



Special Section
inside this week's
Center Post-Dispatch

Shorts

SLV Area Extension offering Servsafe course Jan. 31

ServSafe is a nationally recognized program developed by the National Restaurant Association, that provides food safety training, exams and educational materials to food service managers.

Food Service Managers who are not certified by an accredited Food Safety Course should attend. The Colorado Retail Food Establishment Rules and Regulations state that "at least one employee with authority to direct and control food preparation and service shall be a food protection manager who has been certified by an accredited program."

Classspace is limited. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, contact Janae Naranjo at 719-852-7381 or janae.naranjo@colostate.edu. Application deadline to register is Jan. 9, 2023.

City of MV seeking Vali 3 Theater proposals

MONTE VISTA — The City of Monte Vista, Colorado is asking for proposals from dedicated and serious individuals or groups who would like to purchase the Vali 3 Theater from the City of Monte Vista.

Proposals via email, mail or hand carry are preferred. Proposals can be sent-delivered in sealed envelopes marked "Vali 3 Theater 2022."

The deadline to submit a proposal is March 1, 2023, at 5 p.m. The City of Monte Vista's mailing address is 95 West 1st Avenue, Monte Vista, CO 81144.

Proposals will be reviewed, and applicants will present their proposal to City Council during a public meeting on March 16, 2023, during the regular scheduled Council meeting.

No one hurt in Dec. 23 Center fire

By **PATRICK SHEA**

CENTER — On the night before Christmas Eve at 5:27, a structure fire broke out at the corner of Fifth and Miles in Center. Center Police Department officers were already dealing with another call down the street.

"One of our officers ran over to the house to see if there was anybody in there," Center Police Chief Aaron Fresquez explained. "As she got there, they were already making their way out. She guided them out and moved them across the street."

Six Center Fire Department personnel responded rapidly,

and Saguache County Sheriff's Department staff helped control traffic and block intersections near the fire.

Chief Fresquez said that Town of Center electricians came to the scene and disabled power.

"As far as I know," Chief Fresquez said, "it was a total loss. It was fully engulfed when the fire crew got there."

Please see FIRE on Page 6A

A house caught fire at the corner of Fifth and Miles in Center around sunset on Dec. 23.

Photo by Patrick Shea



Photo by Patrick Shea

In their first year of operation, Brenda Larsen earned Superhost status with AirBnB and was selected as the top new host in Colorado.

First-year Hooper Superhost tops Colorado

By **PATRICK SHEA**

HOOPER — After moving to a property near Hooper and fixing up the house with her husband, Brenda Larsen figured she would doll up the

19th Century cabin behind it to create a playhouse for her grandkids. Her children convinced her to consider becoming an AirBnB host instead. She found she had a knack.

"It has taken off like nobody's business," Larsen recounted of her quick success. "I never thought that it would take off. It just blossomed."

Please see HOST on Page 6A

APD releases names of people charged in Christmas Eve shooting

By **PRISCILLA WAGGONER**

ALAMOSA — At approximately 3:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, two male individuals were involved in an altercation which included the discharge of a firearm in the parking lot of the Wal-Mart on Highway 160 in Alamosa. Wal-Mart went on temporary lock down following the incident.

The Alamosa Police Department was dispatched and immediately responded to the scene, but the people involved were no longer on the property. Shortly thereafter, APD was notified by a local hospital that a male party was being treated in the Emergency Department for stab wounds.

An investigation was subsequently launched involving interviews with numerous people where it was *Please see NAMES on Page 6A*

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"

Please see FRIO on Page 2A

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.

File photo by Keith R. Cerny



Del Norte Bank's Mobile Deposit Capture

719-657-4558
705 Grand Ave.
Del Norte

DEL NORTE BANK
Member FDIC
www.TrueLocalBank.com

719-658-0126
117 N. Main St.
Creede

Member FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

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.



File photo by Keith R. Cerny

The popular 'Fire and Ice' event will return to the Rio Frio Ice Fest in Downtown Alamosa on Saturday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m.

FRIO

Continued from Page 1A

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, again snow conditions permitting.

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

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

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

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

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

OBITUARIES

Kathrine Lynn (Krulikosky) [Boylen] Reischling

April 13, 1956-Dec. 14, 2022

Kathrine was a loving mother, grandmother, sister, and friend as well as a fierce advocate for animals and had a devoted love for Jesus. Kathy went to her forever home with Jesus on Dec. 14 of 2022; her loving children, Angela and Jason Boylen by her side.

Kathy loved animals, horses and border collies, in particular. She deeply loved her children and her grandchildren, riding horses, and being in the country. She cherished the few close friends she had during her walk on this Earth.

Though we will all miss her, we know that she is free of the suffering and pain she endured in this life and is probably in heaven riding her beloved horse, Abe with her adoring border collies: Abby, Lou, Oreo, and Cardigan happily trailing along.... And when she's done with her ride, she has Emma and Mo (her life companion kitties) and precious boxer, Jessie for company so she'll never be alone.

She was preceded in the transition from this life to the next by her father, Leonard and mother, Harriet.

She is survived by her sisters, Carol and Cynthia,



brother Leonard (Lenny), her children: Angela and Jason, son-in-law Andrew and three grandsons, Alex, Adyn, and Aethyr.

We let her go to be in the arms of the angels. Ride free! Kat. Ride free!

Jean Ann Consaul

Jean Ann Consaul (Meyer), age 39, of Center, Colo., passed away Friday, Dec. 23, 2022.

Jean Ann was born Nov. 22, 1983, in Del Norte, Colo., to Galen and Melanie Meyer. She was the third of four siblings (Beau, Heather, Jean Ann, and Sandra). She was the peacemaker of the family and had a deep love and relationship with each of her siblings and parents.

Growing up Jean Ann attended Del Norte schools. She was friends with everyone, could beat anyone in a foot race, including the boys, and even her eventual husband Scott. She was active in many clubs/sports and easily one of the most likeable individuals one could ever meet. Jean Ann and Scott became high school sweethearts and graduated high school together in 2002. Jean Ann attended Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Ariz., where she received her Bachelors of Education.

Following college, Jean Ann married her best friend, who was her high school and college sweetheart Scott Consaul on June 17, 2006. They started their careers in Brighton, Colo. Jean Ann was an elementary school teacher that poured her love and patience into the kids she taught. God blessed her to become a mother to Makenzie Jean and she poured even more love into motherhood. Jean Ann and Scott knew they wanted to return to their roots. God opened the door for them to move home and start farming where they set out together to work alongside each other and raise their family in Center, Colo. Shortly after moving back to

the San Luis Valley God blessed them with their second beautiful daughter Elaina Joyce. Jean's love for her girls was immeasurable.

Jean Ann worked hard and was a remarkable businesswoman as she and Scott worked together to grow Consaul Farms tilling the soil. She worked even harder to love on, encourage, and raise her girls. She was active in their school, 4-H, and sports. Jean Ann's favorite thing in life was to spend time with her girls. She was their biggest cheerleader in the stands, and she loved their time working on pigs, traveling to shows, and living life to the fullest with her family. Jean Ann enjoyed doing anything to help others and she gave back to the community in countless ways. Jean Ann and Scott enjoyed 16 1/2 years of marriage together making countless wonderful memories.

Jean Ann was a truly remarkable, bright, caring and giving lady who loved God. We know she is in heaven looking over all of us. She was an incredible mother and a loving wife. All of her immediate and extended family and friends truly loved her. She will be missed by so many people.

Jean Ann was preceded in death by her grandparents Ed Oliver and Joyce, Jack, and Earl Meyer.

Jean Ann is survived by her loving husband Scott Consaul, and their two daughters Makenzie and Elaina, her parents Galen and Melanie Meyer, siblings Beau Meyer, Heather Meyer, and Sandra (Justin) Ward, in-laws Craig and Greta Consaul, nieces and nephews, and her grandmother Martha Oliver.



A Memorial Service will be held for Jean Ann Consaul at 10 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 30, 2022, at the Sargent High School gymnasium. Contributions or donations in loving memory of Jean Ann Consaul can be made to a foundation being formed for a living legacy. Further information will be available through Rogers Family Mortuary or the family soon. To express condolences, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com

Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista is in care of the arrangements.

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Jack Welsh

A celebration of life for Jack Welsh, of Creede, will be held at 1 p.m. on Jan. 7 at Red Community Church. Snacks and drinks to follow.

VALI3Theater
719-628-2015
139 Adams • Monte Vista
www.vali3theater.org



Dec. 30
- Jan. 1

Fri. & Sat.
7 p.m.
Sunday
5 p.m.

PG-13

Kids (6-16) \$4 • Adults \$6 • Seniors (65+) \$5

San Luis Valley Federal Bank
COMMITTED TO YOUR SUCCESS

Spend more time together.
Open your account online today!

START TODAY

www.slvfed.bank



OPINION & EDITORIAL

Avian Flu: be aware but not alarmed

By LARRY BROWN

CSU Extension

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, HPAI for short, has now been detected in the SLV according to a recent article by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), and more wild bird mortalities have been reported since the announcement.

This is a sad situation, and we want the public to be aware but not alarmed. Unless you are a commercial or backyard poultry producer, or a waterfowl hunter, this will most likely have no affect on you. Transfer of the virus to humans is extremely rare.

If you are a poultry producer, now is the time to take extra precautions to ensure your flock remains safe. The most effective way for you to protect your flock is to modify your coop and runs so that no wild birds can mingle with your flock, enter their area, or share feed or watering equipment. Keep a separate

pair of boots or shoes to wear only into your poultry pens and disinfect them regularly with something like bleach or Lysol. It is highly advised to keep your flock closed, meaning do not bring new domestic birds in right now. If you have recently brought new birds into your flock, it is advised to separate and quarantine the new birds for 21 days.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture has a great webpage dedicated to information on HPAI and gives excellent and specific recommendations on how to control the spread of the disease for producers, hunters, and for citizens who might come across a wild bird carcass.

In general, if you are a hunter, you should not take birds that appear to be ill, you are advised to wear gloves while cleaning and handling your harvested birds, and to wash your hands and hunting clothes when finished.

If any citizen should see wild bird carcasses on public ground, you are

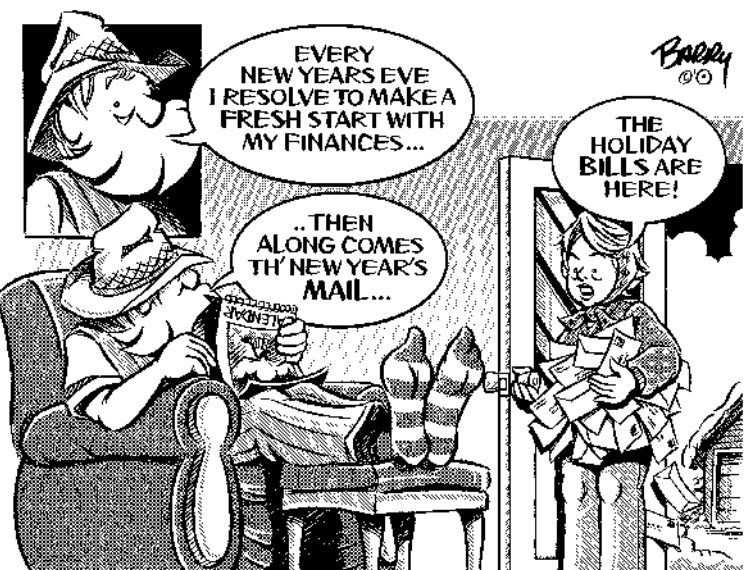
advised not to touch them and to call our CPW office to report them.

If a citizen were to find a wild bird carcass on your own property and want to dispose of it, you can use this link to the CDA website and read the specific recommendations: CDA: Avian Flu.

You can also call the Extension office at 719-852-7381, or your own county's Emergency Manager for more specific recommendations.

Also remember this is a reportable disease. This means if you are a producer and have sick or dying birds, you are to call your veterinarian or the Colorado Department of Agriculture immediately.

If you see three or more wild birds sick or dead in a two-week period, call the Colorado Parks and Wildlife office. Other numbers you can call to report sick or dead birds include the CDA State Veterinarian at 303-869-9130, or the CSU Avian Health Team at 970-297-4008.



Happy New Year

Christmas came and went in a flash and all I can say is WOW! Miss Trixie in her usual manner made a huge splash with presents for the grandkids and I doubt that we will be able to do better than that in any following gift giving. For those of you that know her it's not a surprise but if you do not, let's just say the best decision you will ever make is to invite her to any potluck or other event where she can share her bounty. You will not be sorry.

And having that holiday under our belt Ol' Dutch had hoped for a few days of peace and quiet around the farm but way before the butt crack of dawn, Miss Trixie bailed out of bed like a dairy farmer in Iowa and headed out for the after Christmas sales. Thankfully, I did not have to go along and witness the madness that occurs nor stand in return lines as long as the store is wide.

As you all know a massive cold snap hit the entire USA in the past week and we suffered a water outage as everything just froze up. I finally got that flowing again but seem to have a water leak again somewhere so there goes my week of relaxation anyway.

As we look ahead to the week, I am sure we will also get to see the grands again as they are out of school for a while and may even babysit toward the end of the week as their mother has another birthday coming round and they usually go somewhere.

The end of the week also brings about the very end of the year as we are staring 2023 right in the face for sure. And with that rumors and theories of certain destruction abound from sources as varied as government to televangelist all certain the end is nigh.

Why, I can remember it just like yesterday when they all were telling us that the year 2000 would bring about death and mayhem with the Y2K phenomenon. Peoples sold 20-year shelf-life food like it was going out of style and it just dawned on me that it's all out of date already and we are still here.

Of course, they all sold that stuff at huge profits because even though your money was supposedly going to be worthless after that event, somehow, they needed that same money in their pockets. I never figured that out.

And they also told us how we could eat that mush as regular food too so it would not go to waste as the shelf life approached. Which brings up another weakness in their sales pitch in that if the world is ending, why do we need



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

20-year food supplies?

It must have been a great scam as ever since then, the preachers and grifters have been selling that stuff like hotcakes which is one of the staples in the food supplies they send out when you order it.

I have some friends who are into the "prepper lifestyle" and Miss Trixie and I even got a Christmas present of some silver bullion for the times ahead when money is worthless. According to preppers, folks will trade silver for food in lean times so they can remain fat and sassy while the masses starve.

Now Ol' Dutch does have more than a few concerns about the way things are going financially and economically but I figure that if things go to hell in a handbasket, Miss Trixie and I will eat the cows that we have and then like good soldiers just fade away.

And from the looks of things around here and the nation it would take a considerable amount of time for any of us to fade away enough to really suffer anyway.

I hope you will join me in looking ahead to 2023 with at least a little excitement as you never know when you will turn a corner and something wonderful will happen to you. So, lift your heads and hearts as we enter the new year. For unlike the naysayers and doomsday prophets that seem to run amuck among us, I think we have yet to see our finest hour as a people and a nation.

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.

LETTER

Saguache County addresses 'Financial Statement Findings'

Editor,
We, the Saguache County Board of Commissioners, would like to address an article published in a San Luis Valley newspaper titled "Saguache County Audit Identifies Problems" dated November 2022.

Within the 2021 Audited Financial Statements, prepared by Wall, Smith and Bateman, Inc., items were identified as "Financial Statement Findings". Below we will address these items for the public.

- "Treasurer fees were being charged to Social Services and on federal funds which is not in accordance with Colorado Revised Statutes. (CRS 26-1-123 and CRS 30-1-102)." When the new automated accounting system was implemented, treasury fee rates were established and automatically charge when funds are received by the Treasurer. The Treasurer was aware that some rates were implemented incorrectly and was working with the system administrator to make appropriate corrections. A reconciliation was completed of treasury fees charged to Social Services with an appropriate refund made in 2022.

- "Grant Reimbursements did not reconcile to the County's general ledger." While all grant reimbursements do not match the general ledger, all grant reimbursements do reconcile to the general ledger with the difference being the indirect charge to the grant that is not charged/expensed on the general ledger. Certain grants allow for the County to bill additional funds (indirect) based on the payroll charges. All State and Federal grant billings are reviewed and must be accepted by State oversight before funds are received by the County. As of this writing no grant billings are in dispute.

- "Medicaid billing was not being completed accurately or timely." The County was very aware that there was an issue with the Medicaid billing system in that it was not accepting entries made for billing. A contributing factor was that Medicaid did not initially accept the County's certification and tax identification number. These issues have been remediated and Medicaid billings

are current, however reimbursements are still outstanding but expected before year end. As the County is committed to continue this program for our residence, a motion was made for our general fund to cover the shortfall in this program until funds are received.

- "Numerous correcting journal entries are posted by the Finance Department to the General Ledger. In some cases, documentation was not maintained." This finding primarily relates to additional journal entries need to implement a new automated accounting system effective Jan. 1, 2021. Several errors were made when setting up prior balances and the cash accounts. A complete reconciliation of ledger balances was completed resulting in extra journal entries needed to make corrections. All accounts are currently balanced, and a policy has been implemented that all journal entries must be authorized by the Finance Specialist.

- "Landfill closure and post closure cost studies have not been completed in accordance with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) guidelines." The Landfill closure and post closure cost are due to CDPHE every 5 years and was not due to be completed until 2022. The County did complete the study in 2022 therefore does not accept this finding as accurate.

- "Social Services and the Sales Tax Youth and Seniors Fund expenditures exceeded appropriations for the year ended December 31, 2021 by \$5,150,047 and \$19,034, respectively, this may be a violation of Colorado Revised Statutes 29-1-110." The published article says we are in violation of State Statutes, however, the 2021 Financial Statement Findings indicated this "may" be a violation. Regarding Social Services, CRS 26-1-122 states each county shall annually appropriate as provided by law such funds as shall be necessary to defray the county departments twenty percent share of the overall cost of providing the assistance payments, food stamps (except the value of food stamp coupons), and social services activities delivered in the county. The County only budgeted for

its proportionate share of the costs with the difference in budgeted appropriations and those expenditures reflected in the Audited Financial Statements to be direct pass-through dollars provided via the food stamp coupons amounting to approximately \$5,000,000. For the 2022 budget, a disclosure will be made for the value of the pass-through food stamp coupons. Regarding the Sales Tax fund, the additional appropriations were a correction of a prior period balance with these dollars being transferred to other sales tax funds within the County. Therefore, the County does not believe this balance correction is a violation of the Colorado Revised Statutes.

- All audit adjustments proposed by Wall, Smith and Bateman have been made to the County's Dec. 31, 2021, financial statements to present them in accordance with general accepted accounting principles.

The County is aware that internal controls are not as robust as desired. An experienced Financial Specialist was hired in June 2021 to provide oversight of the financial reporting process. Several procedures have been implemented to provide timely and accurate reconciliations and financial reports, with monthly financial statements being presented to the Board of County Commissioners and all department heads. A policy and procedures manual has been implemented in the Public Health sector and a manual is in process for the County Administration sector. In addition, Social Services has also hired a full-time accounting person to provide timely and accurate reporting in this area.

It has always been the County's goal to provide accurate accounting records and financial reports and be transparent to the County constituents in regards to County revenues and expenditures.

Sincerely,
Commissioner Tom McCracken – District I
Commissioner Lynne Thompson – District II
Commissioner Tim Lovato – District III

CENTER POST-DISPATCH

THE CENTER POST-DISPATCH (USPS 775-900) Published weekly (every Thursday) by Valley Publishing. (719) 852-3531 at 835 First Ave., Monte Vista, Colorado 81144-1423. Official newspaper of the Town of Center, and a legal newspaper in Saguache County.
Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144
Main office, Want ads and Subscriptions: (719) 852-3531
Periodical postage paid at Monte Vista, Colo., 81144
POSTMASTER: Send change of address to P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144
Subscriptions: \$45 one year in the San Luis Valley; \$40 one year seniors (65 and older) in the San Luis Valley; and \$55 one year out of the San Luis Valley. (719) 852-3531
News Media Corporation website: <http://www.newsmediacorporation.com>

- Brian Williams..... GM/Editor
- Marie Mccolm Monte Vista Journal Reporter
- Patrick Shea Center Reporter
- Lyndsie Ferrell South Fork/Creede Reporter
- Diane Drekmann..... Conejos/Costilla Reporter
- Sandra Marquez Advertising Sales Associate
- Shasta Quintana Circulation
- Ellie Bone Composition
- Vernon Trujillo Production Foreman

www.centerpostdispatch.com

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



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



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.

FDA issues advisory warning about recalled alfalfa following equine deaths linked to feed

CONTRIBUTED

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) are cautioning horse owners not to feed Top of the Rockies alfalfa cubes with the date codes 1111222, 1113222, 1114222, 1115222, and 1116222.

Consumers who have products marked with those date codes or who are unsure of the date code should throw them away in a secure container and follow the handling and cleaning instructions below. Horse owners should immediately consult their veterinarian if horses ate the recalled product and show signs of neurologic illness, such as muscle tremors, difficulty eating or swallowing, difficulty standing, or collapse.

The affected alfalfa cubes were made by Manzanola Feeds of Manzanola, Colorado, and FDA has confirmed the firm distributes products to feed stores and co-ops in 10 states: Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and

Wisconsin. Further distribution may be possible, so it's important consumers check the date code if they have Top of the Rockies products.

FDA is aware of at least 98 horses in Colorado, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Texas who showed neurologic symptoms and is working with state authorities to learn more. At least 45 of these horses have died or were euthanized due to declining health. At this time, it appears that Top of the Rockies alfalfa cubes was the only common food source among all of the cases.

The equines affected showed symptoms consistent with botulism. While botulism in horses is not a reportable disease in Colorado, veterinarians must report all cases of equine neurologic disease to the State Veterinarian's Office.

FDA is conducting further testing to pinpoint the cause of the horse illnesses, but horse owners and handlers should take immediate precautions to protect human and animal health. Consumers with Top of the Rockies alfalfa cubes should immediately inspect the product to

check the date codes and discard any affected feed.

More information can be found in the FDA announcement online, including directions on what to do if you suspect you have this recalled product, recognizing the symptoms that have been reported, and how to report a horse illness.

This is an ongoing investigation, and FDA is working with state departments of agriculture in Colorado and other states as well as testing feed and tissue samples.

FDA recommends that consumers who have affected feed should:

- Avoid handling the cubes directly

and wear disposable gloves and a face mask while throwing the cubes away and cleaning any bins or containers where they were kept.

- Wearing gloves and a face mask (preferably an N95 respirator), clean out all the empty bins or containers where the alfalfa cubes were kept.

- Make a bleach solution by combining ¼ cup household bleach to every 2 cups of water.

- Completely cover the container with the bleach solution, place a layer of paper towels on top of the bleach, and let sit for at least 15 minutes.

- Wipe up any remaining liquid with new paper towels and let the

containers air dry.

- Clean the area with liquid soap and water to remove the bleach and discard any items that may have come into contact with the contaminated food or containers.

- Dispose of the face mask and gloves in a secure trash receptacle and wash your hands with soap and running water for at least 2 minutes.

The risk of humans becoming sick from equine feed is low. Humans should not consume the product and follow proper disposal procedures outlined above to protect their health.

More information can be found at the FDA website: www.fda.gov.

GENERAC

Prepare for power outages today

WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE

CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE

(844) 482-0444

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* - A \$695 Value!

3.57% APY* - 13 Month Certificate of Deposit

This Certificate of Deposit is offered for a limited time. Invest a minimum of \$25,000 and you will earn 3.57% APY.

**3416 Mariposa Street
Alamosa
719-589-2536**

**901 First Avenue
Monte Vista
719-852-5933**

RG BANK

*Annual Percentage Yield. Minimum balance to open is \$25,000. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. The Certificate of Deposit will automatically renew at the end of the term for 12 months. Fees incurred on the account may reduce earnings. Minimum balance to earn APY on a Certificate of Deposit is \$1,000. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

COL pilot groundwater conservation easement complete

CONTRIBUTED
SAN LUIS VALLEY — Colorado Open Lands has successfully completed a pilot groundwater conservation easement on the 1,800-acre Peachwood Farms, owned by Gail and Ron Bowman. This easement permanently keeps groundwater in the confined aquifer, meeting the foreseeable sustainability needs of Subdistrict 4 of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District.

Over 20 years ago conservation easement work began to grow in the San Luis Valley largely with the establishment of the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, which was formed primarily out of concern for the surface water provided by the Rio Grande and its tributaries. Now through this new application of a conservation easement on the Valley's groundwater resources, the land trust community in the Valley is reinforcing its commitment to supporting the community in protecting its most precious resource: water.

Valley residents may be familiar with traditional conservation easements, in which a landowner voluntarily agrees to restrict future development of their land and keep water rights in use for irrigation.

Several years ago, Colorado Open Lands and the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust began to explore whether the conservation easement tool could be used to limit groundwater pumping. Irrigators across each subdistrict expressed interest in a tool that could provide a more flexible alternative to the Conservation Resource Enhancement Program (CREP); one that might allow them to continue farming or ranching with less water. A committed partner group consisting of COL, RiGHT, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District, the Conejos Water Conservancy District, and staff from Division 3 of the Division of Water Resources worked to examine the legality, valuation, and feasibility

of such a tool. Colorado Open Lands was able to secure over \$7 million in funding from the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to fund groundwater focused conservation easements, together with new management practices to support reduced water use.

Landowner Ron Bowman approached COL to explore how a groundwater conservation easement might work on the farm he owns with his wife, Gail.

Ron Bowman said, "If by discontinuing irrigation on my farm, it means that my neighbors may be able to keep their multigenerational farms in their families, then it feels like the right thing to do."

The conservation easement on Peachwood Farms is a step in a larger project. Subdistrict 4 was interested in purchasing a portion of the farm to use its water rights to replace stream depletions to San Luis Creek.

Based on the amount of water needed for that purpose, the parties came to an innovative set of paired agreements. Bowman would complete a conservation easement with COL to completely retire pumping on seven of his 12 wells and would restrict water rights for up to half of the decreed use on the remaining five wells.

Subdistrict 4 would then purchase the entire farm, be responsible for revegetation, and can ultimately sell the land with the easement in place. The Subdistrict will retain the use of the five reduced well rights, together with some surface rights, to use for replacement of depletions.

In this single project, Subdistrict 4 approaches aquifer sustainability, benefits San Luis Creek, and protects the soil resources. COL has worked with the Subdistrict to develop a land transition plan, which will guide revegetation of the farm over the next ten years. The plan is modeled after CREP, but allows for much more flexibility of irrigation amount and timing, to account for

precipitation and wind conditions in any given year.

COL Director of Conservation Sarah Parmar said, "We are used to keeping water rights in irrigation through conservation easements, so it feels wrong to intentionally dry a farm, but by drying this particular farm, we are ensuring that the other farms in the subdistrict are sustainable and we ensure that this groundwater stays in the aquifer and out of the hands of anyone who might want to try to move it outside of the basin."

While this conservation easement means that Peachwood Farms will cease all irrigation on seven circles, the original idea of the partners was to pursue projects that reduce groundwater pumping, but allow farms to stay in operation while using less water.

Unlike CREP or Subdistrict 1's well purchase program, a farmer or rancher could agree to reduce their pumping by a certain amount. While the reduction would be permanent, COL would not dictate how the farmer achieves that reduction — it could be through rotational fallowing, a reduced water crop, deficit irrigation, or some other means. The conservation easement value is determined through an appraisal process, which would determine the fair market value of land with irrigation and may compare it to sales of farms and ranches that are water-short.

An appraiser may also look at the lost future revenue potential based on reduced pumping. Colorado Open Lands would hold the restricted portion of the water rights for storage in the aquifer, so these rights would not be abandoned or available for another irrigator to pump.

Parmar added, "our hope is to work with landowners across subdistricts to avoid the state stepping in to shut off wells. I am continually amazed by the willingness of farmers and ranchers to step up to the challenge and grateful to work with irrigators like Ron Bowman, who want to be part of the solution."



Courtesy photos
Colorado Open Lands has successfully completed a pilot groundwater conservation easement on the 1,800-acre Peachwood Farms, owned by Gail and Ron Bowman.

Colorado Open Lands hopes to do more groundwater conservation easements and plans to host informational community dinners over the winter. Interested landowners can call Sally Wier at 719-480-8471, for more information.

The following funding partners made this project possible: Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Gates Family Foundation. Funds from the Natural Resources Conservation Service will be used to support revegetation of the farm.

About Colorado Open Lands

Colorado Open Lands is a private, nonprofit land trust that works to enhance Colorado's quality of life by protecting its most treasured asset: open lands. Since 1981, COL has helped landowners conserve more than 650,000 acres — or 1,000 square miles — around the state and fostered partnerships responsible for critical innovations in conservation funding, water management, and more. In 2015, COL adopted an ambitious strategic plan to help interested landowners protect a total of 800,000 acres across Colorado by 2025.



MIKE FUCHS HEREFORDS

719-657-2519

fuchsranchherefords.com

HIGH ALTITUDE BULL SALE - JANUARY 14, 2023 at 1:00pm
SUMMIT LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE
5660 East Highway 160 | Monte Vista, CO 81144

Selling 23 - Coming 2 Year Old Bulls - PAP Tested at 8100ft Elevation
 ALL 23 SALE BULLS UNDER 40 PAP - 13 SALE BULLS UNDER 35 PAP

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|
|  <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 12px;">MF 776E Ribstone Domino 128J - PAP 37</p> | BW | +2.7 |
| | WW | +45 |
| | YW | +69 |
| | Milk | +27 |
| | M+G | +50 |
| | REA | +.53 |
| | MARB | +.21 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|
|  <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 12px;">MF 755E Dandy Domino 139J - PAP 32</p> | BW | +2.3 |
| | WW | +51 |
| | YW | +83 |
| | Milk | +23 |
| | M+G | +48 |
| | REA | +.62 |
| | MARB | -0.01 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|
|  <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 12px;">MF 755E Dandy Domino 164J - PAP 39</p> | BW | +4.6 |
| | WW | +59 |
| | YW | +96 |
| | Milk | +21 |
| | M+G | +51 |
| | REA | +.48 |
| | MARB | -0.08 |

Sale Catalog Available By Request



A Groundworks Company

FOUNDATION REPAIR



CRAWL SPACE REPAIR



CONCRETE LIFTING



PROVIDING TRUSTED SERVICE SINCE 1999



FALL INTO SAVINGS!

up to
 \$525

OFF ANY SERVICE*

*Ten percent off any job over \$2500 up to a max of \$525. Coupon must be presented at time of inspection. Offer may not be combined with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Ask inspector for further details. Promos valid through 11/30/2022.

+ Affordable Payment Plans

+ Nationally-backed Transferable Warranties

Call for a FREE INSPECTION
 (719) 626-4236

HOST Continued from Page 1A

I love being a hostess.”

In her first year of operation, Larsen earned Superhost status with AirBnB and was selected as the top new host in Colorado. Even though she didn't have her first check-in until March, and they used data up through September to determine the top performers, Larsen still had the highest number of check-ins in the area (142).

Larsen achieved Superhost status within a few months. AirBnB tracks hosts with rolling quarterly evaluations based on certain metrics. Superhosts must complete a minimum number of visits over 100 nights. They also need to maintain a response rate greater than 90 percent, a cancellation rate below 1 percent, and a favorable review rating.

Larsen and her husband Jeff moved to the 10-acre site from Sanford 20

years ago, although they continue to run cattle on their Sanford operation. Some of their working horses spend time at the Hooper property during the year.

“The house was a total fixer-upper,” Larsen explained.

With the house under control, they tackled the cabin in 2021. The building has more miles on it than most mobile homes. It was originally built by “the Twin Billies” — Billy Wells and Billy Merkt — in the former mining town of Duncan in 1876. The village earned its name from John Duncan, the Indiana man who founded it in 1874. The town grew to support its own newspaper — The Duncan Eagle — a local school district, and regular mail delivery. Today, the townsite sits south of Crestone in the Great Sand Dunes

National Park and Preserve.

In 1900, George Adams acquired the land and mineral rights and forced settlers to move. The Twin Billies uprooted their log cabin, moved it a quarter mile, and joined a small group to found the town of Liberty. Liberty Road runs south from Crestone and reaches the park and preserve boundary. Liberty's population expanded to roughly 1,000. The new town supported a school with 40 students, a crushing and processing mill, and a new newspaper — The Golden Eagle.

Liberty languished, and the Twin Billies moved their cabin once again. With recurring busts in the mining industry, Wells and Merkt decided to try farming near Hooper. The men are long gone today, but their cabin remains where they left it. Now it's an AirBnB destination, the top new spot in Colorado for 2022.



Photo by Patrick Shea
With her first AirBnB check-in during March of 2022, Brenda Larsen still recorded enough check-ins and met other criteria to become the top new AirBnB host in Colorado.



AirBnB started in San Francisco in 2007 and now covers the globe with lodging options in more than 100,000 communities. In the United States, according to AirBnB statistics, a typical host earned almost \$14,000 in 2021. Collectively, new AirBnB hosts across the country earned more than \$1.5 billion between January and September of 2022. In Colorado alone, new hosts brought in more than \$45 million.

“I've met people from all over the world,” Larsen noted, rattling off New

Zealand, Germany, and France among other countries.

For people considering becoming AirBnB hosts, Larsen said it's hard work but encourages people to stick with it.

“It was a lot more work than I thought it would be,” Larsen said.

Once she decided to try AirBnB, Larsen estimates she spent four months researching the company and its competitors. Fixing the cabin, they removed the old stove and installed a highly effective

propane heater, a refrigerator, a bathroom, and basic kitchen functionality.

“Most guests don't cook,” Larsen observed, “and I'm from a big family, so what's a couple more plates to make for dinner.”

Clean accommodations are a given. An occasional home-cooked meal is a bonus.

“I've been blessed,” Larsen added, noting a long streak of good guests and help from her husband and sons Jed and Thad.



Photos by Patrick Shea

NAMES Continued from Page 1A

subsequently learned that two men were involved in the altercation. They have been identified as Damien Trujillo, 21, of Monte Vista, and Vincent McDermott, 31, of La Jara.

According to APD Chief Ken Anderson, Trujillo and McDermott were fighting when Trujillo brandished a weapon and allegedly stabbed McDermott five times before jumping into a car and fleeing the scene.

McDermott then produced a gun, discharging the weapon seven times at the car as it was speeding away.

Fortunately, despite a weapon being discharged multiple times in what was undoubtedly a crowded parking lot, no one was injured aside from one of the suspects.

As a result, both men are facing charges in connection with the incident.

Trujillo was charged with suspicion of first-degree assault with a weapon, felony menacing, reckless endangerment and disorderly conduct.

McDermott was charged with suspicion of criminal attempt, first-degree assault, second-degree assault, reckless endangerment, illegal discharge of a firearm and possession of weapons by a previous offender.

FIRE Continued from Page 1A

Fresquez said the Red Cross and Salvation Army responded quickly to provide services to the displaced residents. Fresquez thought that they found shelter with other family members in town.

For Center residents heading

deeper into the heating season, Fresquez advised, “getting carbon monoxide and fire detectors. Try to keep an eye on your electrical. If you have a wood stove, make sure your chimneys and stuff are clean.”

Never Give Up on God's Best for You

Have you ever been stuck? Have you ever hit a place in life that seemed like a dead end...like you no longer had any options?

I've been there many times, and I'm sure most people have. But I am so grateful that over the years God has taught me that even when we get stuck, there is no situation too difficult for Him to handle!

Let's start by looking at the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis, chapters 37 through 50. The Bible says he was the favorite of his father's 12 sons, and his brothers were very jealous of him because of it.

One day Joseph shared with his brothers a dream he'd had. In his dream, they were all bowing down to him. Needless to say, it didn't go over well!

As a result, the brothers got together to decide how to get rid of Joseph. First, they threw him into a pit to leave him there to die. But later they decided to sell him into slavery to a band of traveling Ishmaelite merchants. They then devised a plan to convince their father of Joseph's death.

As you may know, this story ends triumphantly. Joseph becomes second in command to Pharaoh, is eventually reunited with his family, and all is forgiven.

What happened to Joseph is proof that no matter what you go through in life, there is *always* hope. You can fulfill your God-given destiny because all things are possible with God!

But the part of his story we really need to focus on is what happened *in-between* the pit and the palace. Joseph's life took several turns during that time. But because of his faith in God and his determination to persevere no matter what, Joseph never gave up!

Quitting Is Not an Option

In our own lives, we may fall into a pit every once in a while. It could be a pit of sickness, financial lack, relationship issues or other problems.

Whenever that happens, we need to be determined that whatever the situation may be, we will not give up!

The truth is if we want to have a good *testimony* of what God has done, we must first pass the *tests*. But we don't have to be discouraged or afraid of the challenges that will come our way. In John 16:33, Jesus tells us, “...In the world you have tribulation and distress and suffering, but be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; I have overcome the world. [My conquest is accomplished, My victory abiding!]” (AMP).

It is inevitable that you will go through hard things. Sometimes you might even feel like giving up. But if you can just hold on and trust God through it all, He can restore you. He can take all the bad and make good of it (see Romans 8:28).

It is said that Winston Churchill gave the following speech to the graduates at Harrow School in 1941:

“Never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense.”

Churchill said those words during World War II, and I believe the Holy Spirit is speaking the same message to many of us today—“Don't give up, because God has so much in store for your life!”

You know, it's easy to want to give up when things get hard. Sometimes people get stuck where they are and don't know how to get out, so they think giving up is all they can do.

They may feel like they're not smart enough or talented enough; maybe something traumatic happened to them; or they may have failed at something or made terrible mistakes in the past.

But the Holy Spirit wants to empower us to press *in*, to press *on* and go *through* to our victory, even if things don't go the way we planned.

Failure does not mean there are no



more options. You can learn from past mistakes; in fact, I've found history to be a good teacher. When all else fails, try again. If nothing else, you'll learn what works and what doesn't work and can go from there. With God's help, you can turn your obstacle into an opportunity to grow wiser and mature spiritually.

God wants us to live a good life; however, there is no elevator ride to a good life—trust and perseverance are a must.

In John 10:10, Jesus said, “The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].” The Holy Spirit will lead us one step of faith at a time into the good life God has planned for each of us. Our part is to take those steps...and never give up!

<https://www.winstonchurchill.org/resources/quotes/quotes-faq/>

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching resource **It's Never Too Late**. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

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

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Your ad could be here for only \$12/week!

Call 852-3531

Soul Players of the Valley conducting survey

BY DIANE DREKMAN
SAN LUIS — Soul Players of the Valley is conducting a survey that will be used to form an economic recovery plan.

Dana Valdez-Maestas, Community Planning Manager for Soul Players of the Valley, shared the vision of “family minded individuals coming together with the shared vision to help everyone and all communities in the San Luis Valley.”

A group of people met in 2018 with Latino Community Foundation of Colorado (LCFC) to address the issues facing the Latino community in the San Luis Valley.

Teenagers came up with the name, Soul Players of the Valley. These grassroots members envision new opportunities for Latinos and address the health, economic, educational and other inequities of the region. The group meets once a month. Members range from teenagers to 70 years old.

Recently, the organization received a grant from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to create an economic

recovery program. The grant provides surveys asking people what their needs are and what change they would like to see in their community.

Valdez-Maestas wants “the community to feel ownership and be part of the decision-making.” The surveys need to be completed by Dec. 31.

A person can take the survey in several ways. Flyers are distributed throughout Conejos and Costilla counties with a QR Code that people can scan from their phone or by visiting their website SPVSanLuis.org. People can call 719-399-2424 to take a survey for Soul Players of the Valley to help create an economic recovery plan for San Luis Valley. Anyone completing a survey will be entered into a raffle to receive a gift card.

Soul Players of the Valley ultimately would like to see a community center in each town in the San Luis Valley. The Blanca/Ft. Garland community center is the only such facility in the region. There are no centers for the community to meet in Conejos County.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Dec. 19 and Dec. 26, 2022.

In addition to filing two REDDI Reports (Report Every Drunk Driver Immediately), sheriff personnel responded to a protection order violation in Saguache, a weapons offense in Saguache, assault in Moffat, harassment in Crestone on Dec. 23, and assault at the same address on Dec. 24. Officers also responded to reports of suspicious activity in Crestone, Saguache, and Center. They handled criminal mischief in Saguache, fraud in Moffat, theft in Center and Saguache, and a crash with property damage near Joyful Journey.

Staff arranged five ambulance rides, conducted welfare checks in Saguache and Moffat, and assisted motorists and other agencies. They patrolled Saguache seven times. They responded to a fire near Saguache and four controlled burns in the county. Littering, animal problems, utility problems, a deceased person, alarms, and community relations also required attention.

ARRESTS

• A 46-year-old Center man was arrested and released on \$750 bail for failing to appear in Saguache County for three court cases.

• A 31-year-old Center man was charged with Contempt of Court (Failure to Comply) and released from Rio Grande County Jail on a \$50 Personal Recognizance bond.

• A 31-year-old Center woman was arrested and detained for Failure to Comply (\$5,000 bond).

• An 18-year-old woman from Sacramento, California, was arrested and detained on a \$1,000 bond for assault in the second degree, first-degree criminal trespass, resisting arrest, and obstructing a police officer.

• A 36-year-old Moffat woman received harassment and domestic violence charges and was released.

• A 41-year-old Center man was arrested and released without bail on four charges — assault in the third degree, child abuse (knowingly/recklessly), child abuse resulting in injury, and domestic violence.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Colorado Gators Inc., 9187 Pyrite Circle, Mosca, Co, 81146, (719) 580-2306, has filed an application for a Construction Materials (112) Reclamation Permit with the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board under provisions of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Act. The proposed mine is known as Mystic Soil, and is located at or near Section 22, Township 41N, Range 10E, 6th Prime Meridian.

The proposed date of commencement is Spring 2023, and the proposed date of completion is, Fall 2033. The proposed future use of the land is industrial/commercial and rangeland.

Additional information and tentative decision date may be obtained from the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, Colorado 80203, (303) 866-3567, or at the Saguache County Clerk and Recorder's office; 501 4th St. Saguache, CO, 81149, or the above-named applicant. A complete copy of the application is available at the above-named County Clerk and Recorder's office and at the Division's office.

Comments concerning the application and exhibits must be in writing and must be received by the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety by 4:00 p.m., 20 days after the publication of this notice.

Please note that under the provisions of C.R.S. 34-32-101 et seq. Comments related to noise, truck traffic, hours of operation, visual impacts, effects on property values and other social or economic concerns are issues not subject to this Office's jurisdiction. These subjects, and similar ones, are typically addressed by your local governments, rather than the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety or the Mined Land Reclamation Board.

No. 1656 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, December 15, 22 and 29, 2022 and January 5, 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

FREEDOM. TO BE YOU.

If you think oxygen therapy means slowing down, it's time for a welcome breath of fresh air.

Introducing the Inogen One family of portable oxygen systems. With no need for bulky tanks, each concentrator is designed to keep you active via Inogen's Intelligent Delivery Technology.® Hours of quiet and consistent oxygen flow on a long-lasting battery charge enabling freedom of movement, whether at home or on the road. Every Inogen One meets FAA requirements for travel ensuring the freedom to be you.



- No heavy oxygen tanks
- Ultra quiet operation
- Lightweight and easy to use
- Safe for car and air travel
- Full range of options and accessories
- FAA approved and clinically validated

Call 1-719-490-4844 for a free consultation.



MKT-P0240

DIRECTVstream

GET YOUR TV TOGETHER &

UPGRADE YOUR EXPERIENCE



CHOICE™ PACKAGE
105+ Live TV Channels

\$89⁹⁹ MO.

Plus tax

- NO ANNUAL CONTRACT REQUIRED, NO HIDDEN FEES
- THE BEST OF LIVE TV & ON DEMAND ON ALL YOUR FAVORITE SCREENS
- UNLIMITED STREAMS FOR UNLIMITED SCREENS INCLUDED WITH EVERY PACKAGE*

*All DIRECTV streams must be on the same home network and compatible device(s) required. Limit 3 concurrent out-of-home DIRECTV streams. Certain networks limit total number of simultaneous streams. Restrictions apply. See directv.com/limitedstreams for details.

DIRECTV IS THE ONLY STREAMING TV PROVIDER WITH HBO MAX, SHOWTIME®, STARZ®, EPIX® & CINEMAX® INCLUDED FOR 3 MONTHS!

Available only for new DIRECTV STREAM customers with CHOICE or CHOICE+ Package (not SHOWTIME, STARZ, EPIX and Cinemax) who receive offer 3 months at the prevailing rate (currently \$14.99/mo. for HBO Max, \$11.99/mo. each for SHOWTIME, STARZ and Cinemax, and \$1.99/mo. for EPIX) when you change or cancel. Applies to select offers. Offer subject to change & may be modified or discontinued at any time without notice. Access HBO Max only through HBO Max app or website.com. Offer not available to DIRECTV and Ustream TV customers contributing to DIRECTV STREAM. See below for details.

Contact your local DIRECTV dealer!

TV Support Holdings

855-828-2729



DIRECTV STREAM, service subject to DIRECTV STREAM terms and conditions (see directv.com/legal). Requires high-speed internet. Minimum internet speed of 5Mbps per stream recommended for optimal viewing. Compatible device req'd. Residential U.S. only (incl. P.R. & U.S. VI). DIRECTV STREAM reserves monthly at the prevailing rate, charged to your payment method on file unless you cancel. New customers who cancel on their 14 day get 50% refund. Otherwise, no refunds or credits. If you cancel, you keep access through the remaining monthly period. Cancellations: Modify or cancel at any time online or by calling 1-800-517-5000. Taxes: State & local taxes or other governmental fees & charges may apply including any sales tax, fees or charges assessed against discounted fees or service credits. Credits: Offers may not be available through all channels and in select areas. Programming only, no broadcast news. All offers, programming, promotions, pricing, terms, restrictions & conditions subject to change & may be modified, discontinued, or terminated at any time without notice. See directv.com/terms for details. Channel and related channel and service marks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. Separate SHOWTIME subscription required. SHOWTIME is a registered trademark of Showtime Networks Inc., a Paramount Company. All rights reserved. Starz and related channels and service marks are the property of Starz Entertainment, LLC. HBO Max.com for updates/News. EPIX is a registered trademark of EPIX Entertainment LLC. Google, Google Play, and Android TV are trademarks of Google LLC. ©2022 DIRECTV, DIRECTV and all other DIRECTV marks are trademarks of DIRECTV, LLC. All other marks are the property of their respective owners.

State, defense reach plea deal in Dominguez case

Dominguez charged for involvement in murder of Myron Martinez

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — A plea resolution was agreed to by special prosecutors for the state and defense counsel in the case of CJ Dominguez, one of the co-defendants charged for his involvement in the homicide of Myron Robert Martinez, 37, of Del Norte.

Chief District Judge Michael Gonzales is presiding in the case.

Law enforcement discovered the remains of Martinez in a "burn pit," along with the human remains of several other individuals, in Los Sauces in November of 2020. Los Sauces is in Conejos County.

Dominguez, 29, was charged with tampering with deceased human remains, a class three felony, accessory to murder in the first degree, a class four felony, and second-degree kidnapping, also a class four felony.

As was presented by counsel for the defense, Dominguez pled guilty to the charge of tampering with deceased human remains. As part of the resolution agreement, the remaining two charges will be dismissed.

Also included in the resolution agreement, seven other cases pending against Dominguez will be dismissed. Six of those seven cases were filed in Alamosa with the seventh filed in Conejos County. Allegations

in those dismissed pending cases include traffic violations, violation of bail bond conditions, the violation of a protection order and the burglary of a dwelling.

When asked by the Valley Courier what went into the decision to agree to the resolution, Boulder County Deputy District Attorney Ken Kupfner responded, "Mr. Dominguez (pleaded) guilty to Count 1, the most serious of all the charges." Kupfner then added, "Ethical rules... limit a significant amount of what I can say about pending cases."

Due to the number of cases being dismissed, it is not yet determined if Dominguez will be required to pay restitution. Gonzales was assured that there were no victims' rights violations in the cases being dismissed or opposition by victims to the two counts in the Martinez case being dismissed.

By pleading guilty to the charge of tampering with deceased human remains, Dominguez will not be a co-defendant in the case that has been filed against Adre Baroz, Julius Baroz and Francisco Ramirez, generally referred to as "Los Sauces murders."

As part of the proceedings, Judge Gonzales read aloud the charge to which Dominguez pleaded guilty. Paraphrased, the charge states that between and including Oct. 7, 2020, and Nov. 13, 2020, Dominguez unlawfully and willfully destroyed parts of Martinez's body with the intent to impair the availability of the remains to be used in judicial proceedings.

As Judge Gonzales then explained, a class three felony

will subject Dominguez to a sentence ranging from 4-12 years in the Department of Corrections or placement in Community Corrections (instead of DOC) for the same period. Sentencing guidelines also allow Dominguez to be placed on probation with various terms and conditions, including 90 days in county jail, restitution to victims or a fine. The court is also free to determine if any other conditions will apply to probation, such as treatment for alcohol or drugs or any other conditions the court deems.

There are no sentencing stipulations in the resolution, which leaves Dominguez's sentencing up to the sole discretion of the court.

Judge Gonzales then asked Dominguez a series of questions to make sure he had read and understood the plea agreement, was entering the guilty plea freely without the pressure to do so or the promise of anything in return, was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs in making his decision and that all had been explained to him by his attorney.

Gonzales accepted the plea agreement and will refer the case to the probation department who will conduct a thorough investigation of Dominguez's background and ultimately prepare a presentence investigation report (PSI) that will be submitted to the court. Counsel also indicated they would also like for Dominguez to be referred to Community Corrections for a three-day screening.

In setting the date for the sentencing hearing, Judge Gonzales asked

defense counsel if they planned on having additional testimony at the hearing. Counsel indicated yes. DDA Kupfner indicated he anticipates needing additional time allotted for testimony, as well.

When asked if the prosecution planned to make any sentencing recommendations, Kupfner responded, "We will certainly be making a sentencing recommendation after reviewing the PSI."

A sentencing hearing was set for Feb. 28, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.



CJ Dominguez

dish

- 99% Signal Reliability Guaranteed
- NFL RedZone from NFL Network
- 2-Year TV Price Guarantee

FOR NEW SUBSCRIBERS
2022 OFFERS!
MULTI-SPORT PACKAGE
with NFL RedZone **1-866-397-0345**

ORDER TODAY & RECEIVE A \$100 GIFT CARD

The Multi-Sport Pack is included at no additional cost. Must sign up for service by 11/9/22. Only available with packages starting at \$84.99/mo., excluding America's Everything Pack, through 1/1/23. Reliability Guarantee legal disclaimer: Limited time offer, subject to change. Available only to new or returning former customers. Guarantee covers signal loss outages due to normal weather and/or technical issues. Does not cover signal loss outages due to user error. Does not cover changes in programming content. To receive outage credits, you must contact DISH customer service by phone or chat within 72 hours of the outage. Upon verifying the outage, DISH will issue bill credits in daily increments from the time of the outage until the outage is restored. Not available to DISH Outdoors customers.

Subscribe Online!
CENTER POST-DISPATCH.com

2022-2023
Wolf Creek Local
Appreciation Days

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Dates: | Rates: |
| November: 9, 16, 28-30 | Adults \$62 |
| December: 1, 5-8 | Seniors \$43 |
| February: 1, 8, 12 | Children \$32 |
| March: 29 | |
| April: 2-9 | |

WOLF CREEK
THE MOST SNOW IN COLORADO®

www.wolfcreekski.com
1-800-ski-wolf

BUY LOCAL &

Invest in Our Community

Eat, drink and shop with a purpose by supporting the locally owned businesses that bring variety, diversity, jobs and economic prosperity to our neighborhoods!

EST. 2018

THE FINERY
boutique

Men's & Women's Clothing Jewelry, Shoes, Accessories and much more! Gifts of all sizes for all occasions!

(719) 852-8849 • 839 First Ave. • Monte Vista
Winter Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Shop Online! www.thefineryboutique.com
Follow us on social media @bebeautifulmontevista

Free Estimates

All Insurance Claims Accepted

Glasurit Waterborne Paint...
Environmentally Friendly!

Absolute Shine
Auto Body & Paint

852-5700 • 859 Acequia Dr. • Monte Vista

Talk About LOCAL!

In Print & Online

THE Monte Vista **JOURNAL**

Valley Publishing
719-852-3531

Find us on facebook

RG BANK

901 First Avenue
Monte Vista
719-852-5933

3416 Mariposa Street
Alamosa
719-589-2536

Equal Housing Lender www.RGBank.bank Member FDIC



SLV

Wednesday, December 28, 2022

Lifestyles

Serving the entire San Luis Valley

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.

BOXHOLDER LOCAL-RURAL CAR-RT SORT STANDARD MAIL RATE U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 70 Alamosa, CO 81101

Connecting land, water & people during the holidays

I wrote a similar article last year at this time and I feel that is appropriate to again reflect on the connectivity of land, water, and people, at this time of year. These three elements are situated so deep within our being that we, likely, never even notice or consider how connected they are. Without one of them, we may not survive. By separating the three elements, I've taken an examination of what they mean to me.

Of course, we all know that we live on the land and use its abundant resources to build our shelters and grow our food to satisfy the basic needs of life. It has been this way over the span of humanity. In modern times, the land provides additional benefits that enhance our lives. Great sunrises and sunsets reflecting light off our land provide warm feelings of appreciation, often at a spiritual level. And, of course, we have a multitude of recreational opportunities that provide healthy enjoyment of the land, further fulfilling our lives. Especially here in the Valley.

We cannot consider water without acknowledging that it is the most basic necessity of life. The San

Land, Water and People

BY GREGG GOODLAND

Luis Valley, and indeed the Upper Rio Grande Valley, are ringed by some of the tallest mountains in the state. They strongly influence the amount of precipitation we get here in the form of both rain and snow. Any available upper-level moisture regularly collides with those high peaks and results in copious amounts of precious water being dumped on us. It comes as deep snow in the winter or rain from thunderstorms in the summer. In the arid west, we store as much of that water as we can in manmade reservoirs since there are not enough natural lakes that do it for us. We need these reservoirs to sustain our population. The water also provides abundant recreational opportunities. Sliding down the snowy slopes on your choice of toy is simply fun. Swimming, boating and fishing during the summer months

Please see LAND on Page 2

South Fork delivers toys



Courtesy photo

South Fork Fire Rescue filled their fire truck to the brim on Saturday, Dec. 17, with toys that were donated locally to children around the area. Thanks to the South Fork Dollar General and to all who participated in the toy drive.

Community gathers for Wreaths Across America at Homelake

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — There were around 100 people that met in 13-degree weather on Saturday, Dec. 17, and placed over 1,600 wreaths on every grave in the Homelake Veterans Cemetery for the local Wreaths Across America event.

Homelake Veterans Center Director of Marketing and Admissions Pam Self said, "I am so grateful for everyone who came, near and far, to help honor and remember these veterans."

Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization that began as an addition to the Arlington Wreath Program. The Arlington program was started after a donation from Morrill Worcester, owner of the Worcester Wreath Company. In 1992, the wreath company had a surplus of wreaths toward the end of the holiday season. He donated 5,000 Christmas wreaths to be placed in the Arlington National Cemetery that year. A ceremony was held at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Worcester continued to donate wreaths each year. The event continued quietly for some time, until a photo of the stones with wreaths spread, gaining national recognition. Suddenly, requests by the thousands were made by people who saw the pictures and wanted to reproduce the project, in their own national and state cemeteries.

Recognized and unanimously voted on by Congress, "Wreaths Across America Day" now takes place on a Saturday in December, every year.



The local Wreaths Across American event was held on Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Homelake Veterans Cemetery. More than 1,600 wreaths were placed on graves.

Courtesy photos



3.57% APY* - 13 Month Certificate of Deposit

This Certificate of Deposit is offered for a limited time. Invest a minimum of \$25,000 and you will earn 3.57% APY.

*Annual Percentage Yield. Minimum balance to open is \$25,000. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. The Certificate of Deposit will automatically renew at the end of the term for 12 months. Fees incurred on the account may reduce earnings. Minimum balance to earn APY on a Certificate of Deposit is \$1,000. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

LOR Foundation hosts open house

BY MARIE MCCOLM
MONTE VISTA — LOR Foundation Local Officer Ivette Atencio was all smiles at Thursday's open house. The open house was the foundation's office at 101 Chico Ct., Suite A.

About 25 people attended the open house from 5 to 7 p.m. The office was decorated with a large Christmas tree and garlands on each office door.

The foundation was giving out complimentary appetizers, drinks and gifts. The gifts were magnets from the foundation as well as beanie hats with the LOR Foundation logo,

and the words "My kind of Monte Vista," on them.

"I am very pleased with the turnout," Atencio said. "This is a great time of the year for giving, and our foundation likes to help people. Whether it's a big need or a small need, if the community needs something that's what we are here for. My roots are here, and I am proud to be able to serve my community and be an officer here. I want to help make Monte Vista and the people who live in it thrive. I really care about people and our community. I encourage residents to come down and speak

with me. I was excited that the foundation was able to help Monte Vista with the Christmas lights this year. Helping the community is what this is all about."

The LOR foundation supports projects that have an immediate need. LOR stands for livability, opportunity, and responsibility. The foundation supports and focuses on

solutions that improve quality of life through education, economy, engagement, the environment, health, housing transportation and water. The foundation works to support sustainable projects.

The foundation engages with residents, businesses, and organizations, and seeks ideas to improve their living areas and town.

LOR turns thought into action and aids communities with resources and funding. LOR works with local governments, nonprofits, individuals, businesses, and other organizations to help with developments that benefit rural communities.

For more information about the LOR Foundation, contact Atencio or visit online lorfoundation.org.



Photo by Marie McColm

LOR Foundation Local Officer Ivette Atencio hosted an open house on Thursday, Dec. 15, in Monte Vista.

LAND

Continued from Page 1

are activities that provide countless hours of recreation bliss.

As we look at the people element of this concept, I am inclined to separate them in to two categories. Those who live here and those who don't. I would argue that the people that live in this area represent one of the most culturally diverse populations in the state. From our indigenous roots to the more recent transplants like me, we are all connected by a similar passion for the land. The ones that are not from here are surely jealous of us. That's why they visit! At least that's what I will continue to think.

I recently read the first Land, Water, and People article that was submitted to our local newspapers on January 8, 2008. I'm grateful for Mike Blakeman's insight to create the column, providing an opportunity to connect all of us in this meaningful way. We've covered a lot of topics over the years, and I recently was thanked for providing educational material for everyone's reading pleasure. On behalf of all

the Land, Water, and People authors, it is our pleasure. As we count our blessings this time of year, we can be thankful for the land where we live, the water that supports us, and our wonderful neighbors and visitors that enrich our lives.

Gregg Goodland is the Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest. An avid outdoor enthusiast, you'll find him enjoying all public lands as often as possible.

New Teeth in Just One Day No More Dentures!

No Cost Consultation: Know what's possible for You! Includes preliminary evaluation and CBCT image. \$500 value. Expires: 1/31/2023.



Dr. Thornell helped save my life. I was having constant health problems that were getting worse every day. My diseased teeth and gums were draining me of my energy and it was impossible to stay healthy. After removing all of my bad teeth, Dr. Thornell placed dental implants and I got a new set of teeth in just one day. I am now healthier and feel better than I have in a long time. I also have a great smile. Dr. Thornell you are a life saver! I can't thank you enough.
 ~ B.Gullette

Medicare will help pay: Save Thousands!

Medicare
 Certified Provider

Convenient payment plans and financing options available.

Credit Cards Accepted

Pagosa dental
 Implant Center

William F. Thornell
 DDS, MAGD, DICOI
 35 years implant and oral surgery experience

Medicare
 Certified Provider

pagosadentalimplantcenter.com

189 Talisman Dr., Suite E • Located above Higher Grounds Coffee • 970-444-1298

Find us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/ValleyPublishing>

Business Showcase

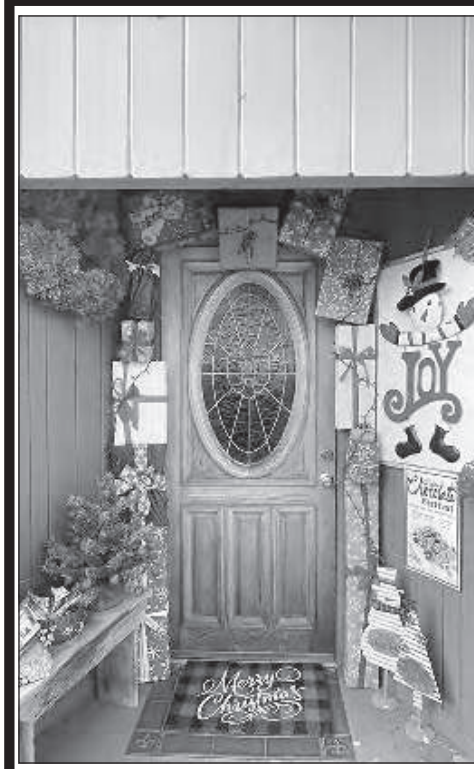
The Holy Moses
 Mon.-Sat.
 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 658-2848
 121 N. Main
 Creede

May 2023 bring lots of Joy and Happiness. Happy New Year to You!

20% OFF
 Until Dec. 31

Great Gifts and Stunning Decor!
 Consignments & pottery excluded.

This Week's Feature



THE HOLY MOSES

An enchanting Collection of Cabin Decor, Colorado Pottery, Quilts, Linens & Specialty Foods!

It's Worth The Drive

Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Nick & Vicki Kulyk
 121 N. Main • 658-2848 • Creede

SLV Emergency Managers release additional draft of regional hazard mitigation plan

BY LYNDIE FERRELL

SAN LUIS VALLEY — As part of an effort to complete a Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan per requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines, local officials have released another draft of the document for review by San Luis Valley leaders in the six counties included in the region.

According to the document, "The purpose of this plan is to provide the counties of the San Luis valley Region, which include Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache counties, and their associated jurisdictions, with a comprehensive hazard mitigation strategy for reducing long-term risks to people, property, and natural resources from the effects of hazard events. This plan demonstrates the region's commitment to reducing risks from hazards and serves as a tool to help decision makers direct mitigation activities and resources. This plan also maintains the planning area's eligibility for certain federal disaster assistance under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs."

This is an update to the plan that was adopted in 2017, beginning with independently formed documents by all six counties in 2017 and 2018 through work done by local emergency managers who reviewed the history of hazard events in the specific counties. Hazard events that

were considered while creating these documents included avalanche, dam and drought events, earthquakes and flooding, hailstorms, severe weather and wildfire dangers, high wind, tornados and cyber-attacks as well as hazard material incidents and potential pandemic events.

Once the individual counties finalized their specific plans, those plans were used to create the regional document which will remain a living document, subject to change as per guidelines set by FEMA. "The plan's mitigation strategy includes goals for each county in the entire planning area. The plan also puts forth county-specific recommendations for mitigation, based on the risk assessment, that are designed to reduce future losses in each county and ultimately, in the region."

Through this document, participating counties throughout the San Luis Valley minimize the risks associated with hazard events in the area and by doing so, can potentially minimize the costs associated with such events. "Disasters can weaken local economies and dramatically reduce local tax bases. The rising cost of natural disasters has sharpened interest in identifying effective ways to reduce vulnerability to hazards. Many disasters are predictable, and much of the damage caused by these events can be alleviated or even eliminated by implementing cost-effective hazard mitigation plans."

Due to the location of the San Luis

Valley, there is a high potential for disasters in relation to wildfire, flood, avalanche and other natural disasters. Local agencies have been working to devise this plan based on the threats of disasters within the region in hopes of preventing loss of life, property or economic impacts.

The document will be reviewed and sent back with changes suggested by local officials before the end of the year. There will be a request for public input in coming weeks. A virtual public workshop will be held to introduce the draft plan, its hazards and highlights of the mitigation strategy and will include a presentation followed by a question-and-answer period. The plan will also be made available for public review and comment in January. Following the public workshop and comment period the Plan will be submitted for final approvals and ultimately adoption by all involved jurisdictions.

Officials hope to have the document finalized and adopted by mid-2023.

Drive Like Your Life Depends On It

Happy Celebrating

Enjoy, but please don't drink and drive!

RG BANK

719-852-5933 Monte Vista
719-589-2536 Alamosa

Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender
NMLS# 421822

Monte Vista Chiropractic & Wellness, LLC
L. Blair Nielsen DC • (719) 849-8091

Monday through Friday by appointment with Chiropractic and Wellness Care Beginning January 2023 - \$40

***Pain Relief *Movement and Function Restoration**

***Nutritional Guidance *Multiple Treatment Approaches**

SLV Area Extension offering Servsafe course Jan. 31

The San Luis Valley Area Extension office is offering a Servsafe course on Jan. 31, 2023.

ServSafe is a nationally recognized program developed by the National Restaurant Association, that provides food safety training, exams and educational materials to food service managers.

Food Service Managers who are not certified by an accredited Food Safety Course should attend. The Colorado Retail Food Establishment Rules and

Regulations state that "at least one employee with authority to direct and control food preparation and service shall be a food protection manager who has been certified by an accredited program."

Class space is limited. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, contact Janae Naranjo at 719-852-7381 or janae.naranjo@colostate.edu. Application deadline to register is Jan. 9, 2023.

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL • TRASH REMOVAL
RECYCLING • DUMPSTERS • ROLL-OFFS

CREEDE • SOUTH FORK • DEL NORTE • MONTE VISTA
(719)658-3060 • www.MDSWASTEANDRECYCLE.COM

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

"Scotty as well as the rest of the staff were extremely friendly and helpful! The pizza was great and the taproom had a large selection to choose from! Would definitely recommend for anyone looking for a bite to eat and a beer or wine to quench their thirst!"

~ Nolan Terheun

Fresh Ingredients, BIG on TASTE!

\$9 Combo Deal: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Everyday!

Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMTs and our Veterans always receive 20% off!

30483 Highway 160, South Fork
11 a.m. to 8 p.m. DAILY

Easy Online To-Go Orders:
MountainPizzaTapRoom.com

Valley-Wide Classified **FREE!** ON LINE! **MARKETPLACE**

Sell your household items for FREE. Total value of items must be \$50 or less. See details below.



CLASSIFIED INDEX

ANNOUNCEMENTS
01 TICKETS
02 CARD OF THANKS
03 MEMORIALS
04 LOST & FOUND
05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
06 PERSONALS
EMPLOYMENT
07 HELP WANTED
08 WORK WANTED
09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
FOR RENT
10 APARTMENTS
11 ROOMS
12 HOUSES
13 MOBILE HOMES
14 BUSINESS PROPERTY
15 WANTED TO RENT
16 VACATION
REAL ESTATE
17 REAL ESTATE
18 LOTS & ACREAGE
19 FARM & FARMLAND
20 BUSINESS PROPERTY
21 MOBILE HOMES
22 PROPERTY WANTED

MERCHANDISE
23 LAWN & GARDEN
24 GARAGE SALES
25 AUCTIONS
26 ANTIQUES
27 APPLIANCES
28 HOUSEHOLD GOODS
29 MUSICAL ITEMS
30 ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS
31 HEALTH
32 FUEL & HEATING
33 BUILDING MATERIALS
34 OFFICE EQUIPMENT
35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT
36 MISCELLANEOUS
37 WANTED
38 MACHINERY, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
39 SPORTING GOODS
40 AUTO PARTS
FARMER MARKET
41 FARM EQUIPMENT
42 FEED & SEED
43 FARM PRODUCTS
44 FARM SERVICES

ANIMALS
45 ANIMAL BREEDING
46 PASTURE FOR RENT
47 HORSES & CATTLE
48 PETS & SUPPLIES
49 ANIMAL CARE
50 LIVESTOCK
RECREATIONAL
51 BOATS & EQUIPMENT
52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT
53 TRAILERS
54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S
55 R.V.'S/CAMPERS
FINANCIAL
56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
57 INVESTMENTS
TRANSPORTATION
58 MOTORCYCLES
59 VEHICLES WANTED
60 CLASSIC CARS
61 4X4'S
62 VANS
63 TRUCKS
64 AUTOS FOR SALE
SERVICES
65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
66 CHILD CARE

RATES

15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications
\$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.

Garage Sale Ads: 15 Words or less for 1 week
\$12 + 35¢ each additional word.

Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Limited to private party only, 2 ads per person, 4 weeks.)

Convenient ad placement:

To place your ad in person come to the office at 835 First Ave. in Monte Vista, or call (719) 852-3531. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may also fax your classified to (719) 852-3387 or email at montevistaclass@gmail.com

Check your ad the first day:

To ensure your ad is correct, check it the first day it appears in the paper. If there is an error in your ad, call us right away so we can correct it. If an error appears in your ad, Valley Publishing will credit you with one additional day of advertising.

Our ad policy: Valley Publishing accepts all classified advertising except that which it deems objectionable to its readers. Credit or replacement ads will not be given for early ad cancellation.

DEADLINE

Thursday 5:00 pm

Call 719-852-3531

or email: awelch@valleypublishinginc.com

Easy Payment Options

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



05 Notices

WE BUY ANTLER: Great NEW FALL Price: Tell us the code "ELK17" and you will get \$17/lb for Elk Grade A and \$13/lb for Deer Grade A. 5 miles west of Del Norte on Hwy 160. 719-657-0942 (TFN)

For information on meetings for ALANON NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS AND ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Please visit slvaa.org or call 719-937-5083.

Wanted: Somone who knows the value of old woodworking tools. 719-850-1032 (12-28)

07 Help Wanted

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. 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 legal assistant position available immediately, 739 1st Ave Monte Vista, Colo. Experience required. Reply to 719-852-5101.

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. Applications 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 or call 719-852-3215. An employment application must be complete. Position open until filled. (1-4)

Del Norte Police Officer — The

Del Norte Police Department is seeking a FT Police Officer to join the Del Norte Police Department. Some duties include, protecting the lives, health, welfare, and property of individuals within the city limits by enforcing municipal, state, and federal statutes, ordinances, and laws. Other duties include road patrol, respond to dispatch calls, and prepare reports, citations, and summons as necessary. Position requires a team worker

with the ability to work a flexible schedule. Qualifications: High School Diploma or equivalent, POST Certification in the State of Colorado, Must be at least 21 years of age. Send resume to Del Norte Police Department email: delnorte1860@outlook.com or apply at delnortecolorado.com or can be picked up at Del Norte Police Dept. 525 Grand Ave., Del Norte, Co 81132. EOE Deadline until position filled. (12-28)

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

Advertising That Works Hard for You

If your business can benefit from targeted exposure to a local audience of professionals and entrepreneurs, call today, and see what makes us a great fit for your advertising needs!



835 First Ave. | Monte Vista
719-852-3531
www.montevistatads@gmail.com

Carly Santi, MS, RDH, LLC

Dental Hygienist in Monte Vista

Providing quality, preventative oral health care to adults and children.

Including:

- Dental Hygiene Exams
 - X-Rays (Including Pain-Free Bitewings!)
 - Dental Cleanings • Fluoride Treatments
 - Sealants • Supportive Periodontal Maintenance
 - Non-Surgal Periodontal Treatment • and More
- Referral to general dentists and specialists as needed.*

Over 20 years of experience!



Carly Santi, MS, RDH, LLC
1120 Park Ave. Monte Vista
719.849.9749

Valley Wide Classifieds

Ranch hand wanted – Full-time position south of Monte Vista. \$1,800-plus monthly salary, depending on experience. 3-bedroom house including utilities provided. General ranch work, including handling livestock, irrigating, haying and equipment maintenance. Mechanic and welding experience preferred. Tractor operating and livestock experience required. Please call 719-496-6543 if interested. (1-18)

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 Steffens & Company Realty Inc** 719-873-1700. TFN

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

Price Improvement! Custom home situated on 1 acre. On the doorstep of Penitente Canyon, large 2,968 s/f home has beautiful handmade wood accents. Upper level is a private master suite complete with balcony. Potential to convert to off-grid living. Listed for \$382,000. Call Lori Long with Bray Commercial Real Estate 970-201-0389. MLS #797709 (12-28)

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

Lump coal available, supplement your wood heating by adding some lump coal. Burns clean, no soot, makes wood last longer. 719-849-8261 (3-1)

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

STEEL STORAGE CONTAINERS – Sales, Rentals & Modifications! Containers are water & rodent proof. 8' wide, 8'-53' in length. Call for more information

Write your own Classified Ad

Regular Classified Ad Deadline-Thursday 5 p.m.
15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications
 \$19⁵⁰ + 95¢ each additional word.
Garage Sale Ads: 15 words or less for 1 week
 \$12 + 35¢ each additional word.
 Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Private party only) Call 719-852-3531 for details.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

| | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |

Words: _____ Times: _____ Price: _____

Class: _____ Start Date: _____

Circle One



Card#: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Mail with check or money order to:
Valley Publishing Classifieds, P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144
Or drop by at 835 First Avenue

All Classified Advertising must be pre-paid



Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference

Colorado State University & The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce

FEBRUARY 7, 8, 9, 2023

**OUTCALT EVENT & CONFERENCE AT SLV SKI HI COMPLEX
MONTE VISTA, COLORADO**

AGCONFERENCE SRM.COM



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

SURVIVING & THRIVING

A conference on resilience and sustainability



Valley Wide Classifieds

and pricing. **Healdworks, Inc.**
— Your Total Storage Solution!
 719-850-0346 TFN

SOLAR PANELS! 355 Watt and Smaller, We Stock Inverters, Charge Controllers, and Batteries in Brand Names of Outback, Magnum, Aims, Rolls, and More. Custom Cables and PV Wire.
 Bontrager's Variety Store. 9726 S. CR 3E Monte Vista. 719-852-0500.

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 719-256-5084 (1-11)

DISCLAIMER

Please read your ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes notify us **IMMEDIATELY**. We will make changes for errors and adjust your credit **but only if we receive notice on the first day the ad is published.** We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper which reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser and not the newspaper is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. All classified advertising must be pre-paid.

**GOT CLUTTER?
 CLEAN UP WITH
 THE CLASSIFIEDS.**



You'll find yourself with money in your pocket and room in your garage when you sell your stuff in the SLV Lifestyles Classifieds.

Advertise in our SPECIAL GARAGE SALE SECTION of SLV Lifestyles for ONLY \$12 per week (15 words or less - 35¢ per word over 15)

**Call Today!
 719-852-3531**

40 Auto Part

Buying any vintage license plates.
 Premium paid for 1936 Mineral County plate (starts with 62). Call/text Colin: 970-367-7594 (1-11)

42 Feed & Seed

Horse quality alfalfa and grass-alfalfa, small bales, barn stored, \$9-\$10 per bale. Oat/grass, barn stored, \$7 per bale call 719 580-2509 (2-8)

48 Pets and Supplies

Custom built wood, dog/eat house, plastic dog house \$35 for both 719-207-5771 (1-4)

64 Autos for Sale

4x415 2004 Explorer \$800, 2002 Blazer \$2000, Pickup box utility trailer \$350 719-207-5771 (1-4)

65 Professional Services

Squeegee Luigi's Washing Services: Window Washing, Concrete Cleaning, Exterior Washing - FREE ESTIMATE: (719) 490-9047 TFN

LICENSED PLUMBER does all types of plumbing repairs and

plumbing remodels at reasonable rates. Quick service. Call anytime, available weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. TFN

THE BLIND GUY window coverings. Free measuring, free estimates. Professional installation. Guaranteed lowest prices. Call Tony, 970-903-1403. TFN

SAN LUIS VALLEY SERVICE DIRECTORY

ROOFING BUILDINGS

Metal Roofing Panels & Trims • Garages, Horse Barns, Hay Sheds
Complete Building packages • 26/29 Gauge, 20 Colors, Numerous Profiles
Let us find your contractor! • Free Estimates/Quick Turnaround
Your Local Metal Roofing Manufacturer!
SKYLINE METAL
(719)852-0113 M-F 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

A&M
WINDOWS & DOORS L.L.C.

~VINYL WINDOWS~
NEW CONSTRUCTION OR REPLACEMENT
CUSTOM MADE TO YOUR SIZE.
MANUFACTURED RIGHT HERE IN THE VALLEY
ALL TYPES OF DOORS & DOOR HARDWARE
AVAILABLE
(719) 589-9952

Quality Spray Foam Insulation LLC

Let us fill your needs with SPRAY FOAM insulation!
Alvin • (719) 849-5233 catpower@ibifax.com
7268 S. County Road 4 E • Monte Vista
Call us for all your LOOSE-FILL & BLOW in Attic Insulation needs!

AFFORDABLE MOBILE RV REPAIRS

Jason | RV Repair Specialist
 Affordablervrepair@yahoo.com
(719) 936-0592

Electrical Plumbing
Heating and Air Conditioning
Slide Motors • Winterizing
Tankless Water Heaters
Everything from A-Z



20% OFF
 with this ad

5+ Years of Experience

Sheri Bongers
 Independent Broker Agent
720-543-2188
 Sheri@DenverInsuranceTeam.com

Tom Bongers
 Independent Broker Agent
720-543-2189
 Tom@DenverInsuranceTeam.com



Auto | Home | Life | Commercial | Workers Comp

Shopping That's Just Your Style

The Rena Marie Boutique

Specializing in memorial, holiday, any occasion t-shirts, apparel, tumblers, coffee mugs, keychains, car and big vehicle vinyl and decals, business cards, and much more.
Call Marie at 719-937-9629 to place your order today or email mariemedina30@hotmail.com

Your Great Outdoors

Specializing in Vinyl Fencing
Wood, Barbed Wire and All Types of Residential & Commercial Fencing

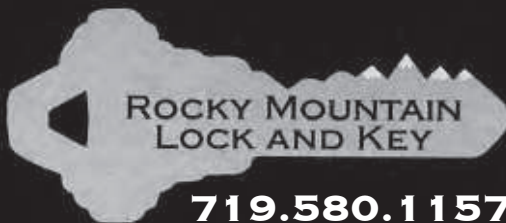
Serving the SLV-Free Estimates
Good Fences Make Good Neighbors!*
(719) 849-1568

* We make no guarantees of your neighbor quality, just high quality fences.

24-HOUR MOBILE SERVICE

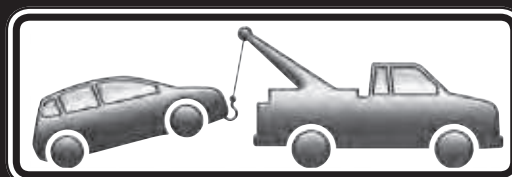
RESIDENTIAL + COMMERCIAL + AUTO

- ★ LOCKS
- ★ KEYS
- ★ SAFES



719.580.1157
 E-mail: RockyMountainLockandKey@gmail.com

Cash for Junk Unwanted Cars & Trucks



**No Tittle
 No Keys
 No Worries!**

719 937 7935
719-849-8491 or Text

Sanchez Plastering & Masonry

Synthetic Traditional Patches Interior/Exterior Paint



Fully Insured & Bonded
Fully Licensed
Work Guaranteed

Owners: David D. Sanchez Jr. & Brandon Sanchez

Call Today (719) 486-6781

CUSTOM MARBLE DESIGN

Call for Free Estimate!

719-849-3990
 E-MAIL: cmd@ibifax.com

Solid Surface Countertops
Kitchen Countertops
Vanity & Table Tops
Window Sills
and More



Courtesy photos

The Centauri Middle School Leadership Class led by Kaylee Smith and Kynlei Curtis organized a fundraiser for the San Luis Valley Health Center Center. SLVH Foundation Director Kelly Gurule accepted the donation.

Class selling concessions to make an Impact

By AMANDA WADE
SLVH Foundation Assistant

LA JARA — “Everyone came ready to give.” Centauri Middle School Principal Brian Riccatone describes Dec. 1, the day the CMS Leadership Class decided to sell concessions during school hours and raise \$1,000 for the San Luis Valley Health’s Cancer Center.

Kaylee Smith and Kynlei Curtis, students of the class, approached their teacher Nikol Kelley with the idea for a fundraiser. Kelley was open to the idea but drove one point home to the two leaders: they had to lead the initiative from start to finish.

“They sourced the concessions, set up, and sold everything; it was all them, it was great,” Kelley said with a smile.

Kelly Gurule, SLVH’s Foundation Director, went on-site after the event to receive the donation.

“It’s amazing to see the kids of the Valley so eager to give back,” Gurule said. All the money raised will benefit the San Luis Valley Health’s Cancer Center.



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.

City of MV seeking Vali 3 Theater proposals

MONTE VISTA — The City of Monte Vista, Colorado is asking for proposals from dedicated and serious individuals or groups who would like to purchase the Vali 3 Theater from the City of Monte Vista.

Proposals via email, mail or hand carry are preferred. Proposals can be sent-delivered in sealed envelopes marked “Vali 3 Theater 2022.”

The deadline to submit a proposal is March 1, 2023, at 5 p.m. The City of Monte Vista’s mailing address is 95 West 1st Avenue, Monte Vista, CO 81144.

Proposals will be reviewed, and applicants will present their proposal to City Council during a public meeting on March 16, 2023, during the regular scheduled Council meeting.

Conour

Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society

www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org

If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366
Open Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m. -4 p.m. & Sat. & Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m.
Monday & non-business hours by appointment only
2825 Sherman Ave. • Monte Vista



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

ALL ADOPTIONS ARE STILL \$25 OFF UNTIL THE 1ST OF THE YEAR! STOP BY TODAY!

We want to say thank you to everyone for all the donations recently! We're still low on treats and small dog food, and would appreciate any sent our way!

LOST & FOUND



Found in Center on Adams St on 12/13



Found in Monte Vista on the 100 block of Faraday on 12/14



Deckland is a 4 month old Lab/Heeler mix who is ready for his forever home! He's friendly, playful, and great with other animals. Deckland has quite a personality that will have you entertained all day! Come meet him today!

Please note we are on a first come first serve basis.

All breeds & ages of animals are a “best guess” and are not guaranteed to be accurate. Adoption fee includes: neuter/spay, vaccinations, de-worming and micro-chipping.
This ad space donated by Valley Publishing Inc.

Get the news in the new year!!

Your Community. Your Newspaper.

Subscribe today, and stay in the local loop.



Subscribe Today and Get 12 Months for Only \$45 In Valley

Seniors \$40
Out-of-Valley \$55
Snowbirds \$50

Stay up-to-date on-the-go with an e-subscription

SIGN ME UP OR RENEW SUBSCRIPTION TODAY!

Monte Vista Journal Center Post-Dispatch
 Mineral County Miner South Fork Times
 Del Norte Prospector Conejos County Citizen

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

VISA MasterCard Discover American Express

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

check or money order enclosed

P.O. Box 607 • Monte Vista, CO • 81144
(719) 852-3531 • email: vpiclass@amigo.net *1-year limit.

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

SOLD

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
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

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
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

SOLD

\$433,000 MLS #789027
83 Highland • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

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
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

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

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

Valley Publishing CALL TODAY!
719-852-3531

Sandra Marquez — smarquez@valleypublishinginc.com
Brian Williams — bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com

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
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com

810 Grand Ave, Del Norte
 Prime business location, 3,000 sq ft. BUSY CORNER LOT - Can become any business! MLS#779889 Call for price

Text 134436 to 25678 for more info
Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

Steffens & Company Realty
719-873-5605
30635 US HWY 160 • South Fork
dee@steffenscorealty.com
Dee is a 4th generation SOUTH FORK NATIVE with a love for the upper end of the San Luis Valley.

Use your phone camera to scan!

12 Acres COMMERCIAL, South Fork
 On Shoshone Trail, 4 miles E of town. Appropriate for commercial/light industrial
 Multi-family or VRBO OK too. For more info Call Dee Plucinski
 MLS#770735 \$550,000 Owners Motivated!

Text 135324 to 25678 for more info
Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

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

Text 134434 to 25678 for more info
Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

Licensed and Insured Drone Pilot

3D Virtual Tours Prompt, Easy Communication
 Text for Info technology Video Walkthroughs

27000 US Hwy 160
 28 acres on the Rio Grande with water well, 1-acre pond and 1/2 mile of riverfront.
 MLS#785117 \$1,550,000

Text 135165 to 25678 for more info
Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

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

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

Text 134123 to 25678 for more info
Dee Plucinski Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719) 873-5605
 dee@steffenscorealty.com

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

Text 158223 to 25678 for more info
Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

2022 YEAR in Review

THE *Monte Vista* JOURNAL



THE CONEJOS COUNTY
CITIZEN

CENTER POST-DISPATCH

The Del Norte *Prospector*

The Mineral County *Miner*

THE SOUTH FORK
TIMES



Valley Publishing
719-852-3531



Wednesday, December 28, 2022

January



Coat Drive for Center Schools

Photo courtesy of Center Consolidated School District

Center Consolidated School District received donations for a coat drive from the Knights of Columbus.



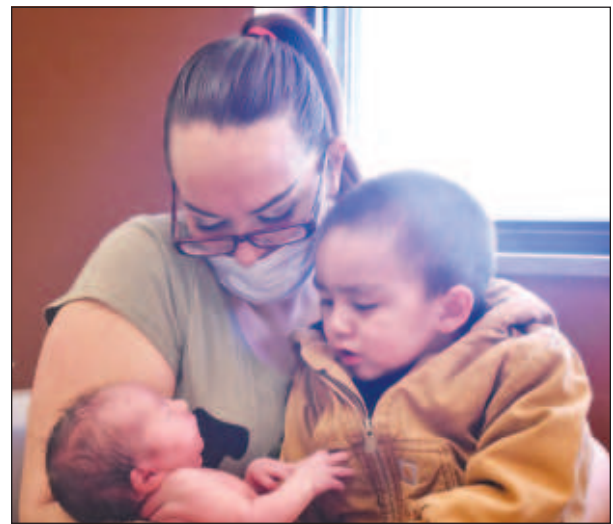
New Administrator in South Fork

Photo By Lyndsie Ferrell

South Fork Town Administrator Hank Weber is looking to the community for direction and is excited to be a part of the change and growth that is coming to South Fork.

SLVH's First Newborn of the New Year

Courtesy photo



Opie Jeremiah Casias was born to Adaleyna Casias at 12:10 a.m. on Jan. 2, San Luis Valley Health's first newborn delivery of 2022. He is the La Jara native's fifth son. Pictured is mother with Opie and her 2-year-old son, Jaxx.



Golden Pick

Courtesy of Tommyknocker Tavern

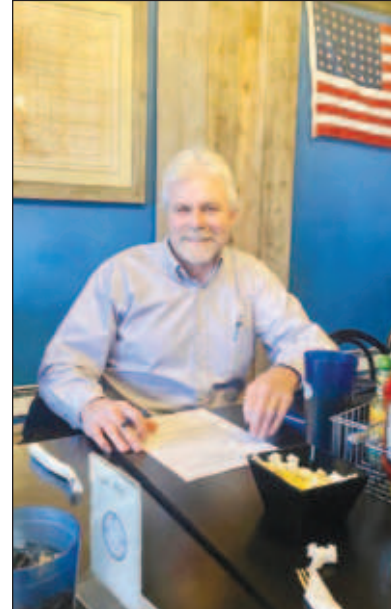
The 15th annual Golden Pick Hockey Tournament saw more than eight teams hit the ice to vie for the top spot in two categories. The Level One winner was team Jabronis, pictured, from Durango and the Level Two winner was team Ice Tree Dizzy Batters.



Sierra Grande New School

Photo by Adam Lopez

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Jan. 8 for the new Sierra Grande School in Fort Garland.



New URGED President

Contributed photo

Craig Barraclough, Rio Grande County Administrator, was selected new URGED Board president.

February



Upper Rio Grande staff awards

The counselors at the Upper Rio Grande School District recently distributed awards to fellow staff members, local organizations and community members for their continued support and dedication to the district, students, and staff members.

Courtesy photo



Aq Conference at New Building

Photo by Brian Williams

The 40th annual Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show began its three-day run Tuesday, Feb. 1, inside the newly named Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex.



New Friends of South Fork Director

Courtesy photo

The Friends of South Fork (FOSF) introduced its new Director, Luke Brennan. Luke and his wife, Judith, moved to the area full-time two years ago and are looking forward to helping the community grow through their efforts with FOSF.



First artisan bike rack installed

Courtesy photo

The first sponsored artisan bicycle rack was installed in front of Quincy's Steakhouse on Adams Street in Monte Vista on Feb. 10. The rack was sponsored by the OptiMystics Citizens Action Network and built by the late artist John Patterson.



Center sees influx of grants

Photo by Mechel Meek

Center is seeing an influx of grants to help with the town's revitalization efforts.



Gov. Polis visits San Luis Valley

Photo courtesy of the Office of Governor Polis

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis had told the Valley Courier he is opposed to inter-basin water transfers such as the one proposed by Renewable Water Resources.

March



URGSD Theatre class performs

Photo courtesy of Upper Rio Grande School District

The Upper Rio Grande School District Theatre class is bringing Christmas to March. On March 16, the class will be producing 'A Christmas Story'.



Creede Repertory Theatre returning inside

Photo courtesy of CRT

The Creede Repertory Theatre returns for its 57th season on May 28. CRT announced it was welcoming audiences back with a return to fully live, indoor performances, audience enrichment opportunities and thriving education programs.



Creede remembers Sheriff Leggitt

Photo courtesy of Leggitt family

Former Mineral County Sheriff Phil Leggitt passed away recently. Whether he was passing time telling a story, visiting guests or upholding the law, Phil was and will remain a big part of Creede.



Ski Hi Complex officially opens

Photo by Brian Williams

Monte Vista Mayor Dale Becker does the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon for the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex on Friday in Monte Vista as Friends of Ski members Karla Shriver (left) and Kathy Rogers-Woods (right) hold the ends of the ribbon. Shriver and Woods were the driving force behind the \$8.6 million project.



Benefit for Cano Espinoza

The Range in Saguache began hosting an exhibition on Saturday, March 12, American Sites, and a retrospective exhibition of the photography of Fred Scruton. The show will benefit Antonito resident Dominic 'Cano' Espinoza who lost his residence during a fire in January.

Contributed photo



Seven Peaks moves to Saguache County

Photo courtesy of Heart of the Rockies Radio

The Seven Peaks Festival announced it was moving to Saguache County. The Labor Day festival draws as many as 20,000 people to the event.

April



Center Teacher of the Year

Photo courtesy of CCSD

Center Consolidated School District's Teacher of the Year was fifth-grade teacher Alex Magness.



Fire erupts in Monte Vista

Photo by Brian Williams

A large wind-driven fire erupted around noon on Wednesday, April 20 on the northwest side of Monte Vista, burning 15 homes and outbuildings. Agencies from across the San Luis Valley and state responded to the fire.



URGSD field of dreams

Left: The Upper Rio Grande School District is putting the final touches on its new baseball field and is planning a ribbon-cutting event for the beginning of May.

Courtesy photo

San Luis Valley HEALTH
Your Trusted Partner in Health

Sanford FCCLA remains active

Contributed photo



Right: Hailey Edwards, Jon Gardunio, and Kenedie Crowther, with the help of several Sanford FCCLA chapter members, work on baby blankets at a chapter service workday.

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS
Of the many fond memories we can recall, Your visits with us are the best ones of all!

The Legacy
INDEPENDENT & ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY
(719) 852-5179
100 CHICO CAMINO MONTE VISTA, CO

Happy NEW YEAR!
Words can't say how much we appreciate friends and customers like all of you.

CPC
Reliable Efficient Pump Solutions
Central Pump Company
719-754-3936
570 E Hwy 112 • Center
www.cpcpump.com



Ribbon cutting for Skeff Nature Trail

Photo by Brian Williams

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Ray and Colette Skeff Nature Trail in Monte Vista was held on Thursday, March 31. The trail is in the area behind Big R and SLV Federal Bank off Chico Camino.

REC Happy New Year!
SAN LUIS VALLEY POWERING A VITAL VALLEY
3625 U.S. HWY 160 W. Monte Vista, CO 81144 (719) 852-3538
ciello POWERED BY REC
www.slvrec.com • www.ciello.com

May



Firefighter Cordova remembered

Dozens of fire service, law enforcement and friends and family salute Harold Cordova outside Rogers Family Mortuary on Sunday night after he apparently died after helping fight a fire in Manassa.

Photo by Keith R. Cerny



URGSD live-action museum

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Upper Rio Grande School District fourth-grade class awed family and friends on Thursday, April 28, with a historical presentation and live-action museum. Students welcomed family and friends who learned about each student's historical figures through interactive presentations by the students.



Charity basketball for MV Fire victims

The Center Police and Fire departments played a charity basketball game on May 8 at Center High School. The proceeds were donated to victims of the Monte Vista Fire.

Photo by Mechel Meek



Creede ELC work progresses

Courtesy photo

The Creede Early Learning Center is seeing significant progress on the new addition to its building in Creede. The center is looking forward to the many opportunities this new addition will provide.



Gov. Polis signs bills in Alamosa

Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Two significant bills directly addressing Colorado's water issues — both sponsored by State Senator Cleave Simpson (R-District 35) — were signed by Governor Jared Polis (D) on Monday, May 23, in a ceremony at the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) in Alamosa.



Graduation season in Valley

Photo by Marie Mccolm

More than 300 people attended the Byron Syring DELTA Center and Monte Vista On-Line Academy graduation on Saturday at the Bill Metz Auditorium. Forty-three students graduated.

Talk About LOCAL!

CENTER POST-DISPATCH www.centerpostdispatch.com

Monte Vista JOURNAL www.montevistajournal.com

THE SOUTH FORK TIMES www.southforktimes.com

Mineral County Miner www.mineralcountyminer.com

THE CONEJO COUNTY CITIZEN www.conejoscountycitizen.com

The Del Norte Prospector www.delnorteprospector.com

Valley Publishing **719-852-3531**

1892 - 2020 ...there is no night in Creede. Find us on Facebook

June



Sargent Class of 2022

Photo by Marie Mccolm

A commencement ceremony was held on Friday, May 27, for the 25 seniors of Sargent High School.



New chapter for Sierra Grande seniors

Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Graduating Sierra Grande High School seniors wore sunglasses when walking on the stage but took them off before the ceremony began.

Centauri Class of 22

Photo By John Waters

'You didn't come this far to only come this far,' is the class motto of the North Conejos School District Class of 2022. On Saturday, 75 students, and many received scholarships to colleges totaling over \$2.8 million. North Conejos Superintendent Curt Wilson, who is retiring, gave the opening remarks.



Vikings take next step

Photo by Mechel Meek

The graduating class of 2022 for Center High School walked across the stage to the delight of their family and friends on Saturday, May 28. It was a moving ceremony with the gymnasium decked out for the occasion with signs, decorations in blue and gold, and a golden doorway



Sanford Class of 2022

Courtesy photo

Sanford High School graduated 21 seniors on Friday night, May 27. Sanford High School senior Haley Faucette gives her class valedictorian speech.



Del Norte graduation 2022

Photo by Marie Mccolm

The Upper Rio Grande School District gymnasium was filled with people for the Del Norte High School commencement ceremony on Friday, May 27.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

MVC

THE **MONTE VISTA COOPERATIVE**

719-852-5181

1901 E Hwy 160 Monte Vista, Colorado

MVCOOP.COM

July



Dwight Yoakam begins Stampede party

Photo by Brian Williams

Dwight Yoakam plays to a packed house at the Ski-Hi Complex on Thursday night to kick off the 100th Annual Ski-Hi Stampede in Monte Vista. The concert ended with a bang as fireworks lit up the night.



Third of July Celebration

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Third of July celebration in South Fork ended with a spectacular firework display thanks to the efforts of the Town of South Fork and South Fork Fire Rescue.



Stampede celebrates 100 years

Photo by Brian Williams

The 100th annual Ski-Hi Stampede was a crowd pleaser from Thursday's opening concert to Sunday's final bull riding. The crowd cheered louder and louder Sunday as the afternoon wore on.



Arts and Crafts in South Fork

Courtesy photos

The South Fork Friends Foundation hosted its first-ever Arts and Craft Festival on July 20 at the South Fork Visitor Center and welcomed over 30 vendors and hundreds of people throughout the day.



Crowds enjoy Stampede Parade

Photo by Brian Williams

The Stampede Parade on Friday had more than 40 entries. Organizers expected to have twice as many for the parade on Saturday in Monte Vista.



Back on the tracks

Photo by Brian Williams

The Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad (C&TSRR) launched its 2022 season on Friday, July 1, from Antonito.

August



Feeling the music in Crestone

Photo by Patrick Shea

Drummers and dancers filled downtown Crestone on Aug. 6 for the 21st Annual Crestone Music Festival, another blend of performance, participation, and education.



SLV Fair crowns champions

Photo by Brian Williams

The San Luis Valley Fair Market Sheep Show was Wednesday night, Aug. 10, in Monte Vista. Corbin Myers showed the Grand Champion.

Centauri welcomes students

Photo by Brian Williams
The new Centauri High School welcomed students back from summer break this month. Work on the \$30 million two-story project began just over two years ago.



Del Norte celebrates 150 years

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Hundreds of people gathered in Del Norte on Saturday to not only celebrate the 50th anniversary of Covered Wagon Days but to also mark the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of Del Norte.



Keeping the Dream Alive

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

A crowd of 350 people turned out for the Keeping the Dream Alive fundraiser hosted by Rio Grande Hospital on Saturday in Del Norte. Guests enjoyed an evening of delicious food provided by Mountain View Restaurant from Monte Vista and were served by Rio Grande Hospital physicians and practitioners.



Center Drags

Photo by Patrick Shea

More than 200 people came out to Leach Airfield on Aug. 20 to watch cars and trucks race 660 yards down the runway.

September



Burros on the course

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The SOFAAR burro race trotted off the start-finish line Saturday morning as racers made their way along Alder Creek near South Fork for a 3-, 8- and 22-mile course.



Cruisin' the Canyon sets a record

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The annual Cruisin' the Canyon Car Show in Creede was a great success with 131 vehicles of all different makes and models lining Main Street, making it the biggest in the event's history.



URGSD homecoming celebration

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Upper Rio Grande School District celebrated its 2022 Homecoming this past week in Del Norte with a parade, dress up days, volleyball and football games and, of course, the homecoming dance and talent show Tiger Rags.



Antonito Labor Day Festival

Photo by Diane Drekmann

Antonito held its 6th annual Labor Day festival on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday the community supported a 5k run-walk, parade, live music and kids' games. On Sunday, the festivities included a car show at the old football field.



Seven Peaks in Villa Grove

Photo by Patrick Shea

Fans flocked to the Seven Peaks Music Festival on private land outside of Villa Grove for three days of music, food, and fresh air. Festival founder and headliner Dierks Bentley routinely draws massive crowds, thrilling the people with his music on the road.



Community celebrates potatoes

Photo by Marie Mccolm

More than 500 people attended the annual SLV Potato Festival held in celebration of the harvest on Saturday, Sept. 10, at Chapman Park in Monte Vista.

October



National Heritage Areas Fall Conference

Photo by Diane Drekmann

The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area hosted the 2022 Fall Conference of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and visited the labyrinth and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church during the conference Oct. 10-14.



Center celebrates harvest, culture

Photo by Patrick Shea

Offering food for thought and food for lunch and dinner on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, the LOCAL! + SCENARIA harvest celebration drew crowds to the Ford Motor Garage in Center and the Frontier Drive-Inn outside of town.



New roof for Public Library

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Del Norte Public Library is getting a new roof this week. Funding for the project came through the Rio Grande County Library District. The roof was one of the main capital projects for the library.



Take a bow

The Creede Repertory Theatre concluded its 57th season during Labor Day weekend and now that they have caught their breath from yet another amazing and extreme season, are looking to the next few months for more fun and planning for next year.

Courtesy photo



SF Chili Fest heats up fall

Courtesy photo

The annual South Fork Chili Fest was a spicy success last Thursday as 14 contestants vied for the top spot in three categories, salsa, red and green chili. The South Fork Community Center was packed to the brim with hungry people throughout the night and not a drop of chili remained.



MV Early Learning Center opens

Photo by Marie Mccolm

The Monte Vista School District held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new Early Learning Center on Thursday, Oct. 6, with Director Stacey Plane doing the honors.

November



7 Mile Plaza memorial completed

A veterans memorial for 7 Mile Plaza between Monte Vista and Del Norte was recently completed. The memorial has been a project of Ernest Martinez and his family and was started in 2002.

Photo by Marie Mccolm



Ledford family honored

The Ledford family from Del Norte was honored for their efforts in adoptive care through the Colorado Department of Human Services this week in Denver. The young couple adopted four siblings.

Courtesy photo

Center hires new police chief
The Center Town Board designated a new Police Chief when they announced their selection of Interim Police Chief Aaron Fresquez on Oct. 25.

File photo



Grant helps students take aim
Centauri Middle School student Kynlei Curtis shoots one of the new compound bows. The school's archery program received a grant that went to purchasing new equipment.

Photo by Diane Drekman



Groups combine efforts on Halloween

Adams Street was blocked off and packed with people participating in the Downtown Monte Vista combined Halloween event on Friday, Oct. 28.

Photo by Marie Mccolm



Election Day in the Valley

Voters across the San Luis Valley take part in the November General Election.

Courtesy photo

December



Center shares holiday spirit

Photo by Patrick Shea

The Grinch who Stole Christmas tried to steal ornaments from the Christmas tree in downtown Center before the Kiwanis Christmas Parade on Dec. 17.



Agencies respond to fire in Conejos County

Courtesy photo

A wind-driven fire caused an estimated \$400,000 in damage to furniture-grade logs Friday morning, Dec. 2 at Colorado Aspen in Conejos County, according to the Monte Vista Fire Department.



Holiday Bazaar

Photo by Marie Mccolm

The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Holiday Bazaar on Friday, Dec. 2, and Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Outcalt Event and Conference Center at SLV Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista.



Creede Holiday Market

Photo Keith R. Cerny

Main Street in Creede was reminiscent of an old-time holiday market this past weekend as vendors lined the streets while people walked enjoying warm beverages, sweet treats, fun activities and much more. Gingerbread house building, sponsored by Creede recreation at the Holiday Market on Dec. 10.



Early Christmas present for DN airport

Photo by Earl Robinson

Jet A fuel tanks arrived at the Kent Rominger Airport in Del Norte and were installed. After months of waiting for the tanks and fuel system to be delivered, manager Earl Robinson received an early Christmas present.



United States Department of the Interior.

File photo

After several months of waiting, the Creede Hotel (formerly the Zang Hotel) was happy to announce that its bid for National Historic Designation was approved and certified through the