



Shorts

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.

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.

Villagomez receives Seed to Tree Scholarship

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — Adams State University Jose Villagomez, Class of 2023 sociology major, recently received the Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators (AHSIE) Seed to Tree Scholarship for the 2022-2023 academic year.

"I am really excited to receive this award," Villagomez said. He contacted his advisor, Heidi Schneider, associate professor of sociology and inclusive excellence liaison, immediately after

receiving the news.

"This is a highly competitive scholarship," Schneider said. "I am the proudest advisor right now."

AHSIE received over 90 applications from students attending Hispanic Serving Institutions from across the country. They awarded only five scholarships: two at the associate; two at the bachelor; and one at the master/doctorate level.

Along with a cash award of \$1,000, the award includes complimentary

registration for the AHSIE conference, travel, and lodging. The conference will be held in San Francisco, in *Please see VILLAGOMEZ on Page 7A*

Adams State University Jose Villagomez, Class of 2023 sociology major, recently received the Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators (AHSIE) Seed to Tree Scholarship for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Courtesy photo



Santa, Grinch visit Center

BY PATRICK SHEA

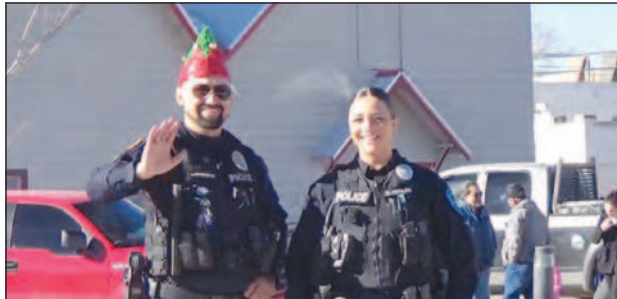
CENTER — Before the Center Kiwanis Christmas Parade began on Dec. 17, the Grinch who Stole Christmas tried to steal Christmas tree ornaments from the decorated stoplight downtown. Scolded by officials and heartened by the parade, his heart then grew three sizes.

Center police cars, ambulances, and fire trucks rolled down Worth Street along with flag bearers, the Center Key Club, a Jones Oil tanker, and other decorated trucks.

Residents flocked to Casa Blanca Memorial Park after the parade passed. They mingled, met with Santa Claus, and received gifts. Meanwhile, a reformed, green Grinch offered illuminated "Don't be a Grinch" buttons to everyone in attendance.



Flagbearers led the Center Kiwanis Christmas Parade Dec. 17.



Center Police Department officers Adam Fresquez and Kendra Adolph ensured the safety of Christmas spirit at the Kiwanis Christmas Parade on Dec. 17.

Children shared their wish lists with Santa Claus at Casa Blanca Memorial Park after the Center Kiwanis Christmas Parade.



Photos 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.

Center boys, girls reach championship games

BY PATRICK SHEA

CENTER — The two-day C-Town Showdown Varsity Basketball Tournament at Center High School concluded on Dec. 17 with girls and boys championship games between the hometown Vikings and the Crowley County Chargers.

The girls from Center conquered the Chargers 39-26 to win the title. The Vikings beat Calhan 55-14 on Friday to reach the final game, and Crowley County topped Sierra Grande 43-40. On Saturday morning, the Sierra Grande Panthers from Blanca won the girls consolation game by beating the Calhan Bulldogs 67-41.

The Lady Vikings started the season 1-2 and have now won four consecutive games and head to Christmas break with a record of 5-2.

Please see TOURNEY on Page 8A

The Center boys team lost to Crowley County 70-26 in the C-Town Showdown Varsity Tournament championship game on Dec. 17.

Photo by Patrick Shea



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OBITUARIES

Linda Sue (Drake) Hessman

DODGE CITY — Linda Sue (Drake) Hessman, 76, died Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, at Penrose-Saint Francis Hospital, Colorado Springs, Colo.

She was born Feb. 4, 1946, to Orvil and Madge Hill Drake in Del Norte, Colo. She attended schools in Sargent, Colo., graduating in 1964. She attended St Mary of the Plains in Dodge City and Kansas State University. She married Jerry Leroy Hessman on Aug. 29, 1964, in Monte Vista, Colo., and they made their home there before moving back to Dodge City to farm with Jerry's father. He preceded her in death on May 21, 2022.

She served as Kansas Farmers Union's vice president from 2016 to 2019 and had served on the board for more than two decades. In 2015, she was honored at the Chicago Farm Aid event for lifetime of family farm advocacy in front of a crowd of 25,000 people. KFU also created a lifetime achievement award in her name in 2021 to recognize those individuals who have made a difference in advocacy for family farmers. She was also the 2012 recipient of the prestigious KFU Ruth Hirsh Award and the National Catholic Rural Life Award for her work with farm and ranch families developing programs for rural areas. And according to Donn Teske, Kansas Farmers Union President, he and Linda hold the state record for the longest mediation in state history — two full days.

A past Kansas Wheat Commissioner, she was a certified mediator specializing in ag issues as well as being a National

Farm Aid Advocate. She worked as project manager and family resource specialist for the Kansas Rural Family Helpline, a non-profit direct service program dedicated to meeting the unique needs of rural Kansas families. She was the first woman to chair the Interfaith Rural Life Committee. While on the wheat commission she traveled internationally to Mexico and Brazil to promote wheat exports.

She and husband Jerry farmed and raised a cow herd in a family partnership for 34 years in Ford County. She also worked at the Catholic Diocese and Santa Fe Trail Community Corrections in Dodge City.

She enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren going to ball games, activities and numerous family vacations. She also enjoyed her embroidery and quilting groups. She also loved to garden and was thought of as a master gardener by many in her family. She also loved a hot coffee and good conversation.

Survivors include her children, Gina Wilson and husband Mike, Dodge City; Tim and wife Heather Hessman, Wichita; Kim and husband Jay Evert, Preston; Pete and wife Sally Hessman, Beaver, Oklahoma; Shane and wife Sheila Hessman, Dodge City; Durk Hessman, Cimarron; Andy and wife Rylene Hessman, Dodge City; Matt and wife Amber Hessman, Minneapolis, Kansas; 19 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and grandparents, grandson Drake Evert, a sister, Bobbie and



her brother, Mike.

Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022, at Ziegler Funeral Chapel, Dodge City. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 901 Central Ave., Dodge City, with Fr. Wesley Schawe presiding. Inurnment will follow in Greencrest Memorial Gardens, Dodge City. There will be no public viewing, cremation has taken place. Friends may sign the register from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday at Ziegler Funeral Chapel.

Memorials are suggested to the family in care of the Ziegler Funeral Chapel, 1901 N. 14th Ave., Dodge City, Kan. 67801. Condolences may be sent to www.zieglerfuneralchapel.com.

Beulah (Boots) Ann Rogers



Beulah grew up in St. Francis, Kan., and after college, attended Barnes Business School. She married her high school sweetheart, Troy Richard Rogers on Feb. 17, 1957. Throughout her life, she enjoyed cooking, attending painting class, cherished time with her family, and devoted her life to Christ. She enjoyed attending the Feed Store Family Training Center every Sunday.

Beulah is survived by her husband Troy Rogers of Monte Vista, her children, Susan (Keith) Rogers of Monte Vista, Richard Rogers of Monte Vista and Kathy (Dave) Braun of Anthem, Arizona, her grandchildren, Erin Hatton, Steven McCullough, Cami McCullough, Brandon Rogers, Jason McCullough, Josh Braun, Bailey Rogers, Justin Braun and, her great grandchildren, Olivia McCullough, Corbyn Wright and Cadyn Wright as well as her sister Wilma Lampe and numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her

parents and her brothers Cecil Terry and Johnny Terry.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 22, 2022, at the Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista. Interment will follow services in the San Luis Valley Cemetery. Contributions are suggested to the Rio Grande Hospital and may be made in care of the funeral home office. To express condolences or to view a memorial tribute video please visit www.rogersfunerals.com. Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista is in care of the arrangements.

OBITUARY POLICY

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This charge affects funeral homes, as well as family or other representatives, that directly place obituaries. All paid obituaries will continue to be published on our

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In the event the newspaper errors in publishing an obit, corrections will be made and the obit will be rerun. If the errors are on the part of the submitting party, an additional fee will be assessed. Obituaries can be emailed to: bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com or call 719-852-3531 for more information.

Debra E. Perea June 1955-November 2022

Passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 30, 2022. Debi was with her husband of 50 years, Jess.

Debi was a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Debi loved being with her family. She enjoyed making meals for her loving family.

Debi loved the outdoors, she enjoyed camping, fishing and hunting. She loved to hike and explore new places. She is in a new place now.

Debi will always be with us. Debi's love for life and everyone she knew will always live on. We know it isn't really the end. We love you forever Debi. Thank you for being here for me, your family and everyone who knows you. We'll see you again my love.



Love you forever, Jess

Arrangements made by Strohmayer's Funeral Home.

Loretta Irene Ehardt

South Fork resident Loretta Irene Ehardt, 80, passed away on Dec. 10, 2022. She was born on Feb. 28, 1942, in Biloxi, Miss., to Harry Crews and Ida Osborne. Loretta was raised by her grandmother in Colorado Springs and graduated from William Palmer High School in 1960.

Following graduation, she went on to attend Colorado University, where she got her degree in teaching. She spent many years teaching in Colorado and Arizona.

She married Larry Ehardt in 1982 and with him, she helped operate Moon Valley Resort in South Fork. She was involved in every aspect of the business from running the day to day at the resort to going with Larry on his outfitting trips as the camp cook, often sleeping in tents in the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo Mountain ranges.

Loretta was a member of the New Hope Church and was very instrumental in starting many quilting groups in Colorado and Arizona. She had a passion for quilting and loved the opportunity with those she met.

She is survived by her husband Larry Ehardt, her step-son Darrin Ehardt, her step-daughter Kari Ehardt, her step-granddaughter Katy, her sisters, Linda Crews and Kathy (Tom) Brogard as well



as her niece Shannon Brogard, her nephew Sean Brogard and her adopted family, Lori (Aaron) Laske and Shawna (Steve) Martinelli.

Loretta was preceded in death by her mother and father.

Cremation was selected and a memorial service will be held at a later time. To express condolences to the family, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com

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

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Belly up to the bar

I hope this Christmas season finds you fat and sassy or, if not, at least happy and joyful. Across America, families and friends are assembling for one last time, before the next "feed," also known as the next holiday.

OI' Dutch and Miss Trixie have not been left out of that tradition for sure and it appears that Christmas will be a time of non-stop eating and fun with my son Bub's, his wife Tinkerbell plus Grand-daughters Number 1 and Number 2.

Last Sunday, Miss Trixie and I went to an early celebration of Christmas with her family, and we all met at a local eatery. I am not sure if they have all gotten too old to cook like they used to or if they all got smart enough to know they don't have to, but no matter we ended up at a local buffet known as "The Trough." There was something about that name that turned me off as all I could think of was a bunch of swine snorting and gobbling down food in vast quantities. And looking around that is exactly what most of the people in that restaurant did.

Ribs by the bushel basket went down expanding gullets and no one seemed to be able to pass up the cobbles and ice cream at the end of the meal no matter how full they were. One guy I saw in line ahead of me could have fed half the starving kids in Africa with just what he had on his plate.

This got OI' Dutch to thinking - a risky business according to Miss Trixie - about the names of eateries. Some like the Golden Corral are questionable to say the least as I never found a corral I wanted to eat at. But it's not bad grub I guess and seems to attract a lot of hungry folks.

I also recall one place up in Wyoming named Big Bobs Belly Bustin Burgers and true to the title they were big juicy patties of beef and huge buns. And that was just his wife.

Where I am from, we had a Black Angus restaurant to eat at, a Blue Goose Cafe and a plethora of others named after the owners like Maude's, Candies, Carolyns and Pancho's.

But to really appreciate all the names of places to grab a bit you have only to open your phone and you will suddenly find some strange and some very catchy names to boot.

Looking online I found places called The Burgatory, Cheesy It, Dairy Godmother, The Garden of Eatin, Sconehege, TemptAsian, Vincent Van Doughnut and Wish You



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

Were Beer. All of these of course are chosen to make patrons smile and maybe choose that place to spend their dollars.

But some eateries seem to maybe take it a bit too far in naming their joints. Such places as the Soon Fatt Chinese restaurant may have done just that in choosing a name. I mean who wants to be reminded of their battle with the belt line when they are eating out?

The K.K.K. Cafe scares even me and I cannot imagine them doing a booming business honestly. I hope the sign advertising Poopsicles was a typo but there it is in glaring neon on the wall. I think I would pass on LaDuDu and The Hairy Monk. The latter is sure to have me find a wandering hair in my pie or coffee and wondering just what body part this hair may have come from on a bald monk.

I do recall about the most outrageous place that just so happened to be along the railroad tracks where OI' Dutch worked. It was called Big Red Heinie's. And true to form the ceiling was adorned with panels imprinted with the butts of patrons past and present.

For you see, for a small fee they would give you a ceiling tile and a bucket of paint and you could imprint your derriere, sign your name and place said panel on the ceiling of the bar. Something to see, once.

So, belly up to the bar and enjoy the holiday seasons and if you can take your significant other to the local Hop Suey or Pork and Mindy's and eat to your heart's content. It's the reason for the season so it seems.

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 or on Twitter at TroutRepublic.



YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

Meteor showers

Fortunately, we've been getting snow! On Dec. 13, I would have gone out to see the Geminids meteor shower, but the sky was cloudy. On the 14th the sky was clear, and I got up early to see the Geminids. So, I went upstairs and opened the door. Unfortunately, it was very cold and almost zero. So, I looked in the sky and didn't see any Geminids. But it was so cold that I closed the door and went back to bed.

The Ursid meteor shower runs

from Dec. 19-26, and peaks on the December solstice of 21. So, I will go out and look for them. They occur between the big and small dipper in the NE. The new moon is on Dec. 23, so this will be a good time to look at them.

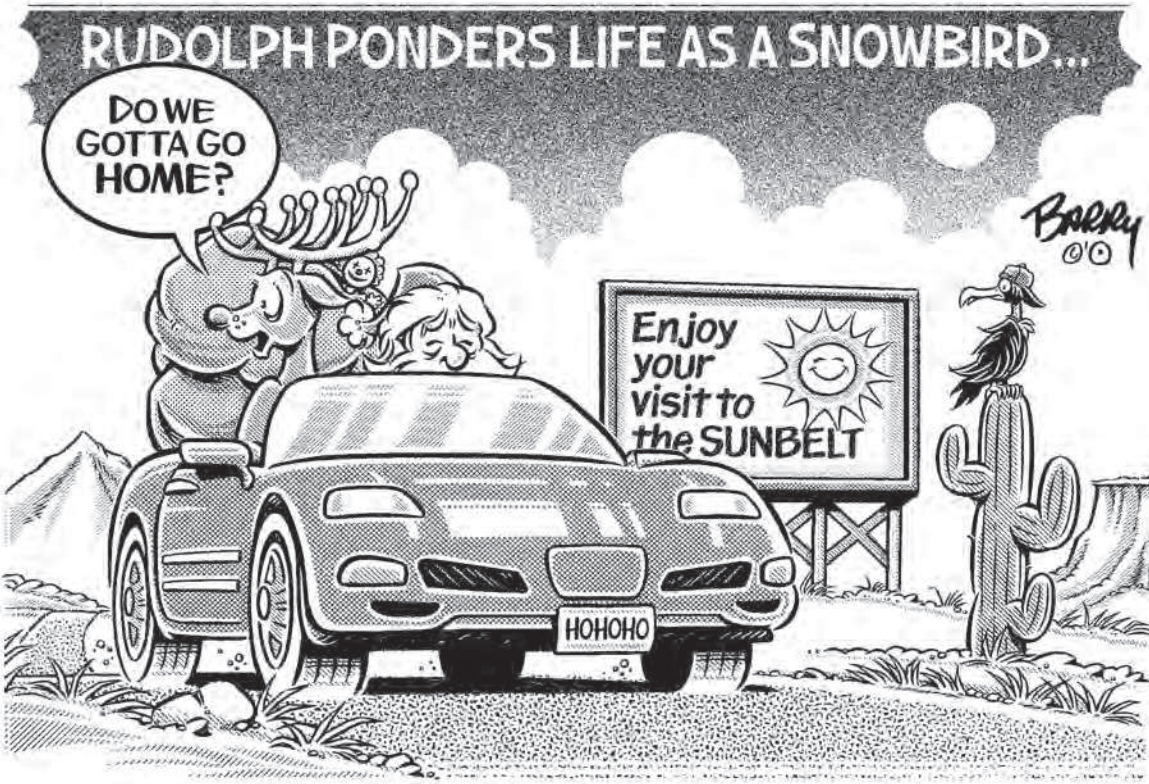
The Quadrantids meteor shower is always the first of the year. It usually peaks at 50-100 meteors per hour. But unlike other meteor showers this only happens in a brief few hours. Fortunately, they're predicted to peak on January 4. Unfortunately, the moon will be out.

Apparently, no one wants to



takeover writing the Night Sky articles. At least no one has contacted Valley Publishing. So, I will continue writing it every other week for the next three months and then I will retire.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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Advancement of Baroz plea postponed to January

Has pleaded 'not guilty by reason of insanity'

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Adre Baroz appeared virtually in court on Thursday concerning his plea of not guilty by reason of insanity (NGRI).

Baroz, 27, is charged with five counts of murder in the first degree after deliberation, a class one felony, five counts of tampering with deceased human remains, a class three felony, and two counts of assault and kidnapping.

Three other co-defendants in the case were also present in court, either virtually or in person, including Julius Baroz, Adre Baroz's 32-year-old brother, Francisco Ramirez, 40, and CJ Dominguez, 29. All three co-defendants are facing similar or lesser charges in one or more of the murders Adre Baroz allegedly committed.

Baroz entered the NGRI plea on April 29, at which time Chief Judge Gonzales accepted the

plea and ordered an evaluation to be conducted at the Colorado Institute of Mental Health at Pueblo (CIMHP), otherwise known as the "state hospital."

For more than seven months, "proceedings have been held up," as Judge Gonzales put it, while the court waited to receive the final report. Sometime in November, CIMHP sent that final report, and attorneys for the state and the defense reviewed its contents before Thursday's hearing. The CIMHP report is a suppressed document and can't be released to either counsel for the co-defendants or members of the public.

"Does either side intend to dispute those findings of the report from the state hospital or to ask for additional evaluation," Gonzales asked.

David Lipka, the main counsel for the defense, answered the question. Citing statute, Lipka said, "The defense has the right to have its own expert do an evaluation." Lipka then requested "30 to 45 days" to explore whether they are going to have an expert challenge the report and request a second

evaluation. "We're not prepared at this time to say we have an expert and want a second evaluation."

Lipka said he felt completing the evaluative process — whether that involved a second evaluation or not — was necessary before moving forward.

Boulder County Deputy District Attorney Ken Kupfner, one of the three special prosecutors out of the Boulder County DA's office assigned to the case, did not object to the defense counsel's request. But, also citing statute, Kupfner said the defense "will need to make a good cause showing the need for a second evaluation."

Judge Gonzales agreed with Kupfner's interpretation of the statute and then asked defense counsel for the other co-defendants if they objected to the court granting Lipka the 30-day motion. All had no objection.

The co-defendants' cases are joined to Adre Baroz's case and "trail" or follow whatever proceedings take place.

Gonzales granted Lipka's motion for a 30-day postponement and set the date for that next hearing on Jan.

26, 2023, at which time Lipka will inform the court whether defense counsel will request a second evaluation to be conducted by one of their experts and, if so, provide a good cause for that second evaluation to be done.

Chief Judge Gonzales also requested that steps are taken to assure that all the co-defendants — who, on Thursday, were in four different locations including Alamosa Detention Center, Pueblo County Jail and the Department of Corrections — are in court at the time the hearing is scheduled to begin. Proceedings on Thursday were significantly delayed while the court and counsel waited for local personnel to bring Francisco Ramirez and Adre Baroz to places where they were able to be online for the hearing.

"In case there is a question, technology does not make things easier," Judge Gonzales commented while waiting.

Adre Baroz has been charged with allegedly murdering, dismembering and burning the remains of five people, all of whom were reported missing over a span



of roughly two months in 2020. Those individuals were Selena Esquibel, 19, of Alamosa; Xavier Zeven Garcia, 24, of Saguache; Myron Robert Martinez, 37, of Del Norte; Shayla Hammel, 34, of Saguache County; and Korina Arroyo, 31, of Monte Vista.

The case, which has become locally known as the "Los Sauces murders," gained national attention when, on Nov. 17, 2020, law enforcement officials with five different agencies, including the Conejos County Sheriff's Office, the Alamosa Police Department, the Monte Vista Police Department and Colorado Bureau of Investigation, uncovered charred human remains on two different properties in Los Sauces in Conejos County.

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.

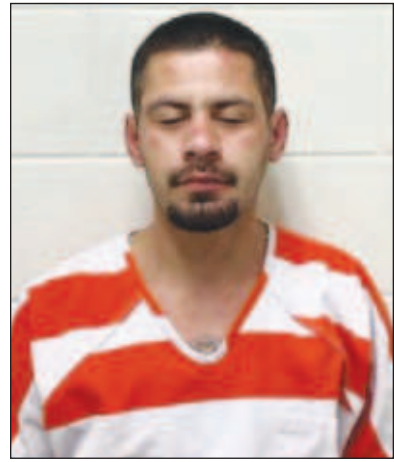
Gonzales accepted the plea agreement and will refer the case to the probation department who will conduct a thorough investigation of Dominguez's background and ultimately prepare a presentence investigation report (PSI) that will be submitted to the court. Counsel also indicated they would also like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



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My Story: Care without compromise

Editor's Note: As told to Donna Wehe, Director of Communications at San Luis Valley Health

My name is Natalie Rose Marquis. I am 100% disabled and currently reside in the Baca, Crestone. In 2010, I was diagnosed with Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis, as I was living an active life, managing a hotel in Austin. I spent summers in Crestone when I was growing up, with my brothers and father who love fishing. I and my husband needed to get out of the Texas heat so we moved to Crestone, where our interest in solar energy and living off grid have a lot of support. In 2013 we made the move. My diagnosis was accompanied by unexplained pain, very unusual circumstances, and at the time there was no medication for the pain.

Recently this diagnosis is often effectively treated with chemotherapy medicine, but back in 2010, it was not an option. For the first three years after moving to Crestone, I retained one of the practitioners from Austin via tele-med. I went from being very athletic and active, such as hiking 14'ers, to barely walking. My limited mobility makes me reliant on my husband for caregiving. He drives me to the Sand Dunes swimming pool where I can swim and do my therapy, an exercise where I can't fall! My husband has been a faithful companion and caregiver through all

these difficult times. A true hero and partner! He has been happy to be in the Colorado mountains again.

I left a good urology team in Austin. Women who get M.S. often have urological issues such as frequent UTIs, dyssynergy, muscles not functioning when the bladder needs be emptied, etc. When I first made appointments with the SLVH Urology Clinic, Daniel Sours, NP, had not yet joined the team. When I eventually made an appointment with him, I was not expecting such great care! He has fresh perspective and really took an interest in my disorder. I had not received this level of personal care since moving here. My husband and I have been continually "blown away" by Daniel's perspective and knowledge.

Daniel had the insight to order another ultrasound to check the efficacy of my medicine. He found that he was able to cut it in half, saying, "Let's try this." Two weeks later, we were all amazed that his ideas worked for me. We have been impressed with Daniel's "out of the box" thinking. Together we developed a care plan, that allows us to slowly re-examine and make alterations in small increments, and this has totally impressed me and helped me.

I have been actually surprised and astonished at finding this fabulous practitioner in such a rural setting.

He is not only a kind person, but so accessible and has shown real interest in solving my complex issues. Along the way, he told me about other situations that could develop, and he explained what to watch out for and what to do when it happens. My husband and I were frustrated that our sleep cycle had been disrupted for so long, but Daniel anticipated this and calmly said, "Let's try a few things so you can get back to sleeping normally." Again, he was thinking ahead and wrote a prescription for me in the patient portal. He made it so easy and just like that, it was life-changing for me. A very helpful solution from someone who seemed to have the remedy in his back pocket!

Daniel is undaunted by my complex situation, so incredibly gentle and personable. My husband Richard and I actually look forward to my appointments with him, and nobody ever says they like going to a doctor's office! His range of personality and thoughtfulness is rich, a combination of creative problem-solving skills along with his humbleness, empathy, and quiet sense of humor. I am so grateful to have become his patient and to hear a provider say, "You don't have to compromise, we can look at other ways to fix this." Remarkable! My gratitude for Daniel Sours, NP, is endless.



Courtesy photo

Natalie Rose Marquis has Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis and sat down with SLV Health Director of Communications Donna Wehe for a 'My Story' interview. Marquis says her husband has been 'a faithful companion and caregiver through all these difficult times.'



Courtesy photo

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

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.



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Ag producers, farmworkers urge Congress to pass Bennet's Affordable and Secure Food Act

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Colorado U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet (D), along with three other bi-cameral, bi-partisan co-sponsors and a strong coalition of agricultural producers and farm workers, announced on Wednesday, Dec. 14, a plan to reform the H-2A visa program, provide farm workers with certainty, lower food prices for American families, and secure our nation's food supply.

The Affordable and Secure Food Act (ASFA) will reform the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Worker program by expanding H-2A visas to year-round jobs for the first time, modernizing the application process, creating more wage certainty, and ensuring critical protections for farm workers.

"The shortage of skilled farm labor has dramatically increased the cost of food, squeezing family budgets and forcing them to make impossible choices between food, groceries, medicine, and housing," said Bennet. "This plan is broadly supported by farmers, by labor, by immigration advocates, and business. There is no reason that we shouldn't get this done. If Congress can't get this done, it would not only be a massive missed opportunity, but a dereliction of our duty to the American people, to the rural economy in this country, and to agriculture."

The Affordable and Secure Food Act

reflects years of close input from farmers and ranchers, agricultural workers, and labor organizations. Specifically, the ASFA would establish a program for agriculture workers, plus their spouses and minor children, to earn legal status. Farm workers in the program may earn a path to a green card after 10 years of agriculture work. It would also provide H-2A visas for year-round jobs for the first time, modernizing the application process, creating more wage certainty, and ensuring critical protections for H-2A farm workers.

Finally, the AFSA would establish a mandatory, nationwide electronic verification system for all agricultural employment, with high standards for privacy and accuracy while lowering the cost and increasing access to farm workers and rural housing.

Numerous agricultural groups have come out in strong support of the bill, including the National Potato Council, U.S. Apple Association, American Mushroom Institute, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, International Fresh Produce Association, AmericanHort, Land O'Lakes, Inc., American Business Immigration Coalition-Action, Western Growers, Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative, National Farmers Union, Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association, United Farm Workers, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, and Voces Unidas de las Montañas.

Each group praised Sen. Bennet for

his ongoing work on the issue and then offered specific endorsements of the bill while describing the enormous stress a lack of workers has placed on ag producers, the impact of a limited workforce on food security, and the urgent need for Congress to take action quickly.

As Chuck Conner, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives President and CEO, said, "It is critical that this legislation be included in the omnibus appropriations bill moving through Congress in the coming days. There is no 'Plan B.' Without action this year, ag labor reform will be off the table for years to come, bringing with it the certainty that more crops will go unharvested, more farmers will lose their businesses, and more Americans will be dependent on imported food to provide for their families."

Kam Quarles, National Potato Council Ceo, called for further bipartisan discussions to gain the necessary votes to include a solution to the crisis in the Omnibus and see it signed by the President during this Congressional session.

"Inaction will only deepen the U.S. agricultural labor crisis, and threaten the competitiveness of American farms and the food they produce," Quarles said.

Alex Sánchez, Voces Unidas de las Montañas President and CEO, an advocacy organization based in Colorado's Western Slope, also praised

the bill for its impact on farm workers, "(creating) certainty and bringing them and their families out of the shadows. It will also secure the nation's food supply with a more stable workforce."

"NFU has heard repeatedly from our members that our current agricultural labor laws are broken. We need a farm workforce policy that actually works for everyone and this bill from Senator Bennet does just that. We're proud to support this legislation and will work with Senator Bennet to push it forward," said Rob Larew, National Farmers Union President.

Bennet was a member of the "Gang

of Eight," a group of bipartisan senators who worked together to write a comprehensive bill to fix our broken immigration system.

The Senate passed the bill with 68 votes in 2013. As stated in a press release from Bennet's office, "The AFSA builds on that work to fix our broken immigration system to boost our economy, strengthen American agriculture, and provide legal certainty for undocumented farm workers," part of a collection of statements Sen. Bennet has made calling for an "end to partisan games" and for passing comprehensive, bipartisan reform.

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.

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It's Never Too Late!

I think one of the greatest lies we can believe is, "It's too late!" At some point in our lives, we all feel like we've missed our chance or messed up an important opportunity. We can even be tempted to believe that we've disqualified ourselves from having a great future...that our best days are behind us.

If this is you—if you feel like you've missed your chance or like your opportunity to have a great life has passed you by—I want you to know something today: *With God on your side, it's never too late.*

While God Himself never changes, He is a God of change—He is always doing a new thing and working behind the scenes in our lives to bring about new beginnings. Where we see failure, God sees potential for something new. The minute we stumble and come apart, God is already planning our comeback. When we mess up "Plan A," we don't have to worry—God has a "Plan B"!

I love Isaiah 43:19 (AMP). In this verse, God says, "Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert."

Take a moment to really let those words sink in and think about this: If it really wasn't "too late," what are some things you would do? Would you go back to school to earn your degree? Would you reconcile with an old friend or attempt to make up for past mistakes? Would you follow your passion in life—something you're naturally gifted at doing—and try to fulfill your goals and dreams?

Whatever it may be, God wants you to know that it's *never too late* to begin again and have a great life. He is on your side and, if need be, He can even "put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert."

Determination Is a Must

One of the greatest things we can do to cooperate with God's plan for our lives is *stay determined*. I've learned that when you feel discouraged, when others doubt or criticize you, and when your dreams seem like they're just never going to happen, that's when you need to keep moving forward.

I'll never forget, many years ago, when I first started talking about the call of God on my life. Some of my friends felt that I must be mistaken, and they actually told me, "Joyce, we really don't think you have the right kind of personality to do this kind of ministry." It was not very encouraging!

But I knew what God had spoken to my heart, and I knew that I had a gift and a passion to teach His Word. So I kept moving forward. As a result, I lost some friends and was eventually asked to leave my church. Even some of my family members turned their backs on me.

Sure, it was difficult in the moment, but I cringe to think where I would be now if I had given up when I felt that rejection. I know I certainly wouldn't be fulfilling God's call on my life now... and I would be miserable because I wouldn't be following my passion.

I can distinctly remember a particular season during those early years when the Lord continued to encourage me not to quit. There was one Scripture in particular that He kept putting in front of me, and it continues to speak to me today:

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9 NIV).

Our enemy, Satan, wants us to quit and give up. The Bible says he is the "father of lies" (see John 8:44). He continually lies to us and tells us things like, "Who do you think you are? That's never going to happen! Do you really believe that God spoke to



you? Do you really think you can do that?"

I believe we're actually most tempted to quit when our breakthrough is right around the corner. But if we'll just keep moving forward—if we'll remain steadfast and refuse to give up—we *will* reach our goal and walk in God's promises.

I'm not sure where you are today. I don't know what disappointments or setbacks you've endured. But I do know this: **It's not over.** God loves you, He sees you, and He has a plan to help you begin again. Because with God, it's never too late. He's the God of fresh starts, do-overs, new beginnings, and great finishes.

And with God on your side, it's never too late!

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.

San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2021-2022

BOYS	
Sierra Grande 46	Calhan 18
Moffat 61	Antonito 47
Hanover 52	Antonito 39
Sangre de Cristo 50	Soroco 45
Centennial 47	La Veta 42
Primero 59	Moffat 42
Ouray 69	Creede 36
Crowley County 67	Sierra Grande 34
Simla 68	Sangre de Cristo 40
Sierra Grande 46	Calhan 18
Sanford 51	Denver Christian 37
Sangre de Cristo 50	Soroco 45
Florence 43	Monte Vista 41
Crowley County 70	Center 26
Center 46	Calhan 36
Pine Bluffs 57	Del Norte 46
Simla 68	Sangre de Cristo 40
Fowler 45	Sanford 42
Weld Central 57	Monte Vista 42
Prospect Ridge 71	Del Norte 56
Centauri 59	Gunnison 27
Alamosa 63	Gunnison 28
Centauri 84	La Junta 40
Alamosa 82	La Junta 50

GIRLS	
Sierra Grande 67	Calhan 41
Sangre de Cristo 45	Soroco 40
Hanover 53	Antonito 41
Centennial 43	La Veta 34
Flatirons Academy 72	Sanford 39
Crowley County 43	Sierra Grande 40
Simla 51	Sangre de Cristo 26
Center 39	Crowley County 26
Sanford 35	Hayden 23
Simla 50	Monte Vista 30
Center 55	Calhan 14
Ignacio 52	Sargent 23
Del Norte 46	Pine Bluffs 28
Sanford 51	Fowler 38
Centauri 45	Summit 43
Centauri 60	La Junta 15
Alamosa 58	La Junta 30
Alamosa 46	Summit 41 OT

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SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Dec. 12 and Dec. 18, 2022.

Sheriff deputies and staff kept tabs on eight controlled burns, responded to fires in Saguache and Moffat, and patrolled Saguache five times. They reported two REDDI reports (Report Every Drunk Driver Immediately), issued a warrant in Crestone, took a man into custody, and detained and released another man charged with domestic violence.

Staff arranged six ambulance rides from Crestone, Moffat, and Saguache (two apiece). In addition to helping citizens and other agencies and sharing information, deputies conducted two welfare checks and responded to a civil dispute in Crestone. They addressed

thefts in Villa Grove, at the Sand Dunes Swimming Pool, and also in unincorporated Saguache County.

Deputies handled harassment and assault in Moffat, littering in Center, and suspicious activity at the Moffat school and in Villa Grove. An abandoned vehicle, an animal problem, and loose livestock also required attention.

ARRESTS

- A 39-year-old Crestone man was arrested and detained for failing to appear in Saguache County court for three cases. Bond was set at \$1,500 (\$500 per FTA).
- A 30-year-old Saguache man was arrested and released after paying a \$200 bond for three charges (domestic violence, assault in the third degree, and criminal mischief). A protection order was issued, and his next court date is Jan. 11.

VILLAGOMEZ

Continued from Page 1A — March. Schneider is also attending the conference.

"Jose's application clearly demonstrated his abilities as a scholar and a leader, as well as his potential to contribute long-term to the HSI community and to the success of the students they exist to serve," Daniel Loera, AHSIE scholarship committee co-chair, said.

A first-generation college student and Center High School graduate, Villagomez submitted a personal essay, a letter of recommendation, and resume for the award application. Matthew Valverde, associate professor of music and Cornerstone to Capstone Title V Grant project director, told him of the opportunity.

Villagomez appreciates the constant support from Valverde and Schneider, as well as Nick Saenz,

professor of history and special assistant to the president.

"I have had the opportunity to get to know both sides of my mentors, as professors and in casual interactions. It is nice to have the support," Villagomez added.

Villagomez chose his hometown University after becoming familiar with the campus as an Upward Bound high school student.

"I am graduating in three years with no student loan debt," he said. He took out a \$4,000 loan but paid it off over the summer. "I worked really hard to get it paid off."

He is president of Associated Students and Faculty (AS&F); and active in the Grizzly Activity Board; KASF, the campus radio station; and the Spanish Club.

"There are so many opportunities to get involved if you just look for them," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

CANDIDATE

Continued from Page 1A

provide land-use advice for the mayor and trustees. They will meet in Town Hall at 5:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month. Interested residents should include their qualifications and skills in their one-page letters.

Planning commissions and similar groups administer land use and code issues at different levels of government across Saguache County. Following master plans and documented regulations, members are appointed to positions. They receive input and report findings and recommendations to elected officials.

The next regular meeting of the Saguache County Planning Commission is scheduled for Jan. 26, 2023. The 62-page Saguache County Planning Commission master plan document was last updated in October and was adopted on June 24, 2010. Updated in February of 2022 to comply with Code of Colorado Regulation updates, the On-site Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) document is 115 pages long. The Saguache County

Planning Commission is larger than similar groups for towns and property associations.

According to the Crestone town website, the "Planning Commission meets regularly on the first Monday of every month at 5 p.m. in the Alder Meeting Room (111 S. Alder St., located on the east side of Town Hall)." The Crestone Planning Commission includes a chairperson and four other commissioners. Documentation for the Crestone Municipal Code Zoning issues runs 70 pages.

The Town of Saguache website lists three members and notes that "Planning Commission Meetings [are] to be Determined." The master plan for Saguache was adopted and approved by the Planning Commission and the Saguache Town Board of Trustees in May, 2010. Saguache town officials appointed the Planning Commission in 2006. The draft copy of the Saguache Zoning Regulations currently on the town website is dated Aug. 15, 2013. It identifies, for example, that

detached Accessory Dwelling Unit buildings must have a separate sewer and water tap.

The leadership team for the Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) sent out emails to remind members that annual assessments are due before Jan. 1, 2023. Delivered on Dec. 19, the reminder praised the 400 POA members who already made full payments as of Dec. 20. They also thanked dozens of others who set up payment plans. Although some lots have been consolidated over the last five decades, many of the estimated 3,500 lots have been bought and resold. Fewer than half have been developed. Yet out of 121 construction projects initiated in 2022, 44 are residences.

In addition to a five-person board of directors for the POA, two committees address land use and planning issues for Baca Grande. Steered by three members each, these volunteer groups include the Environmental and Architectural Committee and the Violations Appeal Panel.

Holiday Coloring Contest



CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST ENTRY FORM

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- Coloring Contest Rules:**
1. Contest open to children ages 10 and under. Relatives of newspaper employees or contest sponsors are not eligible to win.
 2. Contestants may use crayons, colored pencils or markers. Adults may assist in completing the contest entry form, but not in the coloring.
 3. Limit one entry per child. Entries will not be returned.
 4. All entries must be postmarked by Jan. 5, 2023.
 5. Submissions are considered property of this newspaper.
 6. Decision of the judges is final.
 7. Winners will be announced in the Jan. 11 & 12, 2023 issues.

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Photo by Patrick Shea

The Center High School girls basketball team became the C-Town Showdown Varsity Tournament champions on Dec. 17, beating Crowley County 39-26.

TOURNAMENT

Continued from Page 1A —
The final score was 70-26.

In the boys game, the undefeated Chargers from Crowley County applied full-pressure defense from start to finish. Even when the starters sat on the side with foul trouble, Chargers off the bench swarmed the Vikings and forced turnovers until the final whistle. A little less than 5 minutes into the game, the Chargers built a 9-0 lead.

On Friday, the Vikings beat the boys from Calhan 46-36 to reach the championship contest. They are now 3-4 overall this season.

Earning their sixth consecutive win of the year on Friday, the Chargers beat Calhan 67-34 before facing Center. If total points counted, the 7-0 Chargers have accumulated a combined score of 457-210.

Led by senior guard Ricardo Maldonado, the Vikings got to the free-throw line and into the paint to fight their way to 41-21 at halftime.

Not all the towns represented in the C-Town tournament start with the letter "C." Center and Calhan fit the description, but Sierra Grande does not. Even though the Crowley County Chargers put "C3" on the logo, the school is in Ordway.

For the third and fourth quarters, the Crowley County bench continued chanting "defense" on every possession while teammates pressured Vikings all over the court.



Courtesy photo

Center's Alicia Rios shoots two free throws to secure a 39-26 win over Crowley County to win the C-Town Showdown Varsity Basketball Tournament on Dec. 17 at Center High School.



Happy Holidays & Thanks to Our Troops

As we reflect on the blessings for which we are most grateful at Christmas time, our freedom and those who protect it are at the top of our list. To the brave men and women of our military, go our sincere thanks, respect and best wishes for a great holiday. We salute your service and your sacrifice. Whether you are home for the holidays or here in spirit, you are in our hearts. Folks like you make us especially proud to be Americans.

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Kent Rominger Airport receives Christmas gift

Jet A fuel tanks have arrived and were being installed

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

DEL NORTE — Christmas came early for Kent Rominger Airport Manager Earl Robinson.

After months of planning and waiting patiently, Robinson announced Monday, Dec. 12, that the Jet A fuel tanks had arrived at the airport and were being installed this week.

Robinson was outside to greet the convoy with open arms and a grin

about one mile wide.

“This is going to be huge for our airport,” Robinson said. “With the fuel come the planes as I’ve said from the very beginning. Now we will have to look at a marketing plan to make sure the aviation world knows that we now offer Jet A fuel. It wasn’t as easy as we anticipated but we are happy it’s here and we are ready to hit the ground running.”

Robinson and Rio Grande County Commissioners have been waiting for this day for some time and according to everyone involved, it was a great start to the Christmas season.

In February, and after collecting

data that showed high demand for Jet A fuel at the airport, Rio Grande County Commissioners approved funding to install a new turnkey fuel system at the airport and Robinson went to work on the project.

Please see GIFT on Page 7

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.

Photo by Earl Robinson



Monte Vista Crane Festival to celebrate 40th anniversary

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — March in the San Luis Valley brings frequent snowfall, strong winds, and the annual return of the area’s oldest visitors — Sandhill Cranes. Although cranes have been migrating through the Valley’s wetlands for centuries, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the event dedicated to showcasing the majesty of the cranes and their habitat: The Monte Vista Crane Festival.

Launched as a small, local event in 1983, the Monte Vista Crane Festival is now one of the biggest tourist attractions of the year for the sleepy town located 15 miles west of Alamosa in southern Colorado.

Today, crane watchers come from far and wide to take in the spectacle of

20,000 or so Greater Sandhill Cranes and a few thousand Lesser Sandhills gathering, loafing, feeding, and interacting with each other in pristine wetlands framed by the towering, snow-capped peaks of the Sangre de Cristo range.

To celebrate 40 years of community and cranes, the 2023 Monte Vista Crane Festival will feature the world premiere of “Where the Cranes Meet the Mountains,” a short documentary film about the unique experience of the San Luis Valley migration, and the different ways wildlife and nature impacts people. The film was made possible through a grant from the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO), and was produced by local filmmaker and water activist, Christi Bode of Moxieran Media.

Please see 40TH on Page 2

Cold smoke day

It was a cold smoke kind of day on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at Wolf Creek Ski Area in Southern Colorado after a storm dumped 12 inches of snow. Conditions are powder and packed powder with excellent condition and all lifts operating. The quick-moving storm elevated the all-natural midway settled base to 50 inches.

Photo by Scott DW. Smith, courtesy of Wolf Creek Ski Area



Rio Grande County Museum hosts 99th birthday celebration



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Rio Grande County Museum celebrated Margaret Annine Gredig Untiedt’s 99th birthday along with the anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Del Norte on Monday, Dec. 12.

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

DEL NORTE — The Rio Grande County Museum was packed on Monday, Dec. 12, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the town of Del Norte and to mark a special birthday for Margaret Annine Gredig Untiedt who is a descendant of John Gredig, one of the founders of the town.

Several family members traveled from California to celebrate the town’s anniversary and an amazing woman who has spent her life dedicated to the service of others.

Over 20 family members ventured through the snow and cold to the small mountain town of Del Norte and celebrate their family’s history here.

Through the process of planning for the event the Rio Grande County Museum with the help of *Please see MUSEUM on Page 7*



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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.

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.

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 food-borne 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.

40TH Continued from Page 1

"While I still get just as excited each spring when I first hear, then see the cranes, this year's festival is extra special," said Deb Callahan, Monte Vista Crane Festival organizer and Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges president. "Thanks to Colorado Tourism, the success of 40 years of putting on this festival has been immortalized in the video project by Christi Bode. Otherwise, the roots of the festival are the same as year one — celebrating these amazing birds

and using that platform to heighten awareness of how our beloved cranes fit into a larger picture of land and water conservation and sustaining the critical biodiversity that makes the San Luis Valley so remarkable."

The March festival will also feature special crane tours and talks from wildlife experts, including a keynote address by Dr. George Archibald, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation.

There will also be an arts and crafts fair, and plenty of opportunities for bird

enthusiasts to spend time enjoying the thousands of cranes, waterfowl, numerous wintering bald eagles and other raptors that flock to the open waters and abundant food of the San Luis Valley on their way north from their wintering grounds at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico.

Tickets for the 40th Anniversary of the Monte Vista Crane Festival go on sale Jan. 1, 2023. For more information about tours, speakers, and other special events, visit mvrancfest.org.

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 ~ B.Gullette

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HVCC enjoying holiday-themed activities

CONTRIBUTED

Hi, community members! High Valley Community Center is covered in glittery snow, paint and homemade wrapping paper from this week's activities. We've had a great time with our holiday-themed activities! We only have one more week with the kiddos and we have a lot packed in such a short amount of time.

HVCC boys' and K-2 co-ed basketball has officially begun! Information regarding practices and open gyms is available on our website, www.TheHVCC.org. Please note that in order to participate in HVCC sports, kiddos must also be registered through HVCC. A link to registration

is on our website and only takes a few minutes. There will be no practice on Dec. 22. Don't forget there will be a mandatory team meeting for all parents and players on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 5:20 p.m. K-2 co-ed basketball will work a little differently this year; we will be hosting skill building practices and scrimmages here at the HVCC gym. More information to follow.

Encore updates for this week; there will be no art class this month, but we will resume in January. For our monthly outing, we're looking forward to taking the Encore participants shopping with the HVCC kiddos on Friday, Dec. 16. We will

be treating participants to lunch as well! Call us to RSVP any time before Dec 16.

Are you hoping to get a good health regime started after the new year? We will be partnering with Kristi Aughe to provide a variety of fitness classes including body weight, free weight, and circuit training. Classes will begin Jan. 9, 2023, and will take place every Monday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and Tuesday-Thursday at 12 p.m. Fitness classes will be free for school-aged and 50-plus participants and \$5 for all others. We will have more information available on our website, www.TheHVCC.org closer to the start date.

Questions? Comments? Please don't hesitate to stop by our 595 Grand Ave. location here in Del Norte, or give us a call at 719-657-2172. Our staff is happy to assist you. Enjoy your week everyone!

High Valley Community Center is finishing up its after-school and Friday activity programs for 2022. Students are diving into some fun winter activities, crafts and during the holiday season.

Courtesy photos



Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Bay Area humorist
5. Hurt
10. Icelandic poems
14. A taro corm
15. Metaphorical use of a word
16. It fears the hammer
17. Excessively quaint (British)
18. Laid-back California county
19. Cook in a microwave oven
20. Not late
22. Go from one place to another
23. Peoples living in the Congo
24. Popular pasta
27. Available engine power (abbr.)
30. Popular musician Charles
31. Angry
32. Spelling is one type
35. One who makes a living
37. Indicates location
38. Imperial Chinese dynasty
39. Small water buffaloes
40. Hungarian city
41. Fabric
42. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
43. Precursor to the EU
44. Philly footballers
45. Female sibling
46. "When Harry Met Sally" actress
47. Magnetic tape of high quality
48. Insecticide
49. Apparatus to record and transmit
52. Some is considered "dog"
55. Israeli city __ Aviv
56. Fencing sword
60. Ottoman military title
61. Wise people
63. Cold wind

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
			24		25				26					
27	28	29		30				31				32	33	34
35			36				37				38			
39						40				41				
42					43				44					
45				46				47				48		
			49				50				51			
52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60						61			62		63			
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

64. Popular type of shoe
65. Administrative district
66. A way to reveal
67. Cooked meat cut into small pieces
68. Actress Zellweger
69. Romanian city

27. Part of buildings
28. Vietnamese capital
29. Sailboats
32. Shelter
33. Terminated
34. Discharge
36. Snag
37. Partner to cheese
38. A container for coffee
40. Spend time dully
41. Satisfies
43. Snakelike fish
44. Consume
46. Type of student
47. Erase
49. Instruct
50. Girl's given name
51. Jewish spiritual leader
52. "To __ his own"
53. North-central Indian city
54. Greek alphabet characters
57. Weapon
58. Amounts of time
59. American Nobel physicist vital to MRI
61. Soviet Socialist Republic
62. Witness

CLUES DOWN

1. Small town in Portugal
2. Site of famed Ethiopian battle
3. German river
4. Christmas carols
5. Cash machine
6. Rough and uneven
7. Rumanian round dance
8. Widespread occurrence of disease
9. A place to relax
10. Feeling of listlessness
11. Coat or smear a substance
12. Wild mango
13. Brews
21. Belgian city
23. Confined condition (abbr.)
25. Swiss river
26. Small amount



“My husband and I were driving through in July 2022, and were hungry. Stopped here, were skeptical, as there were no other cars and the sign said they were looking to hire, short handed. Ordered pizza and waited to be called. As we sat there, cars started filling the parking lot. Got the pizza, and WOW! My husband still talks about how good it was.”
~ VickieRT Yelp

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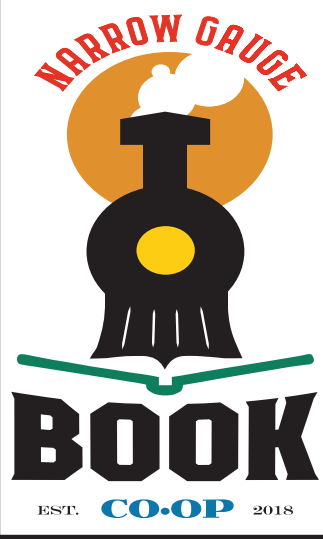


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GIFT

Continued from Page 1

Once funding was approved, a company out of Oregon made the tanks and fuel system for the airport but it took time to get the entire package to Del Norte.

The massive 50,000-pound system was delivered and with the fuel, comes the planes. Perhaps, unbeknownst to the general public, the airport is also home to Eagle Air, the local medical and emergency flight program.

According to Robinson, 300 flights per year come and go out of the Kent Rominger Airport either taking patients to or from medical facilities or bringing in medical professionals that work to save the lives of San Luis Valley residents and guests.

"It's an incredible activity that happens each year and the general public just isn't aware of it," Robinson said.

Robinson and the airport advisory board in partnership with the county have more planned for the airport and after the tanks are installed, the public will be invited to the facility to see some of the work that is being done.



Photos by Earl Robinson

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MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1

patrons, the Town of Del Norte, Rio Grande County and several family and friends made sure that Margaret could embrace her history and celebrate 99 years of accomplishments.

The Gredig family spent countless hours scanning and bringing out original documents of the voyage the family took from Switzerland in 1856 that landed them here.

Longtime patron and supporter of the museum, Martha Kennedy translated some of the documents from German to English for the family as part of the celebration. In the documents provided from the family, was the original Postmaster Certification for John Gredig who was the first postmaster for the town of Loma and was the man who owned the land that the town of Del Norte was built on.

Also included in the documents were shipping lists, passports, the family tree, recollections of the creation of Summitville and Creede and much more. These documents fill holes in the long history of the area and paint a picture of what life was like for the first families residing here. It is a priceless addition to the museum and one that can be enjoyed by patrons for years to come.

Throughout the day, Margaret was visited by friends of people she went to school with. She went through her best memories of Del Norte and her years here as a small girl.

Rio Grande County Museum Board President Leroy Fuch provided the family with even more history as he sat with Margaret and reminisced about the years when they were young teenagers growing up in a small town.

nadette Martinez wished Margaret a happy birthday and presented her with a handmade blanket and flowers. Margaret spent the rest of the afternoon recording her history for the Rio Grande County Museum which will be housed in their collection.

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SOLD

2,023 Sq. Ft. Mountain Oasis Home with Charm and Elegance in Lo Lomita at South Fork Ranches. This 3-bedroom 2 bath home with attached 675 Sq. Ft. 2 car garage is magical! Home is adjacent to BML Land & National Forest with amazing mountain views of Del Norte Peak, Beaver Mountain and Aqua Ramon from the front porch and additional large wrap around rear deck with concrete pad and hook up ready for your own personal hot tub. Open floor plan with kitchen, dining and living area beautifully hand finished on walls with cathedral ceilings, wood floors, 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! Price \$669,500 MLS #796518
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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!
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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

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SOLD

Beautiful 1,728 Sq. Ft. Mountain Home property, 3 beds, 2 baths with additional large lot. Welcoming entrance with closed 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. 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 work benches 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 visit this neighborhood, moments from the Rio Grande River, Rio Grande Golf Club, Wolf Creek ski area and everything outdoors! Don't let this one pass you by! Won't last! Call me and schedule your personal showing today! \$585,000 MLS #796641
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UNDER CONTRACT

This South Fork Beauty checks all the boxes, both his and hers - and is a fun place for family and friends! Custom built Log 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 pantry sink and beautiful custom stained-glass door. The Detailed Check boxes include radiant floor heating with four zones and two Rainai on-demand water tanks. Light Touch lighting system and electrical in the floor. Master bedroom is on the main floor with sitting area with luscious mountain views. Master bath with beautiful large tiled walk-in shower. Guest bedroom and bath on main floor with elegant soaking antique tub. Upstairs spacious loft with two electronic skylights with rain sensors that will close automatically with additional sleeping areas including office space and additional large size bedroom with barn door and bath. Enjoy your 3-car garage with large workshop and more than enough room for all your mountain toys. Your family and friends will love the upstairs bungalow above the garage with kitchenette, living area, built-in beds additional bedroom and bath. Bring your family and friends to gather to enjoy the great outdoors! Boarders National Forest, with streams, creeks, lakes rolling topography, open fields, pine, fir, aspen trees, mountain views and abundant wildlife! Beautifully designed home tucked peacefully into the woods and easily accessible to town, Wolf Creek Ski Area and the Rio Grande Golf Course Resort. Once in a lifetime Opportunity! This property perfectly captures the best of both worlds between outdoor recreation and exceptional entertainment. Start your dream and Call/Text me to schedule your personal showing today! \$1,395,000 MLS #796960
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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. Downstair bedroom off the kitchen area has been used as the main bedroom with hallway bath and located on the main floor. This residence is close to town and only moments away from the Rio Grande River, Golf Club, and 20 minutes from Wolf Creek ski area. Off your front deck is a wonderful place for viewing all the mule deer and wild turkeys that frequent this neighborhood! No active 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
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