande River, Golf Club, and 20 minutes from Wolf Creek ski area. Off your front deck is a wonderful place for viewing all the mule deer and wild turkeys that frequent this neighborhood! No active HUA and in an area that does allow short term rentals. Close to skiing, fishing, hiking, four wheeling, hunting and everything outdoors. Start Your Adventure! Call and schedule your showing today! **\$450,000** MLS #797758
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2,023 Sq. Ft. Mountain Oasis Home with Charm and Elegance in Lo Lomita at South Fork Ranches. This 3-bedroom 2 bath home with attached 675 sq. ft. 2 car garage is magical! Home is adjacent to BML Land & National Forest with amazing mountain views of Del Norte Peak, Beaver Mountain and Agua Ramon from the front porch and additional large wrap around rear deck with concrete pad and hook up ready for your own personal hot tub. Open floor plan with kitchen, dining and living area beautifully hand troweled on walls with cathedral ceilings, wood floor, large bay windows, wood burning stove, propane rock fireplace, radiant with cathedral ceilings, wood floor, large bay windows, propane rock fireplace, radiant and comfortable all winter long. Master bedroom has large his & her master walk-in closets and patio door leading out to the back deck. Perfect place to enjoy your hot morning cup of coffee. The master bath has a beautiful large walk-in tile shower and dual sinks. There are two additional nice size guest bedrooms for your company to stay and enjoy. The kitchen overlooks the living area with large eat in counter and plenty of counter space and lots of built-in cabinets. There is a butler pantry for extra storage that features a beautiful, frosted glass door. This is an outstanding property with abundant wildlife surrounded by national forest and BML land and close to the mighty Rio Grande River, Wolf Creek Ski area and the Rio Grande Golf Resort. There is numerous hiking, four wheeling, mountain biking trails in the area for you to have fun and explore! Don't miss this opportunity! Start your adventure! call/text me and schedule your personal showing today. Price **\$669,500** MLS #796518
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Beautiful 1,728 Sq. Ft. Mountain Home property, 3 beds, 2 baths with additional large lot. Welcoming entrance with closed in front porch. Beautiful Kitchen with matching appliances and custom-made cabinets with soft close drawers that include spice rack and corner round with plenty of storage for all your cooking/entertainment needs. Dining area just off the kitchen and living room area with propane stove and beautiful brick fireplace with wood burning stove in living area. Perfect place with beautiful views to curl up enjoy the fire and devour a good book. This home has three heat sources to keep you cozy and warm all winter long. Off back side of the kitchen is a bright sunroom, currently being used for a wonderful craft room with large sliding door looking out to the back deck with stunning views of trees and mountains perfect for bird watching with the many varieties of birds that visit this area. Downstairs Master/Guest bedroom with large closet and cozy picture window seat for bird watching. Wonderful place to just sit with your morning cup of coffee, relax and enjoy. Off the sunroom is door to large 2 car garage with huge workbench and cabinets for all your tools and woodworking needs. Upstairs you have an additional bath and two guest bedrooms with large windows where you feel as if you are sleeping amongst the beautiful pine trees. Off the sunroom and out the back garage door awaits a wonderful deck to the back yard with a gas grill hooked up to propane for grilling and entertaining friends and family. Out back you will be charmed by the little fly shop with electricity and all its storage amenities with extra shelving. There's an additional shed which is used and perfect for wood storage. This home is one you must see! Located in Ponderosa Country Estates with no HOA, paved roads and Town of South Fork water and sewer system. You will love visiting with the abundant wildlife that visits this neighborhood, moments from the Rio Grande River, Rio Grande Golf Club, Wolf Creek ski area and everything outdoors! Don't let this one pass you by! Won't last! Call me and schedule your personal showing today! **\$585,000** MLS #796641
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UNDER CONTRACT

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