

## Shorts

### 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](http://www.fs.usda.gov/riogrande).

### Outcalt Center open for walkers on Monday, Wednesday in Jan.

**MONTE VISTA** — The Outcalt Conference and Event at SLV Ski Complex will be open to the public for walking on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 to 10 a.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. during the month of January. It is free.

The City of Monte Vista will be publishing the hours for walking each month. For more information, contact the staff at the Ski Hi Complex at 719-490-8833.

## Center fire victims receive community help

BY PATRICK SHEA

**CENTER** — During the Center Town Board meeting on Jan. 10, victims of a recent fire in town heard trustees approve a \$500 check for the family, and Center Police Chief Aaron Fresquez said they have seven teams signed up for the charity basketball tournament on Jan. 15. These fundraisers and more will help a family that lost everything.

Trustees also granted them a variance to live in a camper or fifth wheel on the property during reconstruction. During the public comment period, Center Schools educator Susan Banning spoke about

*Please see VICTIMS on Page 7A*



Photo by Patrick Shea

Center Town Board Trustees gathered in Center Town Hall on Jan. 10 to discuss fire victims, public utilities, and communications with residents who don't fully pay their utility bills.

## Saguache County swears in elected officials

BY PATRICK SHEA

**SAGUACHE** — Judicial District 12 Judge Amanda Hopkins officially swore in newly elected officials in the Saguache County courtroom on Jan. 10.

Departing commissioner Tim Lovato took part in *Please see OFFICIALS on Page 7A*



Photos by Patrick Shea

Newly sworn-in Saguache County elected officials gathered for a short reception in the courthouse on Jan. 10. Pictured from left to right, front row: Tom Perrin (coroner), Peter Peterson (assessor), Regina Swartz (treasurer), Lynne Thompson (commissioner), Tom McCracken (commissioner). Pictured from left to right, back row: Liza Marron (commissioner), Dan Warwick (sheriff), Trish Gilbert (clerk and recorder).



Tom McCracken and Lynne Thompson led the farewell ceremonies for departing two-term commissioner Tim Lovato during his farewell reception on Jan. 10.



Sworn in on Jan. 10, Liza Marron assumed her new role as a Saguache County Commissioner.

## Xcel: 'Higher gas prices are likely to continue'

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

**ALAMOSA** — Customers of Xcel Energy were hit with an unexpected and unwelcome surprise when opening their utility bills for December with some residents in the San Luis Valley reporting bills that were as much as \$200 higher (and in some cases more) than what they had paid during the same time period in 2021. Similar stories were being reported throughout the state.

The Valley Courier reached out to Xcel for some answers, ultimately connecting with Tyler Bryant, Xcel's media relations representative out of the company's Denver office.

Bryant, in an approved response, attributed the increase to the rising cost of natural gas. "Natural gas costs are the bulk of customer energy bills and they remain higher than in recent years," he wrote in an email. "The natural gas

*Please see XCEL on Page 7A*

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

BY LARRY BROWN

CSU Extension, SLV Area Ag Business Agent

**MONTE VISTA** — 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 *Please see SHOW on Page 2A*

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

File photo





# OBITUARY

## John David Sanford

**ALAMOSA** — John David Sanford, 88, passed away from natural causes, Dec. 20, 2022, at Homelake Veterans Center, Monte Vista, Colo., with family members in attendance. He was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on April 25, 1934.

John, who was known and called by his middle name, David, grew up in Taos, N.M., where he enjoyed the Taos lifestyle with his family and friends. During those years, Taos was considered the Wild West which suited David extremely well. He recalled many adventures and loved to tell stories of riding horses (especially his horse Kick-a-poo) in town, at work, or while exploring the New Mexico wilderness.

John David thrived due to the watchful guidance of his God-fearing parents. His mother, Mary Lou Thomas Sanford, was a local artist and homemaker. His father, William Evan Sanford, was an entrepreneur managing or owning different small businesses in Taos. With their combined minds of creativity and logical thinking, John had the best of both worlds.

After graduating from Taos High School in 1952, the Korean War which started in 1950 was still going on. John's father and grandfather fought in the World Wars. John enlisted in the US Air Force. He was sent to Clark Air Force Base located on the island of Luzon outside of Manila, Philippines in April 1953. While stationed there, he met Fabiola Ablong. "Vi" was her nickname. They married and promptly had three daughters. He was honorably discharged in 1958.

The family moved back to the US to Las Cruces, N.M. He enrolled at New Mexico State University on the GI Bill and graduated 3 years later with a BS in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in spring of 1961. He was determined to get going with life.

John moved his family to Alamosa. His long-term goal was to create a cow/calf/hay operation. The first property the family moved to was located east of Alamosa in the Waverly District. John purchased this land where he set up his ranching operation. John also taught 7th and 9th grade science classes in the Monte Vista School system. He taught for 13 years.

In 1968, another daughter was born. This daughter was 10½ years younger than her next older sister. She was a nice surprise!

John made changes in his professional life. He quit teaching



and went into real estate sales. He then started working for Hesston Corporation managing farm equipment stores. John, Fabiola, and their youngest daughter, Susan May, moved to Idaho, and then they moved to Nebraska. After Hesston was bought by Fiat; John was out of a job. He and the family moved back to Alamosa and after a time, they moved to Cortez, Colo., to manage a John Deere store and then out to California for real estate sales.

Preceding John in death was his wife Fabiola, father William, mother Mary Lou, sister Patsy, brother Bill, and his youngest daughter Susan May McCreery.

John is survived by his children, Mary Jean (Pete) Stewart of Van Nuys Calif., Janis Sanford-Deacon of Cheyenne, Wyo., Terrie Anne (Scott) Lenzini-Russell of Alamosa, Colo. His grandchildren Willy (Wendy) Bone of Cheyenne, Wyo., Shawna (Bear) Magness of Cheyenne, Wyo., Tyler (Alex) Magness of Del Norte, Colo., Evan (April) Lenzini of Salida, Colo., Christina (Will) Lenzini-Mace of Lyons, Colo., Sam (Liv) McCreery of Loveland, Colo., Dan (Madi) of Greeley, Colo., and Hannah McCreery of Loveland, Colo. There are seven great-grandchildren.

John has touched many lives along his way. Please accept an invitation to bring your memories and join the family and friends for his Celebration of Life Memorial Service and Party.

John D. Sanford Celebration of Life Memorial schedule:

Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023  
1:30 p.m. — Service — Homelake Veterans Center Chapel, 3749 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144

2:30 p.m. — Graveside — Homelake Cemetery, immediately after the service (Dress warm)

3:30 p.m. — Celebration of Life Party — OutCalt Conference and Event at SLV Ski Hi Complex (doors to the east), 2389 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista, CO. It's a party with food and music!

# SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Jan. 3, 2023, and Jan. 8, 2023.

Sheriff staff issued one citation for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle on Highway 285 near Center. They monitored eight controlled burns in Moffat, Saguache, and Bonanza. They also assisted with a fire in Center and patrolled Saguache twice.

In addition to conducting welfare checks in Crestone and Villa Grove,

deputies also addressed a protection order violation, a sex offense, and a report of assault. They filed one REDDI report (Report Every Drunk Driver Immediately), dealt with an animal problem in Saguache, and checked up on reports of suspicious activity and trespassing in Moffat.

An abandoned vehicle in Center and a vehicle stolen from Moffat required attention, and staff inspected vehicle identification numbers and made two traffic stops. They also assisted with three ambulance rides.

## ARRESTS

- A 30-year-old Center man was arrested and held in custody for failure to comply.
- A 38-year-old Pueblo West woman was detained with two charges of contempt of court (failure to comply).
- A 32-year-old Center man was charged with violating a protection order twice and released on \$200 bail.
- A 30-year-old Saguache man was released by bonding with a bondsman (\$2,000) for contempt of court (failure to comply).

# SHOW

Continued from Page 1A

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, and businesses, and strong, resilient, proud communities", explains Larry Brown, SLV Area Extension Ag Business Agent and Director, and Ag 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



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.**

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 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.



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

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.

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Where there's a will but no way

Every week it seems that Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie get into some kind of shenanigans of one type or another. I am not sure if it's due to the fact that we go out of our way to maybe find such hijinks or others come looking for us and involve us in their schemes.

But regardless, this past week Ol' Dutch pulled a good one and got us into a high-pressure sales meeting all due to the promise of a good meal. I mean honestly. Who could resist the flashy ad on the Internet promising tasty fajitas and drinks at a nice sit-down restaurant. I mean how bad could it be, right?

Milton Friedman, a Nobel prize winning economist, coined the phrase "there's no such thing as a free lunch" in his novel, "The Moon is a Harsh Mistress."

And that little bit of information is your fact of the week that you can use at your next coffee klatch, quilting bee or at the water cooler at work to break the ice. You're welcome.

And his premise that no matter what you think you get for free there is a hook in it that later may end up costing you more than you bargained for. But Ol' Dutch ever the beaming optimist - Miss Trixie really needs help with that incessant eye rolling when I speak such wisdom - signed us up.

Now Ol' Dutch knew ahead of time that a presentation was going to be made about wills and trusts and I was interested to find out more of such things. But the "hook" in this meal was quite a bit larger than I was counting on and soon it felt like I had swallowed one intended for whales.

The chips now gone, a lawyer out of Fort Worth began his presentation and I have to say, other than Ol' Dutch himself, he was about as slick as they come. Every other sentence he would do a kind of dip with his legs I guess to emphasize what he was saying, or he was suffering from eating too much Mexican food and had the fast trots needing the restroom.

But diarrhea aside, story after story sprung from his lips about poor old Harold and Edna or Bill and Mary who waited too long to get a will or a trust and thereby lost all they had waiting for death at the nursing home.

As I gazed around the room, I could see it was having an effect on people who were attending the event. But more than that, the meeting was so long that another effect soon began to take hold and that was the dreaded curse of the



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

old bladder.

I am not sure who taught the guy about presentations, but any smart preacher knows that after about 20 minutes of a sermon you have lost your crowd. At that point they are ready to head out to the local Cracker Barrel with a stop at the closest rest room on the way to the car.

So, as we sat and patiently listened to his stories, people across the room began to get up and cripple their way through the crowd toward the john. This led to what is known as sympathy peeing as more and more people felt the urge to go just because they saw old Joe get up and go.

Now I don't need a lawyer very often but when I do, I don't hire one at a local Mexican food joint. And, with the latest catastrophe about FTX and Sam Fried scamming people out of money in the crypto world, I was more than a little skeptical about some guy just taking the money and running.

He was smart. I give him that. As it only took him about 15 seconds of talking to me to realize that Ol' Dutch is Scottish by descent and tighter than bark on a tree and was not going to write a check or cough up any cash at least on that day. But all's well that ends well and we finally got a table full of steaming fajitas with a nice complimentary dessert to boot.

Maybe Milton Friedman was right about no free lunch in most instances but Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie came away unscathed in this deal with full bellies and full pocketbooks.

*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.*

## Op-Ed: Helped lead the negotiations to end business as usual in Washington D.C.

BY LAUREN BOEBERT

Everyone knows Congress is broken. For decades, the swamp in Washington D.C. has embraced corrupt and incestuous policymaking at the expense of hard-working Americans. From passing \$1.8 trillion, 4,155-page long spending bills just before Christmas - to secret backroom deals negotiated by lobbyists and special interests - to passing \$500 billion suspension bills without a single Member even having to cast a vote - these broken processes are not what our Founding Fathers envisioned when they established our Constitutional Republic.

This sentiment is broadly held across America, where Congress' approval rating plummeted to just 15% under Nancy Pelosi. To be clear, it's not just one party that is responsible for the lack of trust in the institution. For decades, both Republican and Democrat leadership have worked to consolidate power at the top, leaving little ability for individual Members to enact change on behalf of the people they represent.

It was far past time to fundamentally change the way business is done in Congress.

I'm proud to report back to you and the people of Colorado's Third District that I helped lead the negotiations to end business as usual in Washington D.C. Nineteen of my colleagues and I spearheaded rigorous debate about the broken rules and processes in Congress and the importance of taking action to tackle these issues head on as opposed to continuing to kick the proverbial can down the road. We were successful and made historic, once in a generation,

improvements to this body. Here are just a few:

- In the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, bills must be single subject. Last session, House Democrats passed a so-called \$1.2 trillion dollar "infrastructure bill." Shamefully, less than 10% of the actual funds in the bill went to roads and bridges, with hundreds of billions of dollars going to Solyndra-style slush funds and Green New Deal policies, a \$400 billion kickback to big labor, and even \$10,000,000 going to a program to save butterflies and bees. These unrelated topics should have never been lumped together in the same vote. Forty-seven state legislatures have single subject rules, and I'm proud that Congress will follow suit.

- Members will have time to read the bills before voting on them. Remember the infamous line by Speaker Pelosi, "We have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it." Well, that's a thing of the past as all Members will have a minimum of 72 hours to read legislation before voting on it.

- House Republicans will do the hard work and fund the government as Congress intended. That means scrapping the horrific omnibus bills and continuing resolutions, and passing 12 individual appropriations bills through regular order. This allows for input, debate, and amendments that will reduce federal spending and eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars.

- The Motion to Vacate the Chair, an accountability mechanism that was written by Thomas Jefferson and implemented in 1837 has been restored. Bottom line: Republican leadership must follow through on

these promises and we have the accountability in place to ensure that occurs.

I am proud that we took a little extra time and got this right. The changes we achieved decentralize power from leadership, empower individual Members of both parties, vastly improve how Congress functions, and deliver a historic win for the American people.

House conservatives also received commitments to vote on widely popular initiatives like term limits for Members of Congress, the Fair Tax, and ending the outdated COVID national emergency and its expanded abuses.

A lot of folks didn't think we had a plan, but of course we did. It's just that in the middle of a poker hand, you don't show your cards. But we knew what we wanted to accomplish for the American people, and we certainly got there.

We had all 434 Members of the House sitting on the House Floor, debating with each other live on CSPAN with Americans around the country able to see exactly what was happening. This was honest, open, and transparent governance at its finest.

Not many in power want to give up control, but Speaker McCarthy saw that these changes were about fixing a broken Congress and returning power to the American people. Credit him for working with us on these generational improvements. Now that we have our rules and leadership, I'm looking forward to getting to work with Speaker McCarthy and all my colleagues to deliver for the American people.

## LETTER

### My thanks to Dave Marston

Editor,

I would like to sincerely thank Dave Marston of "Writers on the Range" for his excellent Editorial titled "'Energy Gap' nobody wants to tussle with". It was precisely to the point of where we are headed with energy generation, transmission and distribution in this country. With the shutdown, often prematurely, of old coal fired and nuclear plants there has been left an 'energy generation gap'; because equal capacity generation has not been built to replace it. The push to use renewables for this has left us in a position of a lack of both grid reliability and resource adequacy. These are both terms you are going to hear a lot of in the coming months and years. It is important to understand the difference between "Base-load Power Generation" and "Supplemental or Ancillary Power Generation"; because there is a lot of misperceptions about the latter's capabilities:

- Base-Load Power Generation - Utilities know how much connected

load and demand is on their system, what times of day/seasons they get spikes and lows, and they therefore know how much power they need to have delivered. In order to provide power that is 99.99% reliable, available 24/7/365, scalable with near immediacy, quickly reactive to demand, and is as economical as possible; they must rely on generation sources that can accommodate this type of delivery. Throughout the World, we rely on coal, natural gas, hydroelectric, and nuclear fueled systems for this type of generation. (There is debate, with increasing shortages of water supply, that hydroelectric can no longer be considered as base-load power generation.)

- Ancillary or Supplemental Generation - This type of generation is not available 24/7/365, is not immediately scalable, is not immediately reactive to demand; and has, therefore low reliability. These generation systems are wind, solar, hydrogen fuel cells, spinning reserve, tidal flow, energy storage (batteries,

and pumped hydro), etc.

Small Modular Reactors (SMR) are coming because they are a necessity to ensure base-load power generation. They are safe, clean (Zero Carbon Generation), inexpensive to operate, and are self-contained, scalable, and highly reliable. The visions of reactors past is not the truth of the technology we now have today with SMRs. Some SMRs can actually use the spent fuel from old nukes for fuel; thereby reducing the potential for nuclear material proliferation. Many SMR designs are self-contained, so there is no need for transport or offsite storage of waste. I would encourage all readers to educate yourselves with regard to SMRs before engaging your NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) instincts. The world needs safe, clean, reliable, scalable power generation technologies that renewables simply cannot provide for base-load generation.

Creede Hargraves, Creede

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Courtesy photo

Kelly Hunt will be performing Jan. 15 at Wildwood Sounds in Del Norte.

# Kelly Hunt performing at Wildwood Sounds

CONTRIBUTED

**DEL NORTE** — On the walls of any local used music shop there hangs a gallery of mysteries. Picked up and handed down across the decades, each instrument contains the imprints and stories of those who have played it before, most of which remain untold.

For Kansas City-based songwriter Kelly Hunt, the most intriguing of these stories is the origin of her anonymous calfskin tenor banjo.

“I really wasn’t looking for it,” she says, “but I opened up the case and found a note saying, ‘This banjo was played by a man named Ira Tamm in his dog and pony show from 1920 to 1935.’ It was unlike any banjo I’d ever heard...so warm and mellow, with an almost harp-like quality to it, very soulfu.I”

Apt words for the Memphis native’s debut album, “Even The Sparrow,” which was released in May 2019 and nominated for the International Folk Music Awards “2019 Album of the Year.”

The daughter of an opera singer and a saxophonist, Hunt was raised

in Memphis, Tenn., amidst a motley mélange of musical influences ranging from Rachmaninov to Joni Mitchell to Mississippi John Hurt.

She grew up singing in choirs, poring over poetry books, and writing her own music as a matter of course, first on piano then 5-string banjo. After being introduced to the banjo in college while studying French and visual arts, Hunt began to develop her own improvised style of playing, combining old-time picking styles with the percussive origins of the instrument.

After college, Hunt embarked on a rambling path through career pursuits in farming, French breadmaking, and visual arts, ultimately landing in Kansas City, where she would go on to write and record.

Kelly will be joined by violinist, Stas’ Heanley, for a performance at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 15 at Wildwood Sounds in Del Norte. The cost is \$20 at the door. To reserve a ticket, call 719-657-4757. Bring a favorite sweet treat to share. Coffee and tea are on the house.

# \$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](http://cpw.info/keepcoloradowild) and [cpw.info/keepcoloradowildpassspanish](http://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 MyCPW 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](http://cpw.info/keepcoloradowild) or [cpw.info/keepcoloradowildpassspanish](http://cpw.info/keepcoloradowildpassspanish).

To learn more about vehicle and license plate information, visit [DMV.Colorado.gov](http://DMV.Colorado.gov).

## San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2022-2023

### BOYS

Monte Vista 38.....	Ignacio 36
Evangelical Christian 59.....	Sierra Grande 26
Mancos 81.....	Creede 14
Del Norte 57.....	Sangre de Cristo 7
Alamosa 70.....	Delta 48
Peyton 71.....	Center 39
Centennial 54.....	South Baca 34
Alamosa 61.....	Sanford 42
Centauri 45.....	Delta 32
Moffat 58.....	Creede 18
Centennial 40.....	Sargent 27
Pagosa Springs 50.....	Sanford 39
Rocky Ford 40.....	Center 37

### GIRLS

Del Norte 45.....	Sangre de Cristo 20
Ignacio 49.....	Monte Vista 47
Evangelical Christian 47.....	Sierra Grande 36
South Baca 42.....	Centennial 30
Mancos 64.....	Creede 20
Delta 47.....	Alamosa 33
Peyton 61.....	Center 16
Sargent 48.....	Centennial 27
Alamosa 45.....	Sanford 29
Centauri 40.....	Delta 33
Creede 53.....	Moffat 11
Sanford 42.....	Pagosa Springs 38
Rocky Ford 32.....	Center 26

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# Manage Your Emotions So They Don't Manage You

God has great plans for our lives, and He wants to use us to do great things for Him. But before He can put us in a position to use our gifts and talents in our fullest potential, we have to learn how to be stable, reliable and in control of our emotions.

As Christians, we need to live the life that we claim to represent so God can use us for what He’s called us to do – not just for our own sake, but for the good of those around us. This means our character should be strong in Christ and our motives should be right and pure when we’re using our God-given gifts.

In the early days of my ministry, when I was leading a small Bible study in my home, God put a dream in my heart to teach the Word like I’m doing it today through our worldwide ministry. But He couldn’t release me to use the full potential of that ability because at that time, I didn’t have the spiritual maturity to go along with it.

I remember how I never knew from one day to the next whether I’d be in a good mood or have a bad day. I’d wake up some mornings expecting a good day, but then something would happen that didn’t go my way and it would put me in a bad mood for the rest of the day. I let my circumstances control my emotions, and it was a miserable way to live.

But the good news is we can change! We can control ourselves, with a lot of help from God, but we need to believe it for ourselves.

### Get Off the Emotional Roller Coaster

The first step to managing our emotions is to stop making excuses. As born-again believers in Christ, we have the power of the Holy Spirit available to us to use self-control. And God will never tell you to do something that you can’t do; the key is learning to lean on Him for the strength to do what you need to do.

It’s also important to realize we are in a spiritual war. Our enemy, Satan, comes against us in many ways, and we really need to know how to stand against him. The ones who are going to win the war are the ones who are stable.

Philippians 1:28 (AMP) says, “And in no way be alarmed or intimidated [in anything] by your opponents, for such [constancy and fearlessness on your part] is a [clear] sign [a proof and a seal] for them of [their impending] destruction, but [a clear sign] for you of deliverance and salvation, and that too, from God.”

This scripture is saying that God and the devil are both watching us. And when a difficult situation comes our way, we have a choice to make: We can get upset, or we can remain at peace. See, the devil tries to set us up to make us upset. But if we stay calm, Satan knows he can’t upset us. It’s also a sign to God that our trust is truly in Him.

No matter how much you say that you trust God, if you are upset all the time, you really aren’t trusting Him. What God wants is for us to look to Him for the help we need, to do what we can do, and then trust Him to do what we can’t do. God is good; He loves us and He will always do what He says He will do in His Word.

### Staying Stable in the Hard Times

We have the privilege not only to believe in Christ but also to endure some suffering while we’re waiting for His deliverance. It’s the hard times in our lives that cause us to grow spiritually. In fact, every day that you stay steadfast while you’re waiting for your breakthrough, you’re growing spiritually.

Being a Christian doesn’t mean you won’t have problems; it means that when problems come, God can give you His grace to get through them. Your faith doesn’t keep you from difficult situations—it helps you go



through them with stability. Because when you’re determined to do what’s right, especially when it’s hard, that’s when you grow the most in your faith.

In Exodus 14:13-14 (NIV), Moses told the Israelites, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

Remember that God is always with you and He wants to fight for you. When He allows difficult situations to come your way, you can trust Him to be in control and cause everything to work out for good in the end (Romans 8:28). So no matter what happens, hold your peace, remain at rest, keep an attitude of praise and trust God to fight your battles.

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](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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

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



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

- 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



Red-tailed Hawk photographed by John Rawinski.

- Flicker, 11, White-crowned blackbird, 1
- sparrow, 6
- Common Raven, 41, Northern Shrike, 1, Yellow-rumped Warbler, 5
- Harrier, 6, Yellow-headed cw

## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:joanne.hernandez@state.co.us).

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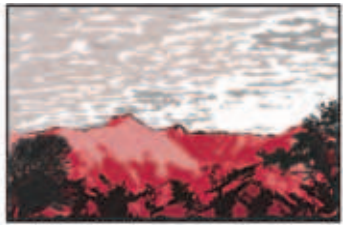
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# Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area offers youth programs

**CONTRIBUTED**  
**ALAMOSA** — Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA) is looking for students to participate in its Caminos de Valle Youth Walking Tours and its Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Camp.



**SANGRE DE CRISTO NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**  
sangreheritage.org

With 11,000 years of documented human habitation, the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area is a crossroads of the centuries. Here a unique blend of Native American, Hispano and Anglo settlement is reflected in the diversity of the people, art and traditions. The geographic isolation of the San Luis Valley's high desert and the peoples' enduring ties to the land have given rise to a rich cultural heritage and ensured its preservation.

The area's fertile cultural landscape is complemented by remarkable natural resources, including the mighty Rio Grande, majestic Rocky Mountain peaks, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge, Baca National Wildlife Refuge and Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuges, and the high mountain desert, all of which lend the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area an unparalleled beauty that offers a sense of retreat and a powerful source of inspiration for visitors.

Caminos de Valle Youth Walking Tours: SdCNHA will train six youth, ages 16-18, in group leadership roles that will lead walking tours in neighborhoods and public lands, cultural and historical nature, land and water conservation, nature-

based education, walk facilitation, and tourism all within the heritage area. Students will choose the topics and locations they would like to lead tours in as well as becoming CPR certified, trained in public speaking, self-defense, history, culture, and traditions. Each youth leader will receive a stipend at the end of the program for leading guided walking tours in the month of June, 2023. This program is free to the youth.

Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area Camp: SdCNHA will host two one week-long camps June 5-8 and June 12-15. One camp will be for middle school aged students and one for high school aged students. This is an opportunity for youth to learn local history, heritage, traditions, and culture by visiting a variety of sites within the heritage area as historians will be able to elaborate on such topics and answer questions. This program is free to the youth.

If you or someone you know is interested, fill out an application at [www.sangreheritage.org/collaborate/](http://www.sangreheritage.org/collaborate/) and email to [info@sdcnha.org](mailto:info@sdcnha.org) or hand deliver it to 231 State Ave., Alamosa.

# Third annual SLV Collaboration Summit set for Feb. 15

**CONTRIBUTED**  
**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — The San Luis Valley Regional Leadership Committee (RLC) and Community Resource Center (CRC) are partnering to host the third San Luis Valley Collaboration Summit from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 15 at the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista.

The Collaboration Summit is an opportunity for regional community leaders from across the San Luis Valley to come together to learn more about cross-sector collaborations and examine future ways to build effective and impactful connections and partnerships.

"The challenges our communities are facing are immense — we know that collaboration is the only way we are going to move forward on these issues; but regional collaboration is hard to successfully execute," organizers stated.

- Goals include:
- Reflect on the successful collaborations in the region
  - Continue the work needed to bridge differences, missions, and funding models to support true collaboration
  - Build the individual skills

needed for collaborations to succeed

The Collaboration Summit will offer an interactive panel and group dialogue activity with representatives from several successful SLV collaborative groups including broadband, opioid, housing coalition, early childhood and workplace learning. Skill-building sessions on community engagement and facilitation and group process will take place in the afternoon. The day will close with an open space dialogue and networking activity that encourages participant-generated discussion of insights, ideas and exploration of the collaboration-related topics of most interest to attendees.

- Scheduled speakers include:
- Aaron Miltenberger, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Club of the San Luis Valley
  - Amanda Pearson, Director of Organizational Capacity, La Puente Home, Co-Chair of the San Luis Valley Regional Broadband Collaborative
  - Brandon Gallegos, Systems Analyst Cities, Cities of Alamosa and Monte Vista, Co-Chair of the San Luis Valley Regional Broadband Collaborative
  - Dawn Melgares, Executive

Director, San Luis Valley Housing Coalition

- Heather Brooks, City Manager, City of Alamosa
  - Kim Smoyer, Innovation Agent and Change Maker, Smoyer and Associates
  - Lisa Duran, Director of Statewide Education, Community Resource Center
  - Lori Laske, Chair of the Colorado Opioid Settlement Governance Council Region 18
  - Lupita Garcia, Business Office Manager, Energy Resource Center, The Women's Foundation of Colorado, San Luis Valley Housing Coalition
  - Mikela Tarlow, CEO, ActionLab360
  - Olivia Martinez, Extended Learning Program Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley
  - Rachael Cheslock, Work Based Learning Coordinator, Adams State University
  - Sherry Valdez, Executive Director, Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley
- Cost to attend is \$50 for San Luis Valley based participant. Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Feb. 1. For more information or to register email, [natalie.georgalas@crcamerica.org](mailto:natalie.georgalas@crcamerica.org).

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# XCEL Continued from Page 1A

commodity price has nearly doubled in price compared to winter 2021-2022. The wholesale price of natural gas is not determined by Xcel Energy but by the global supply and demand."

Bryant then cited an example. "A residential natural gas customer bill in November 2021 averaged \$91, compared to last month, where an average residential natural gas customer bill was \$144 - assuming the customer used the same amount of natural gas."

That last phrase - "assuming the customer used the same amount of natural gas" - provided the basis for what Bryant attributed as the second cause for the increase.

"November 2022 was colder than November 2021, and customers likely used more natural gas to heat their homes." He went on to add, "It's important to note the cost of natural gas is paid directly by customers without any markup from Xcel Energy."

Xcel has "taken a number of steps" as natural gas prices have climbed over the past year, including "including storing natural gas for use during the heating season, contracting for natural gas in advance, and purchasing financial hedges, which act like insurance to protect customers from significant price changes. For its electric customers, the company has a diverse energy mix, with many energy sources that can be used to minimize the effect of natural gas price increases on electric bills."

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, more than 35% of all electricity is generated via natural gas.

Bryant said that, even in the midst of shockingly high utility bills, there has been some "positive news."

On Nov. 15, the company announced that, due to lower-than-anticipated prices, bills in December (invoiced in January) will be lower with residential customers' bills being an average of \$33 less and small business customers an average of \$140 less.

But that's likely just a temporary reprieve.

"Higher wholesale natural gas prices are likely to continue to affect energy bills," Bryant said.

While, in an approved statement, Xcel blames the soaring utility bills on the rising cost of natural gas, it should also be noted that the company has reported rising net profits over the last years. According to federal documents filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, Xcel Energy made \$660 million in net profits in Colorado in 2021, preceded by \$589 million in 2020 and \$588 million in 2019.

Xcel Energy has also sought and been approved for multiple rate hikes over the past several years, something critics have called "pancaking" or stacking one rate hike upon another. Recently, Xcel requested an additional hike to electric rates.

As described on the Xcel website, "Under the proposal, a typical residential bill would increase by approximately 8.20%, or \$7.33 more per month compared to bills today. Typical small-commercial customers can expect a 7.77% increase, resulting in a \$10.16 monthly bill impact. If

approved by the CPUC, these rate changes would not go into effect until fall 2023."

The purpose of the rate hike is "to provide an increasingly clean energy mix and maintain and strengthen our infrastructure across the state. The result is a power grid that is better protected from increasing risks, including cyberattacks, wildfires and extreme weather. These investments also establish a technology platform for enhanced customer experiences, new products and programs and a more reliable, resilient system to serve customers."

When asked to consider how soaring utility bills are impacting customers already facing higher costs due to inflation, Bryant wrote, "We recognize that inflation is hitting everyone hard. We work with state and local agencies and advocates for income-qualified customers to provide energy assistance to those in need. Energy Outreach Colorado, the Colorado Energy Office and the Colorado Low-income Energy Assistance Program help income-qualified Colorado customers with bill payment assistance, free weatherization and energy-efficiency upgrades and HVAC repair and replacement.

"We encourage our customers to reach out directly if they're having trouble paying their bills with options such as payment plans, energy assistance programs or an Averaged Monthly Payment," he stated.

To learn more about energy assistance options, customers can visit [xcelenergy.com/EnergyAssistance](http://xcelenergy.com/EnergyAssistance) or call 1-800-895-4999."

# OFFICIALS Continued from Page 1A

his last working meeting before the ceremony, and Liza Marron took his seat after lunch. In between, dozens attended Lovato's farewell reception.

Treasurer Regina Swartz had been sworn in earlier in the morning, and six of the other seven officials were

veterans starting new terms. These include Tom Perrin (coroner), Peter Peterson (assessor), Regina Swartz (treasurer), Dan Warwick (sheriff), Trish Gilbert (clerk and recorder), Lynne Thompson (commissioner), and Tom McCracken (commissioner).

Although Liza Marron is the only

true newbie, she has been attending meetings and preparing for the job since she launched her candidacy 12 months ago.

Marron said, "I'm in the learning stage right now. I hope to do what's best for the people of Saguache County."

# VICTIMS Continued from Page 1A

recurring fires in town. She said she sees the stress on displaced students and encouraged the board to pursue more safety education measures for prevention.

Public Works Director Dave Mehaffie stepped up to the microphone twice during the meeting. He said code enforcement activity is up. They sent 45 notices recently, as well as 18 letters for major violations.

When he returned for a longer public works discussion, Mehaffie touched on a number of unique issues for municipalities that provide utilities. Like Aspen, Glenwood Springs, and other towns that do not rely on energy suppliers, Center faces the same price increases that are already hitting consumers.

According to Mehaffie, transportation costs will rise from \$158,000 in 2023 to \$375,000 in 2024, \$611,000 in 2025, \$918,000 in 2026, and \$1.3 million in 2027. Compared to rates Center residents pay, Xcel Energy charges nine cents more for electricity and 12 cents more for gas.

Mehaffie also discussed the water system. Annual usage by the town has decreased by a combined total of 97 million gallons since 2018. With an eye to preserve Center's unused water, the 2023 augmentation plan is currently with the town's attorneys before submission to the conservancy district.

Town Manager Brian Lujan explained the background on one

agenda item - 24-hour disconnect notices. Lujan noted that the utility bill payment deadline is the 20th of the month. If payment is not received within 10 business days, service will be shut off on the 4th of the following month. This information has already been included on Center utility bills. Lujan said staff devotes an inordinate amount of time posting the 24-hour notices and following up with residents.

The board approved a motion to

continue communicating potential shutoffs for unpaid balances on the resident's bill, but instead of delivering notices, they will be printed on yellow pages and included in the envelope.

Lujan reminded meeting attendees that the deadline to send a letter of interest in joining the Center Planning Commission has been extended to Feb. 10. Lujan said he wants to, "make sure it's a direct representation of all Center residents."

**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](http://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.

**Saguache County Board of Commissioners Seeks Saguache County Planning Commission Members**  
 Saguache County Board of Commissioners are seeking members and alternates from:  
 Town of Saguache surrounding area - member and alternate  
 La Garita/Center area - member and alternate  
 Town of Center and surrounding area - member and alternate  
 Cochetopa area - alternate  
 Moffat and surrounding area - member and alternate  
 Hooper and surrounding area - alternate  
 Villa Grove and surrounding area - member and alternate  
 At Large for All of Saguache County - alternate  
 Crestone and surrounding area - member and alternate  
 The representative must be a property owner or property manager and reside in the area they are interested in representing. Regular member terms are for three years and the alternate terms are for one year.  
 Saguache County Planning Commission meets on the last Thursday of each month in the Road and Bridge meeting room. The Planning Commission may also have work sessions throughout each month to work on the Saguache County Master Plan and different items. If you are interested, please send a brief letter of interest stating qualifications and interest to: Saguache County Land Use, Attn: Amber Wilson, PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 prior to Friday, January 13, 2023. Should you have any questions please call Amber Wilson at 719-655-2321.  
 No. 1657 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, December 15, 22 and 29, 2022 and January 5 and 12, 2023

# National Thank A Police Officer Day



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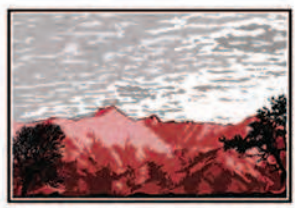
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# Congress Passes Landmark Legislation to Ensure Long-Term Stability for America's National Heritage Areas

January 4, 2023

WASHINGTON, DC – In one of the last acts of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the National Heritage Area Act (S. 1942) with a bi-partisan vote of 326-95. Days earlier, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed the same bill.

The National Heritage Area Act creates standard criteria for the funding, management, and designation of National Heritage Areas ("NHAs") across the country and provides them an annual authorization of up to \$1 million per year for the next 15 years. Passage of this bill overcomes the funding challenge that 45 existing NHAs would have experienced in the next two years, when their authorizations were set to end. Reauthorization requires Congressional approval, typically done through individual bills. The bill also authorizes the creation of seven new NHAs.

"As the Chair of the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area Board and Conejos County Commissioner, I would like to thank Senator Bennet for all his hard work getting us another 15 years of funding through this reauthorization effort. The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area has been an incredible resource in helping preserve and restore historic sites within the San Luis Valley. Without the resources provided from the National Park Service, we would not have had the means available to make these projects happen. It has definitely been a blessing to this area. The economic impact to our counties has been tremendous," said Mitchell Jarvies.

"We are absolutely thrilled to have been included in the reauthorization of several other National Heritage Areas nationwide for another fifteen years. A special thank you to Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper for their support and efforts in this success. We would also like to thank our elected officials, board members, previous board members and our many partners in the San Luis Valley and beyond for their letters and emails of support during this huge team effort," said Julie Chacon, Executive Director of Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area.

"The National Heritage Area Act is a testament to the tremendous work National Heritage Areas do within communities across America," said Sara Capen, Chairwoman of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas. "It is a direct reflection of the determination and resilience that is not only the bedrock of National Heritage Areas, but also the history of the places and people National Heritage Areas represent. The Alliance of National Heritage Areas is profoundly grateful for the tireless leadership and support we have received on a bipartisan basis within Congress and look forward to serving our communities for an additional 15 years."

President Ronald Reagan established National Heritage Areas in 1984 when he signed a bill that created the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Area. Since then, 54 additional NHAs have been created across the United States, all through community-led efforts. Rather than an enclosed park, as is typical of other programs administered by the National Park Service ("NPS"), NHAs are lived-in spaces that often span large geographic areas that cross multiple jurisdictions, including a total of 591 counties in 34 states.

NHAs are administered by a local coordinating entity and receive matching funds through the National Park Service but are not National Park units. Importantly, they do not impact the private property rights of existing landowners within or adjacent to an NHA designation. In addition to congressionally authorized matching funds, NPS provides technical assistance and a strong partnership. NHAs match every federal dollar with an average of \$5.50 in state, local, and private contributions, and a 2012 study determined that NHAs are responsible for a nearly \$13 billion economic impact in the communities they serve.

The National Heritage Area Act was championed by Representatives Paul Tonko (D-NY) and David McKinley (R-WV) in the House and Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Roy Blunt (R-MO) in the Senate. The bipartisan bill is co-sponsored by 16 Senators and 138 House members (through the House companion bill, H.R. 1316).

"Establishing a system for National Heritage Areas will help breathe new life into the historic preservation movement in America," said Alan Spears, Senior Director for Cultural Resources for National Parks Conservation Association. "Our history, complicated as it may be, serves as a rallying point for Americans of different backgrounds and ideologies. This piece of legislation exemplifies what our country can do when we stand together to protect our shared legacy."

To learn more about NHAs, their value, and their work, please visit <https://www.nationalheritageareas.us>. You can also view a short video created by ANHA that explains why the National Heritage Area Act is needed for the future of NHAs.

*The Alliance of National Heritage Areas works collectively to protect and promote the people and places that tell America's stories. We are a membership organization of congressionally designated National Heritage Areas and partner-affiliated organizations promoting the professionalism and benefits of the program through education and advocacy. Together, we facilitate and celebrate partnerships that improve our effectiveness and impact.*

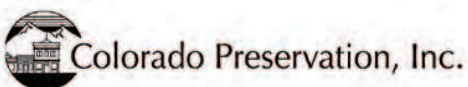


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# Lifestyles

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

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## Cactus Hill Farm keeps shepherding tradition alive

By DIAN DREKMANN

**CAPULIN** — Elena Miller-ter Kuile, owner of Cactus Hill Farm, comes from a lengthy line of sheep herders.

Originally from Espinola, N.M., through six generations, the family settled in Capulin. At one time, her great-great-grandfather had thousands of sheep and was considered a wealthy man.

Kuile also has strong family ties to Holland. When growing up, her father had to sell the sheep due to challenging times.

Kuile always retained her love of farming and for sheep. After going to college to study soil and agricultural development, she returned to the family farm and started Cactus Hill Farm with her father 10 years ago.

“I started with eight sheep from Northern Colorado and some from my neighbor,” she said.

Cactus Hill Farm has 400 acres and about 250 sheep—different breeds all which have different types of wool.

“Wensleydale sheep have curly hair,” Kuile said. “LBDs have long hair. Merino sheep are very popular because the wool quality is fine and soft, and not scratchy, which makes Merino sheep wool very wearable. Churro sheep have a very coarse fleece. Their wool is used more for rugs, as well as for colcha embroidery.”

Kuile breeds sheep whose wool works well for clothing. She specializes in custom yarns and clothing.

Sheep come in assorted colors, which affects the color of the wool. Some wool is dyed with natural pigments. For example, a local yellow bush called rabbitbrush is used to create a beautiful yellow color.

Kuile also uses a company in Craig called Yampa Valley Fiber Works which takes the raw fleece that has been sheared and spins it into yarn. Kuile uses acid dyes to create brilliant colors like lime green and bright orange.

Kuile recently converted an unused shed into her yarn shop where she makes her creations.

*Please see HERDING on Page 3*



Photo by Diane Drekmann

Cactus Hill Farm of Capulin has more than 250 sheep.



File photo

The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (NHA), one of the most highly acclaimed areas among federally designated NHA sites, has been reauthorized for another 15 years, staving off the 2024 designation expiration. Sangre de Cristo NHA encompasses 3,000 miles and spans Costilla, Conejos and Alamosa counties as well as portions of Saguache and Rio Grande, including the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

## SdCNHA reauthorized for another 15 years

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

**ALAMOSA** — The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (NHA), one of the most highly acclaimed areas among federally designated NHA sites, has been reauthorized for another 15 years, staving off the 2024 designation expiration.

Federal reauthorization guarantees funding for the NHA from the National Park Service will continue

through 2037.

Sangre de Cristo NHA encompasses 3,000 miles and spans Costilla, Conejos and Alamosa counties as well as portions of Saguache and Rio Grande. According to the Sangre de Cristo NHA website, the area includes the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Baca National Wildlife Refuge, the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness, the South San Juan Wilder-

ness, Sangre de Cristo Wilderness Area, San Luis Wilderness Study Area, Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge and the Medano-Zapata Ranch. Other features include the Trujillo Homestead, a National Historic Landmark.

On Friday, Dec. 23, U.S. Colorado Senators Michael Bennet (D) and *Please see SdCNHA on Page 3*

## Ice Fest takes on 90s theme

*Save the dates, Jan. 27-29*

By KEITH R. CERNY

**ALAMOSA** — It will be a flashback to the 1990s when the 14th annual Rio Frio Ice Fest returns here Jan. 27-29, 2023.

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.

Headlining the event is the unique Rio Frio 5K race on the

frozen Rio Grande, conditions permitting, but the race will go on regardless of ice conditions on Saturday morning, Jan. 28.

With ample water back at Blanca Vista Park, just north of town, the popular polar plunge, ice carousel and ice skating will return on Sunday, Jan. 29 starting at noon.

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.

*Please see FEST on Page 3*



File photo by Keith R. Cerny

An estimated 170 runners and walkers participated in the 2022 Rio Frio Ice Fest 5K on Saturday shown starting at the Cole Park baseball field. Sponsors are expecting a possible record turnout this year.



# Keep winter blues away with fun outdoor opportunities

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — Though the San Luis Valley hasn't seen much snow at the lower elevations, the high country is a winter wonderland with depths reaching upwards of four feet and plentiful opportunities to enjoy winter outdoor recreation this year.

The South Fork Visitor Center announced last week that their ice-skating rink is ready for use. The rink is in Rickle Park on the east side of town. Thanks to the efforts of the South Fork Friends Foundation, the Town of South Fork and several benefactors, the rink also offers free skates and a warming shed for public use. Next to the rink is a small sledding hill, perfect for gliding down on a sled and a warm winter afternoon enjoying the snow.

South Fork is at the center of more than 300 miles of trails that can be accessed through several Forest Service roads leading into the back country. Many of the trails that have immediate access from town or just beyond are groomed and cared for year-round.

Snowmobiling is one of the more popular activities in the area due mainly to the access to trails throughout the region. Places like Beaver Creek and Cross Creek offer about 23 miles of passable trails for more experienced riders and offers views of the San Juan Mountains along Forest Service Road 359.

Fox Mountain and Park Creek trails are a great way to get out in the backcountry on Park Creek Road 380. This trail leads to large open

meadows that can be a snowmobiler's dream of a winter play land with plenty of room to reach high speeds and glide over the powder that usually resides there in the dead of winter.

Besides snowmobiling, some look for more quiet activities. Winter can be a very peaceful time of year when the world takes a deep breath and silently holds it until spring. The area is rich in cross-country skiing trails that offer spectacular views and a chance to see plentiful wildlife. Local organizations like the Powder Busters and Silver Thread Outdoor Club host outings to these trails which they also help keep groomed throughout the winter. A free map is located at the South Fork Visitor Center for those who wish to learn



Courtesy photos

**Winter in the San Luis Valley comes with a wide range of activities to enjoy.**

where these hidden gems are.

Other activities also include ice fishing at the many reservoirs in the area like Beaver Creek which is easily accessible during winter months. Other ice fishing locations include Tucker Ponds and Big Meadows Reservoir which requires either snowshoes, cross-country skiing or snowmobiles to gain access, but the trip is worth the effort with lakes packed full of late season fish.

Winter in the San Luis valley is a wonderful time to see what the Colorado lifestyle is all about, though caution is needed when venturing

out into the back country, especially if it is for the first time. Many local groups, like the two listed above, are a great way to get an introduction to what people need to know about the mountains during the winter months.

Some of the simpler things to remember holds true no matter what season it is and that is to inform people of where you plan to adventure, when you plan to return and to always be familiar with the surroundings before venturing out into any area. For more information, visit the South Fork Visitor Center online at [www.southfork.org](http://www.southfork.org).



From skiing at Wolf Creek Ski Area to participating in or watching the Golden Pick Hockey Tournament in Creede.



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# San Luis Valley Area Extension Office Recruiting Master Food Safety Advisor Volunteers

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — The San Luis Valley Area Extension Office is recruiting volunteers who will attend in-depth training sessions to be held in Jan. 17-20 on food preservation and safety, and afterward will share their knowledge by volunteering in the community. The intensive training will cover food safety and prevention of foodborne illness, methods of canning, pickling, freezing and dehydrating. Master Food

Safety Advisors must apply for selection to be in the program, must attend all training, work cooperatively with other volunteers and give a minimum of 30 hours of service each year to the community by sharing their knowledge and teaching others. Application due by January 6th. For more information, contact Janae Naranjo at 719-852-7381 or [janae.naranjo@colostate.edu](mailto:janae.naranjo@colostate.edu).

# SdCHNA Continued from Page 1

John Hickenlooper (D) both issued statements celebrating the reauthorization after they introduced the “Colorado National Heritage Areas Reauthorization Act” in March of this year. That legislation ensured the Sangre de Cristo NHA plus Cache La Poudre and South Park, the other two NHAs in the state, continue to receive National Park Service (NPS) funding through 2037. “People come to Colorado’s National Heritage Areas to learn about the rich and diverse history of our state,” said Bennet. “Ensuring these

National Heritage Areas continue to receive funding through the National Park Service will preserve our state’s story and culture for future generations.” “Colorado’s public lands, especially those that honor our past and diverse history, make us great. That’s why we fight so hard for the next generation,” said Hickenlooper. “As the Chair of the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area Board and Conejos County Commissioner, I would like to thank Senator Bennet for all his hard work getting us another 15 years of funding through

this reauthorization effort. The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area has been an incredible resource in helping preserve and restore historic sites within the San Luis Valley. Without the resources provided from the National Park Service, we would not have had the means available to make these projects happen. It has definitely been a blessing to this area. The economic impact to our counties has been tremendous,” said Mitchell Jarvies, Conejos County Commissioner and Chair of the Sangre de Cristo NHA.

# HEARDING Continued from Page 1

She sells her yarn online and at wool markets in Salida and Santa Fe. Kuile also talked about the business about sheepherding. She shared some facts about sheep. Sheep love cold weather and are well suited for the extreme Colorado climate. Their hair grows faster. Unlike cows that can roam open range without supervision, sheep need people to keep the herd together and dogs to protect the sheep. Sheep can be used for wool or meat. Kuile lets her sheep graze in the pasture during the day. At night, dogs herd the sheep into corrals to protect them from predators. Once a year, usually in April, all the sheep go into the barn for lambing season. “Sheep, like everything, is subject to what is most profitable in the industry,” Kuile said. “White wool is more desirable than black wool. Merino sheep are the most

popular. There are hundreds of kinds of sheep, yet alternative types, or heritage breeds, don’t gain attention because they don’t make a profit in the industry.” They are called hair sheep and are only used for wool. Sheep are not the only source of income on Cactus Hill Farm. They are blessed to have some of the oldest water rights in Conejos County. Therefore, they can sustain their large herd of sheep. Elena and her father also sell hay and grow an ancient grain called emmer, similar to wheat. Jessica Larriva of Tumbleweed Bakery in Monte Vista uses the organic products of Cactus Hill Farm. Cactus Hill Farm is on Facebook. Their email is [emillerterkuile@gmail.com](mailto:emillerterkuile@gmail.com). The website is [www.cactushillfarm.com](http://www.cactushillfarm.com). To order custom yarn, clothing, or other organic products, call Kuile at 719-849-9164.

# FEST Continued from Page 1

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](http://www.riofrioice.com) or [rioraces.com](http://rioraces.com).

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Towards the mouth or oral region
  - A way to season
  - North-central Indian city
  - Emaciation
  - Actress de Armas
  - A way to score in basketball
  - Odd
  - Scripting languages on IBM machines
  - A right of local jurisdiction
  - Hard, colorless compound
  - Diving seabird
  - Wild goat of the mountains
  - Not shortened
  - Someone who learns from a teacher
  - Is inclined
  - Still asleep
  - Antidepressants (abbr.)
  - Town in Surrey, England
  - Indian music patterns
  - Birth control means
  - People tend to be on one
  - A way to keep meat moist
  - Home of the Crimson Tide
  - Pasta type
  - Late 1990s rapper
  - One circuit of a track
  - Surrounded by water
  - Late “Growing Pains” actor
  - Married couples say it
  - Drool
  - Sicilian city

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

- Airline worker perk (abbr.)
- Grayish-black mixture
- Systems, doctrines, theories
- Midway between east and southeast
- Athletes who get paid
- against
- The neural structure consisting of the brain and spinal cord
- Expresses surprise
- Have a debt to
- Businessman
- State on India’s western coast
- Practice of managing financial risks (abbr.)
- Patty Hearst’s captors
- Put into service
- 10-year periods
- Crony
- Surgical clamp
- Leave unable to move due to lack of wind
- Where rockers work
- Valleys
- Ancient lyric poem
- Wise men
- It lights a room
- Assert
- Fifth Roman Emperor
- Ancient Greek city in Thrace

- CLUES DOWN**
- Genus of owls
  - Hindu queen
  - Cain and \_\_\_
  - Hindu female deity
  - Islamic calendar month
  - Changes posture
  - More stubborn
  - Give work to
  - Round maps of the Earth
  - Gathered fallen leaves
  - Popular credit card
  - Separation of church and state
  - Founder of Sikhism
  - They \_\_\_
  - Where you find the milk
  - Institute legal proceedings

**Solution to last week’s puzzle**

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



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## 07 Help Wanted

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ing and equipment maintenance. Mechanic and welding experience preferred. Tractor operating and livestock experience required. Please call 719-496-6543 if interested. (1-18)

**Janitorial** - Experienced individual and or company needed for janitorial services with responsibilities for cleaning Saguache County facilities. This is a Full-time position working 32 to 40 hours a week, with variable hours which include evening and/or early morning work times. Starting salary will be \$15.05/hr. To view the job description and an application they are available at Saguache County Administration office 505 3rd Street, Saguache or printable at [www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov](http://www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov). Call 719-655-2231 for more information. Position opened until filled. Saguache County is an EEO employer. Valid Driver's License, Drug testing which includes marijuana and a background check will be required also a physical exam may be required for final applicants. (1-4)

## PART-TIME SALES

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

**Monte Vista Head Start is accepting applications for a Lead Teacher.** This position is Full Time 38 hours/week. The Lead Teacher must have a minimum of an AA. Applica-

tions are available at the Monte Vista Head Start, 2863 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista, Colorado. For more information, you may contact the director by email, [director@mvheadstart.org](mailto:director@mvheadstart.org) or call 719-852-3215. An employment application must be complete. Position open until filled. (1-4)

## 12 Houses for Rent

**3 bedroom on 5 acres, mile west of Del Norte.** \$650/month. \$700/ deposit. 719-395-1793 - non-texting number. (1-11)

**Very nice 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex** in Monte Vista, W/D

and one-car garage. \$900/month, includes, water, sewer, & trash. No Pets, non-smoking 303-589-5455. (1-4)

## 17 Real Estate For Sale

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

**7 Quarters with pivots, 9350 GPM well water, 25 Shares of Rio Grande Canal, 3 decrees of**

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Sale Catalog Available By Request



MF 776E Ribstone Domino 128J - PAP 37

BW	+2.7
WW	+45
YW	+69
Milk	+27
M+G	+50
REA	+53
MARB	+21



MF 755E Dandy Domino 139J - PAP 32

BW	+2.3
WW	+51
YW	+83
Milk	+23
M+G	+48
REA	+62
MARB	-0.01



MF 755E Dandy Domino 164J - PAP 39

BW	+4.6
WW	+59
YW	+96
Milk	+21
M+G	+51
REA	+48
MARB	-0.08

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# Valley Wide Classifieds

good water rights out of Carnero Creek, fenced, new 200 pipe corral calf feedlot, good production and locations. Call **Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty Inc** 719-580-0770.

**For sale 40 acres vacant land** on C.R. 5 in Conejos County. No close neighbors and a very beautiful view. Motivated seller 719-588-7315 (1-11)

**32 Fuel & Heating**  
**NEED FIREWOOD?** Call **Elam at Cozy Glo LLC.** 719-480-5047. \$190 per cord. Delivery available. TFN

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

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**38 Machinery, Tools, Equipment**  
Lightly used **Hitachi cordless 3.5" nailgun,** w/ battery, charger, bag. \$250 obo.

Mike evenings 719-256-5084. (1-11)  
New in-box **Honda 5hp gasoline motor w/reducer.** \$500 (save \$150). Mike evenings 719-256-

## Business Showcase

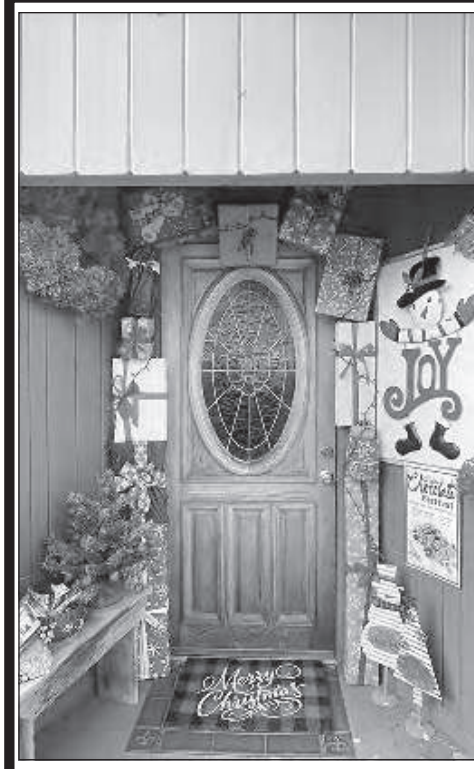
*It's a new year.*  
Time to get some cheerful snowmen to perk up your home!



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

**658-2848**  
**121 N. Main**  
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OBO call 719-588-5780/719-974-9200 (1-25)

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(1-25)  
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Courtesy photos  
Smoke billows out of the front of an Alamosa home at 1661 W. Seventh St. as firefighters enter. No human injuries were reported but one pet cat was lost and another revived.

# AFD firefighters revive cat in Tuesday home fire

## STAFF REPORT

**ALAMOSA** — Firefighters revived one of two cats found in a burning residence Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 20, but unfortunately the second did not survive.

Alamosa Fire Department Capt. Zach Cerny said firefighters were called to 1661 W. Seventh St. just before 3:30 p.m. and found fire burning toward the rear of the home. It is believed the fire began in a laundry room, but the actual cause is still undetermined.

One young adult was in the home at the time, but no one was injured, Cerny said.

Flame was visible from the outside of the home and was knocked down to allow firefighters to enter and fully extinguish the blaze. Cerny said the laundry room and an adjacent room suffered fire, smoke and water damage.

AFD firefighters Johnny Quintana and Regis Gilmartin revived the cat by massaging it and administering supplemental oxygen.

Cerny said four AFD firefighting units were on scene as well as two from Colorado Department of Fire Prevention and Control, both



Alamosa Fire Department firefighters Johnny Quintana (left) and Regis Gilmartin revived a cat found Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 20, in a burning home by massaging it and administering supplemental oxygen.

providing a total of 12 personnel. Firefighters were on scene for about two hours and 20 minutes, he said.

**Conour** *Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society*  
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 If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366  
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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.*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR OF SUPPORT AND ADOPTIONS! WE HOPE THIS NEXT YEAR WILL BE EVEN BETTER!**

Deckland is a Lab/Heeler mix, going on 5 months old and ready for his forever home! He's a very playful young pup who needs someone who can match his energy and great personality. Deckland is at a great age for training if you have the time and patience for. Come meet him today!



Jerry is a happy go lucky Shepherd/Husky mix that we believe is about 2 years old. He loves to play who shows his excitement by springing straight up with 4 paws in the air, play bows, and "sings." Jerry is a tad choosy on who his dog friends are but who isn't right? Come see if he's the fur family member you've been looking for!

## LOST & FOUND

Found 12/23/22 on North CR 1 East in Monte Vista



Bob and Ziggy are a bonded father and son pair ages 7 and 1. Bob (dad) is a Standard Poodle, and Ziggy is a NewfiePoo (a Newfoundland/Poodle mix). They're a great couple of dogs, partially potty trained, eager to learn new things, and go on new adventures! If you're up for the challenge stop by!



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# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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Custom built, impeccable quality, full log home located just minutes from the town of South Fork, Colorado. This home and 1015 sq. ft. bunkhouse provides a total sq. ft. of 5458. Features in the home include a massive rock fireplace, 3 bedrooms, 3-1/2 bathrooms, loft that boasts a futon plus two-window beds, office, playroom, and a large living room for you to enjoy with family and friends. The wrap around deck will allow you to experience world-class high mountain views. Above the garage is a custom log guest quarters with a spectacular kitchen, bath, large living room, and bedroom combined into one unit. Bear Creek subdivision offers controlled access through a gated entrance. MLS #738155  
**107 Marmot Lane • South Fork**  
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**IMPROVED PRICE \$649,900 THIS HOME YOU HAVE TO SEE TO BELIEVE!**

• 3 bedroom • 2 bathroom

This could be your new home. Amazing Custom - Built Full log Home - Entry room, living room, large kitchen with island, lots of cabinet space, laundry. This home has beautiful wrap around porches that offer great views of the mountains and cliffs. The attached double garage is 576 Sq. Ft. with concrete floor. The home is fully fenced. Additional 2,000 sq. ft. workshop. MLS#772697  
**181 Doe Circle • South Fork**  
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**SOLD**

**\$433,000 MLS #789027**  
**83 Highland • South Fork**  
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**SOLD**

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 Aqua 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 floor heating and propane on demand water system. This home has three heat sources to keep you warm 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! **\$669,500** MLS #796518  
**115 La Lomita Circle • South Fork**  
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**SOLD**

Lot in great neighborhood with no HOA just a hop, skip and jump from the majestic South Fork River. This is the perfect place to build your dream home. Water, sewer, electricity and highspeed internet! Beautiful views and close to all the amenities the town of South Fork has to offer. Moments from the South Fork River as well as the mighty Rio Grande, World class fishing, hunting, hiking, snowmobiling, 4 wheeling and all things outdoors. Start your adventure and schedule your showing today!  
 Price can't be beat! **\$29,900** MLS#796452  
**63 Rivercrest Drive • South Fork**  
**Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

**SOLD**

**Incredible views from this Mountain property!** Varied topography with mature Fir, Aspen, Pine and Pinion trees. This 5.02-acre property allows you several building sites to choose from. Paved roads located in gated Bear Creek subdivision. This property gives you great sun exposure with access to the forest service and a common area for homeowners located on 20+ acres of the Rio Grande River. Utilities and Good Well already in place 15 GPM. Gold Medal fishing, hunting and 4 wheeling just moments away. Not to mention fabulous skiing at Wolf Creek Ski Resort! Bring Your house plans this is the perfect property to build your Dream Home! Start your Adventure! Call and schedule your showing today! **\$149,500** MLS #795402  
**4495 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork**  
**Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

**SOLD**

Beautiful 1,728 Sq. Ft. Mountain Home property, 3 beds, 2 baths with additional large lot. Welcoming entrance with enclosed 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 is 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  
**484 Conifer Drive • South Fork**  
**Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty**  
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

**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 behold! 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 two electronic sinks 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 on main floor with elegant soaking antique tub. Upstairs spacious loft with two electronic skylights with rain sensors that will close automatically with additional sleeping areas including office space and additional large size bedroom with barn door and bath. Enjoy your 3-car garage with large workshop and more than enough room for all your mountain toys. Your family and friends will love the upstairs bungalow above the garage with kitchenette, living area, built-in beds additional bedroom and bath. Bring your family and friends to gather to enjoy the great outdoors! Borders National Forest, with streams, creeks, lakes rolling topography, open fields, pine, fir, aspen trees, mountain views and abundant wildlife! Beautifully designed home tucked peacefully into the woods and easily accessible to town, Wolf Creek Ski Area and the Rio Grande Golf Course Resort. Once in a lifetime Opportunity! This property perfectly captures the best of both worlds between outdoor recreation and exceptional entertainment. Start your dream and Call/Text me to schedule your personal showing today! **\$1,395,000** MLS #796960  
**37 Million Court • South Fork**  
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**\*There's No Place Like Home\***  
 for the **HOLIDAYS**

*Thank you to everyone who let me help them find a home in 2022*

*Call Bernadette today!*

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

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**Sandra Marquez — smarquez@valleypublishinginc.com**  
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**SOLD**

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 guest 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 nook 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 male deer and wild turkeys that frequent this neighborhood! No active HOA 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  
**298 Aspen Drive • South Fork**  
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**Steffens & Company Realty**  
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**810 Grand Ave, Del Norte**  
 Prime business location, 3,000 sq ft. BUSY CORNER LOT - Can become any business! MLS#779889 Call for price

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 MLS#785117 \$1,550,000

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

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**418 Loveland Road - South Fork**  
 .90 acres in Upper Alpine. No covenants, Air B&B OK. Call Dee Plucinski 719-873-5605. **MLS #796652 \$38,000**

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**634 Arapahoe Road, South Fork**  
 3 bedroom 2 bath home on 0.36 acres. No covenants, Air B&B/VRBO OK. Great Views, incredibly well kept.  
**\$315,000** MLS #797774

**Text 134108 to 25678 for more info**  
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