



Happy Veterans Day

Shorts

Community Thanksgiving dinner is Nov. 19

CREEDE — The Creede Community Thanksgiving dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Underground Community Center. Turkey, ham, potatoes, gravy, dressing and rolls will be served. Please bring a large side dish or dessert to share. To-go boxes will be available after.

Flu clinic Nov. 18 at Del Norte Annex Building

DEL NORTE — Rio Grande County Public Health in partnership with Rio Grande Hospital will have a flu clinic from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 18 at the Del Norte Annex Building. No appointment is needed.

Flu and COVID vaccines available at Alamosa County Public Health

ALAMOSA — Alamosa County Public Health Department has flu vaccine for all ages of the general public, both insured and uninsured.

It is recommended that all persons ages 6 months and over get an annual flu vaccine, preferably in the fall. Walk-in vaccine clinic is every Tuesday afternoon 1 to 4:30 p.m..

COVID vaccines are available by walk-in Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Please call Alamosa County Public Health Department at 719-589-6639 for more information.

Holiday Bake Sale and Bazaar Nov. 11

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Christian Reformed Church will be having its Holiday Bake Sale and Bazaar a week earlier this year. It will be on Friday, Nov. 11, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cinnamon rolls, coffee and cider will be served, and there will be a wide assortment of gift items for Christmas and baked goods to freeze for Thanksgiving.

The bazaar will be held in the Waverly Youth and Community Center, 1836 County Road 10 South, in Alamosa County. For directions or information, call 719-589-2072 or 719-589-2001.

Voters recall Sargent School District Trustee Mitchell

STAFF REPORT

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — Voters appear to have recalled Sargent School District Trustee Gina Mitchell based on Tuesday night's unofficial General Election results.

By nearly a 3-1 margin (338-113), voters were in favor of recalling Mitchell from her seat on the school board.

Eric Stephens Pfannenstiel ran unopposed on the ballot to replace Mitchell if she was recalled.

The recall began after Mitchell was censured, 3-0, by the school on April 25, following an investigation into allegations of abuse of power by the trustee.

Rio Grande County only featured uncontested races for its county seats.

Tyler Ratzlaff was elected county commissioner for district 2, Cindy Hill was elected clerk and

recorder, Rhonda (Simpson) Richardson was elected treasurer, J.J. Mondragon was elected assessor, Anne M. Robinson was elected sheriff and Stephen Hunzeker was elected coroner.

In other elections of note, Rio Grande County voters favored incumbent U.S. House Representative Lauren Boebert to represent Dist. 3 over Adam Frisch; Republican Anne Kelly by more than a 2-1 margin over Democrat Robert Willett in the 12th Judicial District Attorney election; and Republican Carol Rigenbach over Democrat Matthew Martinez, 2,859-1,998, in the

Please see VOTERS on Page 6A

Mineral County Clerk Eryn Wintz and three judges worked through the evening Tuesday processing ballots from the General Election.

Courtesy photo



Western San Luis Valley Resiliency and Recovery Roadmaps reviewed

BY PATRICK SHEA

MONTE VISTA — As soon as officials announced the 16 Colorado teams for the state's Rural Resiliency and Recovery Roadmap in mid-2021, a coalition of government officials and economic developers in Center, Saguache, La Jara, and Del Norte began laying the groundwork immediately.

Meeting at the Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista on Nov. 2, the group represents four municipalities, Saguache County, the SLV Housing Coalition, Action Lab 360 (Governor's Office), economic development, and the Center School District.

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) run and fund the statewide resiliency and recovery program with local legwork. Scattered throughout rural Colorado, local business owners and municipal administrators represent 169 different communities.

Center Town Manager Brian Lujan leads the Western San Luis Valley Resiliency and Recovery team. Lujan kicked off the meeting at Ski Hi and facilitated presentations from DOLA and other partners.

Fulfilling his role as the Regional Resiliency and Recovery Project Manager for DOLA, James Russell recapped 14 months of groundwork and

Please see ROADMAPS on Page 6A



Photos by Patrick Shea

Center Town Manager Brian Lujan leads the Western San Luis Valley Roadmap team and ran the meeting at the Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista on Nov. 2.



James Russell, the Regional Resiliency and Recovery Project Manager representing the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), recapped 14 months of groundwork and planning for development.

Xcel Energy to conduct power line inspections in the Valley

CONTRIBUTED

DENVER — Xcel Energy will conduct helicopter inspections and patrols of distribution lines near the communities of Alamosa, Fort Garland, Del Norte and Saguache. These flights will gather imagery to support ongoing wildfire protection efforts in the area, according to Xcel Energy officials.

The helicopter flights were scheduled to begin Monday, Nov. 7. Weather permitting, the flights will take place over the next two weeks.

Residents may see and hear the helicopter for extended periods of time as it hovers or flies over areas. There will not be any other customer service impacts or road closures.

Xcel Energy will use the aerial survey data gathered during these flights to create detailed maps that support risk analyses, modeling, resilience, recovery and planning for wildfires.

To learn more visit xcelenergywildfireprotection.com

Author recounts research and writing from Costilla County

BY PATRICK SHEA

ALAMOSA — Within a week of his newly published immersion journalism book, author Ted Conover met with engaged crowds at Milagros Coffee House in Alamosa and again on Nov. 7 at Leon Memorial Hall on the Adams State University campus.

The empty auditorium started filling up 45 minutes before Conover provided background for his reporting on off-grid living in Costilla County. People stood in the back and filled all the seats as Interim ASU President David Tandberg introduced Conover.

"Cheap Land Colorado: Off-gridders at America's Edge" tells the story of a Denver Public Schools graduate who lives in New York City but

felt compelled to explore the off-grid society, ultimately in Costilla County. Conover teaches at New York University's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute. In addition to publishing "Immersion: A writer's Guide to Going Deep," his other five books also entailed living deep, not just researching deep.

In 1984, for example, he devoted a year living the life captured in his book's title, "Rolling Nowhere: Riding the Rails with America's Hoboes." For "Newjack: Guarding Sing Sing," he completed all the training and then spent a year as a prison guard.

Starting in 2017, Conover volunteered for La Puente under the guidance of

Please see AUTHOR on Page 2A



Photo by Patrick Shea

Journalist Ted Conover (left) discussed his newest book at Leon Memorial Hall on Nov. 7.

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OBITUARIES

George Rudy Herrera

George Rudy Herrera was born on Nov. 17, 1950, in Monte Vista, Colo.

He is survived by his loving wife, Maryann Herrera, of 56 years and their five children, Rudolph Herrera, Denise Herrera, Marcie Herrera, Georgina Herrera, and Margarite Herrera; his siblings, Susan Aguilar, Anthony Herrera and Johnny Herrera; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father Anselmo Herrera, mother Stephanie Herrera, brother Louis Herrera and grandson Toby Lesardo Herrera.

Rudy loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. Each and every one of them were personally nicknamed by him.

He loved playing his guitar and singing his oldies music without a care in the world. He'd put on a show for his grandchildren every chance he had.

He will always be our King of Rock 'N' Roll. He is very loved and will be very missed.



YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

Leonid Meteor shower

This time it's the Leonid Meteor Shower that runs from Nov. 6-30 and peaks on the 18th. Since the full moon was on the 8th, and the new moon will be on the 23, they should be fine.

The thing about the Leonid's is that they hit our atmosphere at 44 miles per second. So, they produce more fireballs than any other meteor shower. They appear to radiate from Leo the Lion. In the early morning it will be in the east, so that's where to look for them. Look out an eastern window by 5 a.m.

Some constellations to the lower left of Cassiopeia and Perseus are now becoming visible. The highest one just to the left of Perseus is Camelopardalis. It's a relatively faint constellation with eight stars that represent a giraffe, but its Latin name means leopard camel.

Its long neck can be visualized as stretching from the Milky Way to Ursa Major and Draco the Dragon. The reason it's so dim is because it lies a great distance from us. The two brightest

stars are Alpha Camelopardalis and Beta Camelopardalis. Beta is the brightest one and is a yellow super giant 1,000 light years from us. Alpha is the second-brightest one and is a blue supergiant 3,000 Ly away.

To find Camelopardalis, look for Polaris the North Star and then look to the right for Perseus in front of the Milky Way below Cassiopeia. This constellation is spread out between them 2 hands high and 2 hands wide. It's the camel's body with no head or legs. With binoculars you should see NGC 1502 which is a small open star cluster in the middle of the constellation. It contains 45 stars and is 3,100 LY away which is why you need optical aid to see it.

Below Camelopardalis is Auriga the Charioteer. When looking at it, 2/3 of it sits in front of the Milky Way. It has 7 stars with Capella at its upper left being the brightest. Since it's the 6th brightest star in our sky, it will easily help you find Auriga which is also 2 hands high and 2 hands wide.

Capella represents the mother goat that the charioteer carries on his back



along with her three kids. The reason it's so bright is because she's only 42 Ly from us. It's a binary system with twin yellow giants that orbit each other in 104 days. They're too close to each other for us to see them as two stars.

Epsilon Auriga is its northern most star on the left and is an eclipsing binary that lasts for 1 year out of 27. This supergiant is orbited by a dark partner, which is why it becomes dim for a full year. The last eclipse began in 2009, so we won't have to worry about it for a while. With binoculars you'll also see 3 open clusters on Auriga's right side in front of the Milky Way. M 38 is the highest, with M 36 below it and M 37 below that one.

My favorite constellation Orion the Hunter is now coming up midevening in the east. Now that daylight savings time is over, the sky gets dark earlier.

AUTHOR

Continued from Page 1A

experienced staff who were familiar with the off-grid "flats." Conover ultimately purchased a trailer and property with a well in the flats region of the county. According to Conover, 97 percent of Costilla County is privately owned.

Before visiting the flats, La Puente drivers routinely load firewood in their trucks and navigate rough roads. They meet with the people who are inclined to meet with them, and they offer wood and information about services. After five-plus years volunteering and cooperating with neighbors, Conover

cultivated relationships for interviews, primarily in the immediate vicinity of his land.

Conover said the off-grid movement in the county "reminded me of the early homesteaders, who were also trying to make it in difficult conditions." For his own experience, Conover praised his heavy-duty sleeping bag, but he faced other problems when the thermometer registered minus-7 degrees. The door to his trailer was frozen shut, and he was trapped inside.

"I realized I was at the bottom of a very long learning curve," Conover said.

With his immersion method, the author said he has learned from tramps on trains, old jailers in prison, and others with expertise because he likes to "put myself in a position to really know what's going on."

Although he's not a native of the Valley, Conover's reporting and the way he fielded tougher questions from the crowd revealed a sensitivity for nuance and humility. He said, "I have no doubt that I've missed the

mark with certain people."

One audience member praised Conover's ability to ask tough questions and get honest answers. How did he do it? The book includes details about real people, folks who agreed to be interviewed.

"It's not a straight line," Conover explained, attempting to describe his approach. "But I feel like I've been entrusted with something very precious."

Another audience member asked how he felt as an outsider when he writes his books. When school districts experimented with busing during Conover's days at George Washington High School in Denver, he then rode the bus from the predominately white school to Manual High School where he was among the minority. As an adolescent, he learned how to learn and adapt to different social conditions.

For his writing process, Conover said he doesn't start writing until he reviews all his notes and completes his research. He said his notes are extensive, claiming that all his note-taking for this book exceeded the maximum document size for a single Google doc.

"I always take more notes than I can use," Conover explained.



Photos by Patrick Shea
Adams State University Interim President David Tandberg (right) introduces author Ted Conover before a full house at Leon Memorial Hall on Nov. 7.

Following the discussion, Interim President Tandberg invited everyone to his house across the street where several stacks of complimentary copies of Conover's book shrank fast as the line for autographs grew and hors d'oeuvres disappeared.

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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 Oct. 31 and Nov. 6, 2022.

Staff patrolled Saguache seven times, handled one theft, one case of trespassing, three reports of suspicious activity, criminal

mischievous, and an intoxicated person. They responded to a protection order violation, a civil dispute, a Safe2Tell call, assault, and a weapons offense.

In addition to monitoring five controlled burns, officers conducted one search and rescue operation and two welfare checks, assisted with

four ambulance rides, provided information, and responded to alarms and locked-out residents.

On the roads, staff made 10 traffic stops, dealt with an abandoned vehicle near Moffat, a property-damaging crash, and a hit-and-run in Crestone. They also issued three speeding tickets.



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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Red or blue, it's up to you

By the time you read this, the votes should have all been counted and tallied and we can, at least, watch a little bit of television without a political ad being blasted into our homes.

Elections have become more of a run of popularity of late with candidates spending millions of dollars on a campaign for a job that pays a small salary. That alone should be a warning sign to all of us peons, but we keep sending the same idiots to their phony bologna jobs at capitals across this country.

Ol' Dutch long ago gave up on the politicians to solve any problems we have. It just seems to me that trusting the very people who got us into this mess to get us out is insanity at best. I guess all of us are just so busy trying to work our jobs, take our kids to school, pay the mortgage and survive that we really cannot be bothered with finding more qualified individuals for these jobs. And more qualified people have what is known as "lives" and do not want those political hack jobs.

Miss Trixie herself still maintains some crazy notion that her party of choice will solve all the problems in the world even though they have failed miserably every time they are in office. It's always the same whether you are red or blue as the promises made during the runup to the election are so inviting and somehow believable we all fall to their allure.

Or maybe it's just wishful thinking that somehow a Moses will come along and deliver us from the plagues of Egypt. I don't know. But we all know that once they get in their jobs that special interests and personal vendettas take over and they do what they want and not what they promised all along.

I think one of the biggest problems with the elections as they are is they discriminate against hunters and fishermen due to the time of year that the elections are held. We all know that fall and spring are prime times for such outdoor pursuits and any outdoorsman or woman worth their salt will be so caught up in procuring game for the larder that they won't have time to vote. And this plays right into some of the political agendas out there today as they don't like us having guns or killing fish.

So, it appears that the very nature of our sport and lifestyle will eventually cause its demise as we don't get to vote for people



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

who might support just such a way of life.

Ol' Dutch has been concerned about just such goin's on for quite some time and that's one reason I keep Miss Trixie around. To cancel out her vote with my vote. There is an old saying to "keep your friends close and your enemies closer" and so I keep her up nice and tight against me for just that purpose.

Well, there may be a few other reasons including her fantastic cooking skills but that took a sidetrack of late as she has been feeding me fake eggs from a carton that tastes like — well — the carton. I realize that is saving us probably \$0.01 per egg a day and it's an honest attempt on her part to save Ol' Dutch some money but with the National Debt well over \$30 trillion dollars, now is not the time to save a penny.

I guess whoever won this past Tuesday I do wish them all the best as we are in a real pickle financially and the threats against this Nation have never been more pressing.

Let's just hope they can somehow find it within themselves to think of all of us instead of their own self interests. Ol' Dutch really does not hold out much hope for that due to past performance of the same bunch of clowns in charge, but I do hope that my personal situation improves enough that Miss Trixie will buy a dozen real eggs.

She promised to do so this morning, but we have yet to see if her pre-election promises will come to fruition in the fridge.

Kevin Kirkpatrick and his Yorkie, Cooper, fish, hunt, ATV or hike daily. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at www.troutrepublic.com.

LETTERS Make A Difference Day a success

Editor,
Our Oct. 22, 2022, Make A Difference Day event was a success thanks to San Luis Valley residents, business and community support. This day is about compassion. Once again individuals came together to support two worthy causes, love for the planet and for people.

A grand total of 66 trucks, trailers and cars passed through the gates of the Regional Landfill. Deposited were 212 tires and 246 cubic yards of household, organic and construction debris.

These items will not be dumped on our roadsides, stacked up on beautiful scenic acreage or polluting our rivers and lakes.

The donations collected for the Monte Vista Food Bank were valued at \$737 in non-perishable food items. That amount will feed 39 people for 3 days. The \$801 cash donated will be used to buy special holiday food.

Thank you, Regional Landfill Board and Employees, for opening your hearts, minds and gates to the community for the 23rd year. Your donation of time, wages and uncollected revenue is greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Monte Vista Food Bank, for your continued service to those in need.

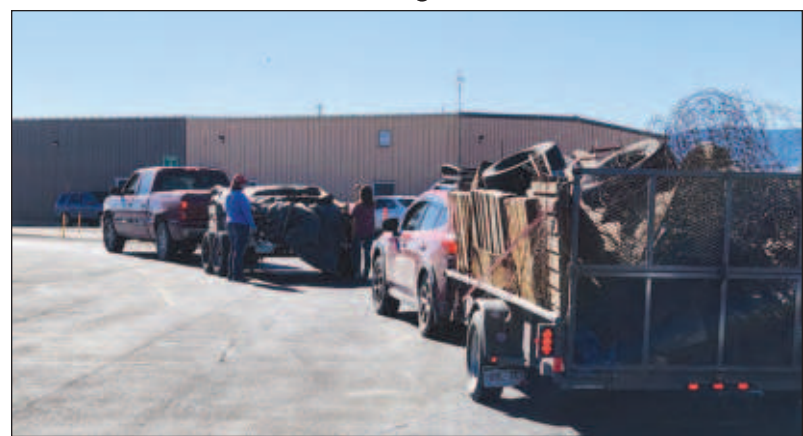
Thank you local grocery stores for the donation of fresh foods. This made it possible for the Baer family to prepare a meal to share with the Landfill workers and volunteers.

Thank you local newspapers and radio stations for getting the word out for this event.

Thank you San Luis Valley residents for cleaning up your yards and community. We appreciate you opening your pantry and wallets again this year and providing a meal for others; you gave generously.

Thank you to the many volunteers that gave hours of your time.

We are very proud to have celebrated twenty three years of our event.



Photos courtesy of Baer family

We have made a difference in our community!
This event benefits all who participate.

*The Baer family
Monte Vista*

MV Food Bank has specific needs for holidays

Editor,
As the holiday season draws near, the needs of the Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank grow bigger. On average the food bank provides meals to 500-700 people for Thanksgiving. Christmas usually brings between 200-500 more people looking to feed their families for the holidays.

Our food bank runs solely from the generous donations of this wonderful community! Individuals, businesses, churches, clubs, and schools make our job a little easier in helping provide for people's food needs. We are still in need to provide for the holidays.

The food bank has specific needs for the holidays. We try and provide everything a household would need to

make an amazing holiday meal! The following list includes most of what we give in our special holiday bags. We ask that all items are unopened, and not expired.

- Turkeys (whole and/or breast)
- Ham loafs (whole or half)
- Dressing (boxed)
- Sweet potatoes or yams (canned)
- Cranberries (canned)
- Green Beans (canned)
- Pumpkin (canned)
- Evaporated milk
- Crushed or chunked pineapple
- Chicken broth and/or cream of mushroom soup
- Cake or cookies mixes
- Jello (boxed)
- Olives

To donate, please contact Jennifer

Becker, MV Emergency Food Bank executive director, at 719-850-2709. You can also bring your donations directly to the food bank during our regular hours. We are open Tuesdays and Fridays from 2 to 4 p.m. The food bank phone number is 719-852-4851 and we are located at 245 Washington St. in Monte Vista. You can also find us on Facebook or email Jennifer directly at jbeckermvfoodbank@gmail.com. Monetary donations are always needed as well. Please mail your check to PO Box 844 Monte Vista, CO 81144.

Thank you in advance for your very generous donations! Together we can conquer hunger!

*Jennifer Becker
Monte Vista*

CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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Authorities investigating RGCSO deputy-involved shooting in South Fork

STAFF REPORT

SOUTH FORK — A Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office deputy and a suspected car thief exchanged gunfire Monday morning, Nov. 7, in a South Fork subdivision, the RGCSO reported.

At 10:27 a.m. a RGCSO deputy attempted to contact a vehicle which was reported earlier in the day as stolen from a residence in Rio Grande County, the RGCSO reported. The driver attempted to elude the deputy in the upper Alpine subdivision east of South Fork.

Upon stopping, the driver got out of the vehicle and shot at the deputy, the RGCSO reported. He then ran toward a house and another vehicle where shots were exchanged between the deputy and the driver.

After being shot at least one time, the driver was taken into custody and received medical care, the RGCSO reported. He was transported to a front range hospital for further treatment.

The deputy sustained a minor injury and is on administrative leave as per protocol during the investigation into the shooting, the RGCSO reported.

The criminal investigation is ongoing and detailed information is not available for release. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation is assisting with the investigation. No additional suspects are being sought by law enforcement at this time, the RGCSO reported. Charges are pending.

The Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office thanked area residents, South Fork Police Department, Del Norte Police Department, Center Police Department, Monte Vista Police Department, Saguache Sheriff's Office, Alamosa Police Department, Alamosa Sheriff's Office, Colorado State Patrol, the 12th Judicial District Attorney's Office, Rio Grande County Emergency Manager's Office, and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation for their assistance.

SLVGO! files objection to sale of SLRG with bankruptcy court

By LYNDIE FERRELL

SAN LUIS VALLEY — As per the regulatory objection period for the purchase of the San Luis and Rio Grande Railroad through Chapter 11 bankruptcy court, an objection has been submitted by San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!) and is requesting a setting of a sale hearing before anything moves forward in the bankruptcy bid process.

SLV GO! Submitted its objection at the beginning of November and is awaiting final word on their objection and request for a hearing.

In the document submitted by the local organization it states, "San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!) submits this objection to the trustee's motion to approve the sale of substantially all of the assets of the SLRG ("OmniTRAX Sale Motion") and objection of the San Luis Valley Great Outdoors to trustee's motion for entry of order approving bid procedures and buyer protections and requesting the setting of a sale hearing, filed by William A. Brandt Jr., as chapter 11 trustee in the SLRG case."

The document explained that by selling to OmniTRAX, the bankruptcy trustee would be significantly and permanently damaging SLV GO!'s efforts to create a trail from Huerfano County through the San Luis Valley and beyond that would be used for recreational purposes and bring in funding from tourism growth here in the San Luis Valley.

The organization also stated that they may have an agreement with two other bidders that have entered the bidding process but that the trustee is pointedly favoring OmniTRAX, according to the document submitted.

"San Luis Valley Great Outdoors is an interested party in the SLRG case because the trustee's actions regarding the sale of the SLRG to OmniTRAX will significantly impede SLV GO!'s non-profit mission in the San Luis Valley. OmniTRAX is against

allowing trail systems within and near its railroad easements, whereas SLV GO! builds and manages community trails throughout the San Luis Valley and is committed to greatly expanding the San Luis Valley Trail System. The SLV GO! long-term plan for such trail expansion necessitates SLV GO! being granted easements within and near the 150 miles of track which are among the assets of SLRG," the organization stated.

The basis of the objection relies heavily on the need for multi-use recreational trails throughout the San Luis Valley along the length of the track included in the bankruptcy bid. According to the document, OmniTRAX specifically mentions within its Public Project Manual, dated January 2019, "Bicycle/Pedestrian Pathways and Multi-Use Trails, private or public parallel bicycle/pedestrian pathways and trails are not permitted on the OmniTRAX Property. Bicycle/Pedestrian pathways and trails cannot cross tracks at grade outside of existing highway easements... OmniTRAX will oppose condemnation proceedings aimed at recreational use of trackside property."

The line runs through the expanse of the San Luis Valley through public and private land and through the rails with trails program that SLV GO! is seeking to bring to the Valley would allow recreational use of the trails system along the railroad easements regardless of whether it is on public or private land if the trail is within the easements of the railroad.

SLV GO! estimates in the document that the Rails with Trails System based on recent research could generate an estimated \$10 million in income should the project be successful through an agreement with the other two bidders.

The objection may or may not be considered in bankruptcy court as the process moves forward.

SLV Local Foods Coalition listening summit is Nov. 12

CONTRIBUTED

ANTONITO — The SLV Local Foods Coalition wants to hear from farmworkers, ranch hands, warehouse workers, cooks, bakers, farmers, ranchers, processors, distributors, school food/nutrition directors, composting, foodbanks, and anyone involved in any aspect of agriculture in the county.

The coalition is having a listening summit from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12, at Chavez Southwest Market Meeting Hall, 611 Main St., Antonito.

They are seeking input about what's working and not working now in the ag sector, as well as ideas for a resilient and thriving system regarding SLV

agriculture. Breakfast, coffee, juice and water will be provided. They are also offering \$50 stipends.

To attend, RSVP at <https://slvlocalfoods.org/cfaa/#summit> or reach out to the project coordinator Jae Sanders, if you have any questions or suggestions, at jae.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com.

Wolf Creek Ski Area opens season Nov. 4

CONTRIBUTED

WOLFCREEKPASS — An early November storm that dropped 20 inches of snow allowed Wolf Creek Ski Area to open Friday, Nov. 4, for the 2022-2023 ski season.

Lifts were open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. along with the Ski School, Ski and Snowboard Rentals, Treasure Sports, Pathfinder Bar and the Wolf Creek Lodge (Upper Lodge).

The Wolf Creek Ski School did a hiring clinic and interviews on Saturday, Nov. 5, and Sunday, Nov. 6.

The settled base at midway was 26 inches of all-natural snow. Snowfall year-to-date is 34 inches. As usual, with more snow and winter conditions, more terrain and lifts will open. Detailed information will be updated on the website and by calling 1-800-ski-wolf.

Wolf Creek is gearing up for the upcoming season and is taking applications for all departments: lifts, ski school, food and beverage, base operations, retail, ticket office and more, Wolf Creek Ski Area officials stated. Check the Employment Page online to download an application.



Courtesy photos
Wolf Creek Ski Area opened on Nov. 4 for the 2022-23 season with snow totals going from a flat zero to 36 inches in a seven-day period.



The Wolf Creek Ski Area IT department works on the new RFID gates at six of Wolf Creek Ski Area's lifts.

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Cpl Carlos M Valencia, Marines



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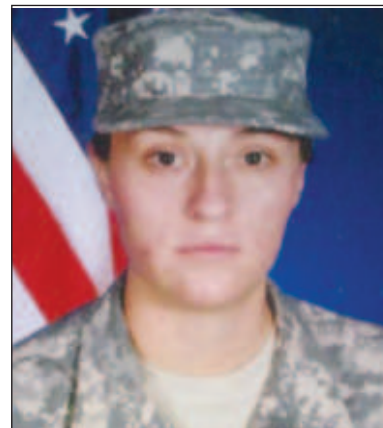
Dustin Jirovsky United State Marine Corps



Stephen D. Davis Army E-4 Vietnam 3/64 to 3/66



Ronald Keith Hunter (RIP) 1946-2003 SSgt US Army



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ROADMAPS

Continued from Page 1A

planning and introduced Phase 3: Implementation.

At this turning point, Russell said, "We wanted to make an actionable plan that doesn't sit on a shelf."

With the discovery phases complete, the group targeted two primary concerns. They looked at creating workforce housing and growing entrepreneurship through the school system and with local guidance.

Presenters echoed the cost-burdened threshold when a family pays more than 30 percent of their income for housing. Adding expense, some older, inefficient housing structures cost as much as \$600 to heat each month. Moving to another home is not an option when the inventory is low, and rent remains high.

VOTERS

Continued from Page 1A

State Representative Dist. 62 election.

In uncontested races, R. Scott Lamb was elected county commissioner of District 1, Eryn K. Witnz was elected county clerk and recorder, Amy Wetherill was elected treasurer and Jimmy K. Adelman was elected coroner.

Marron edging Phillips in Commissioner's race

SAGUACHE COUNTY — In the only contested race, Democrat Liza Marron had received 1,318 votes and led Republic Jeff Phillips with 1,159 votes in the Saguache County Commissioner Dist. 3 election, according to Tuesday night's unofficial General Election results.

In other elections of note, Saguache County voters favored challenger Adam Frisch (1,541) over incumbent Lauren Boebert (1,135) for the U.S. House of Representatives Dist. 3 seat; supported by a close 64-vote margin Republican Anne Kelly over Democrat Robert Willett in the 12th Judicial District Attorney election; and backed Democrat Matthew Martinez (56.17 percent) over Republican Carol Riggenbach (43.83) in the Colorado State Representative Dist. 62 election.

In uncontested races, Trish Gilbert was elected clerk and recorder, Regina Swartz was elected treasurer, Peter Peterson was elected assessor, Dan Warwick was elected sheriff and Tom Perrin was elected coroner.

Crowther looking good in reelection bid

CONEJOS COUNTY — Incumbent Garth Crowther (R) appeared to have won reelection as Conejos County Sheriff based on Tuesday night's unofficial General

What looks like a "fixer-up" to a drive-by analyst likely includes generations of history. After significant decline, housing assets become liabilities. An estimated 30 percent of properties in Saguache are abandoned or vacant. Roughly 22 percent of Del Norte fits the same description, followed by 16 percent in La Jara and 14 percent in Center. When assessed values and cleanup costs conflict, properties tend to sit.

Bonnie Asplin, former force behind the Upper Rio Grande Economic Development agency, emphasized updated codes to improve regulations and increase the housing inventory. Bonnie's husband Marty Asplin followed with ideas for helping property owners rehabilitate dilapidated structures that would otherwise be

condemned.

One idea Asplin proposed for housing rehabilitation addressed long-term vacancies with absentee owners who pay their taxes and maintain utilities, but the structures need work to be habitable. He said that some houses in Del Norte have been abandoned for 60 years. An anonymous "Vacant Housing Registry," Asplin explained, would list dilapidated properties. The registry would levy an annual fee for continued disuse and decline, but Asplin said, "We don't want to put an oppressive burden on them with a high fee."

Asplin emphasized how working with owners to fix up properties is better than simply condemning buildings. An audience member asked about house-flipping. Anticipating speculation from

fix-and-flip developers, Asplin said strict deed restrictions for rehabilitated properties can prevent sale profiteering.

Short-term Rentals (STRs) also entered different parts of the conversation. Considering the price-per-night, STRs are too expensive for permanent residence on prevailing Valley wages.

Presenters shifted to entrepreneurship after discussing the housing dilemma. The environment dictates possibilities.

For example, many business operators in the 17 major municipalities across six San Luis Valley counties pay double-freight. They pay to receive materials, and they pay to export products. They face a similar challenge with their workforce. They may need to cover moving costs or otherwise invest in recruitment. Meanwhile, they watch students grow up in the Valley and then move away.

Speaking for Action Lab 360, Mikela Tarlow is in her second year working with Center. Tarlow noted how roughly 40 percent of the Valley jobs are in the public sector.

Although the job positions have been filled, government entities have endless projects to tackle. Imagine a town administrator who spends significant time repeating a required task using methods scripted decades ago.

"Is there an app for that?" Tarlow quipped, only half in jest. High school students looking for experience might have skills that work for government projects — software programming or tree planting, for example.

Some business philosophies mirror secondary education when young people discover their talents.

"You might have 100 failures for one success," Tarlow said. "Let the kids fail. Throw it all against the wall until something sticks."

Election results. Crowther was leading challenger Martin Maez (D) by a wide margin, 2,169-1,210.

The sheriff's election was the only contested race for Conejos County.

In other elections of note, Conejos County voters favored incumbent U.S. House Representative Lauren Boebert to represent Dist. 3 over Adam Frisch; backed Republican Anne Kelly (61.17 percent) over Democrat Robert Willett (38.83) in the 12th Judicial District Attorney election; and supported Republican Carol Riggenbach over Democrat Matthew Martinez, 1,764-1,549, in the State Representative Dist. 62 election.

There were many uncontested races in Conejos County. Mitchell Jarvis was elected as Conejos County Commissioner in District 2; Nathan Ruybal was elected county clerk and recorder, Mack M. Crowther was elected county treasurer, Naomi Martinez-Keys was elected county assessor, Martin Reynolds was elected county surveyor and Richard A. Martin was elected coroner.

Sanchez on way to reelection; voters favor Issue 1A

COSTILLA COUNTY — Incumbent Danny Sanchez (D) was leading unaffiliated challenger Paul Quintana by more than 500 votes in the Costilla County Sheriff election, according to Tuesday night's unofficial General Election results.

County voters were also supporting Issue 1A, a 1 cent sales tax increase that would be used to fund "urgent public safety needs" including law enforcement operations and detention facilities. The measure was on the way to passing with 56.27 percent

of the vote.

In other elections of note, Costilla County voters favored challenger Adam Frisch (1,090) over incumbent Lauren Boebert (533) for the U.S. House of Representatives Dist. 3 seat; supported Democrat Robert Willett (53.78 percent) over Democrat Anne Kelly in the 12th Judicial District Attorney election; and backed Democrat Matthew Martinez (1,016 votes) over Republican Carol Riggenbach (545) in the Colorado State Representative Dist. 62 election.

There were several uncontested races in Costilla as well. Lorraine Quintana was elected county commissioner in district 2, Najondire T. Placek was elected county clerk and recorder, Michael Ray Vigil was elected treasurer, Thomas Aragon was elected assessor and Gary Roy Vigil was elected coroner.

The results of the General Election will be official when the election is certified.

Saguache County Commissioners are accepting Bids for the delivery of Propane for the Saguache County Road and Bridge Department. The delivery locations will be Center County Shop, Cochetope House -Hwy 114, Moffat Shop, Villa Grove Shop and Saguache County Landfill.

For bid specifications contact Wendi Maez at wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov or Joe Gilbert at jgilbert@saguachecounty-co.gov.

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope with "Road and Bridge Propane Bid" written on the front of the envelope which contains the sealed bid.

Bids must be submitted to Wendi Maez at Saguache County Administration, 505 3rd Street, OR mailed to PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 and must be submitted by November 30, 2022 at 3pm.

For further information you can also call Wendi Maez at 719-655-2231 or Joe Gilbert at 719-655-2554.

No. 1650 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, October 27 and November 3, 10, 17 and 23, 2022.

Saguache County Commissioners are accepting Bids for the delivery of Gasoline and Diesel Fuel for the Saguache County Road and Bridge Department. The delivery locations will be the Saguache Main Shop, Center County Shop, Cochetope House -Hwy 114, Moffat Shop, Villa Grove Shop and Saguache County Landfill.

For bid specifications contact Wendi Maez at wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov or Joe Gilbert at jgilbert@saguachecounty-co.gov.

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No. 1651 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, October 27 and November 3, 10, 17 and 23, 2022.

Three Keys to a Simplified Life

Are you overrun by your to-do list? Do you feel overwhelmed and utterly exhausted? So many lists may drive you nuts, but what I'm about to share with you is a list that will make everything in your life more peaceful and simple.

I recall a time when I was going on and on, complaining to God about my busy schedule. How could anyone be expected to juggle everything that I had on my plate? After a while, it hit me—I was the one who made my schedule, and nobody could change it but me. And while we can simplify our calendar, a truly simplified life comes from changing our mindset.

Most people live complicated lives that leave them frustrated and confused, weary and worn out. But I have good news: Your life does not have to be this way. Jesus offers us a new way of living, and I believe it is a simple, yet powerful way that enables us to enjoy our life.

So even if your calendar still feels full, here are three practical steps you can take to simplify your life by simplifying your mind:

Put God First

In Luke 10:38-42, we read about two sisters, Mary and Martha, who spent time with Jesus in their home. Martha kept busy serving the guests and keeping the house clean, while Mary sat at the feet of Jesus, listening to His every word. Martha got upset that her sister wasn't helping with the housework, but Jesus commended Mary's decision and told Martha she was so busy that she was missing the point of His visit—spending time with Him.

I've learned we make time for

what's important to us. Personally, I've made it a habit to go to bed on time so I'm able to wake up and spend quality time with God before I have to go on with the rest of my day. If I went to bed whenever I felt like it, I would sabotage my time with God—the very thing I need to help me get through my day.

Try prioritizing God in your life by putting Him into your schedule and working everything else around Him.

Don't Worry

I used to be a very anxious person because I grew up in an unstable, abusive household. As I've grown closer to God and learned to place my trust in Him, I've developed a calmer, more peaceful mind with His help. If you're thinking, "But Joyce, I can't help it! I can't stop worrying," then I want you to know there is hope. Whenever God instructs us to do something, He also gives us the ability to do it. Pray and ask God for the strength to stop worrying (see Philippians 2:13; 4:6-7).

Practice living one day at a time; give yourself—your thoughts, your conversation, every part of you—to the day at hand. Instead of worrying, believe God and watch Him work on your behalf. This will help make your life less complicated.

Just Be You

For many years, I tried to be just like other people. I tried to pray like them, act like them, and even look like them. This left me feeling worn-out and frustrated because I wasn't being the person God created me to be. Eventually, I realized God just wants me to be myself, and it's much simpler to be me anyway.

Psalm 139:14 says, "I praise you

because I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." (NIV).

God created each one of us to be individual, unique, and irreplaceable. You are one of a kind! And no one else can be just like you. He wants you to like yourself—the person He created you to be! As you pursue a personal relationship with Christ, you will discover your true worth as a child of God, and you won't feel the need to compare yourself or compete with anyone.

Simplifying your life may seem impossible, especially when you feel like you are constantly running. But when you begin prioritizing your relationship with God and spending more time in His Word, you will be amazed at how your mindset shifts. You'll be able to relax, take a deep breath, and enjoy the simple life.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching resource *Simplify Your Life*. 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.



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Valley veteran finishes memorial at 7 Mile Plaza

By Marie Mccolm

MONTE VISTA — Ernest Martinez of 7 Mile Plaza completed the final part of a veterans memorial that he has been working on since 2002.

“I started this memorial to honor a specific vet, he was the first vet that left for the service in 7 Mile Plaza where we lived. There was a few of us that went to Vietnam, a total of 11 of us, and we all lived in Plaza at the time. Where I grew up in 7 Mile Plaza, it was a lot smaller than what it is now, the world grows so much, the Plaza was small, so 11 of us going to Vietnam is a big number for such a small village. My cousin Herman Sanchez was the first one to go, and myself and others.”

This was a three-part memorial that was built and the entire memorial is dedicated to his cousin, Martinez said.

“We also have other veterans listed,” Martinez said. “This is really a family thing that we did, and he was listed on top, he was the one we dedicated the memorial to. He passed away about 20 years ago. Since this is family thing, you know, some people get donations or find money to make memorials like this, we really didn’t this was just a family project.”

Martinez said that 7 Mile Plaza was a close community and after the first part of the memorial was completed, a few years later the second part was added.

“We added what’s called the ‘Fallen Soldier,’ the symbol of the combat boots, the M16, and the helmet, we added this on,” Martinez said. “After that, about 10 years later,

I started thinking, I kind of felt guilty. I felt like I should have also put some of the World War II veterans on the memorial, too. So, about 3 months ago, I had a stone cut and I put the World War II veterans on it. I also had Vietnam era vets added in there, too. These veterans were older than us, but we wanted to honor them too for the respect factor. We started out with a very small memorial, but over the years we have finished it and it’s gotten a lot bigger.”

The memorial which was laid out just over the bridge in 7 Mile Plaza contains three different components. The left side of the memorial is a large stone adobe colored rock, that has a set of praying hands, along with names of several veterans.

The veterans are listed as World War II veterans, and Vietnam era vets, all from 7 Mile Plaza. The middle of the memorial holds an American flag, along with an image of a helicopter, and two soldiers walking in combat.

Directly from the middle stone is the image of the “Fallen Soldier” laid out in steel along with the first stone that was made that contains the name of Herman Sanchez, and other veterans from 7 Mile Plaza. The entire memorial is also surrounded by trees and stone-carved benches that can be sat on, while viewing the memorial.

“A lot of people go camping, and go to the casino, I wanted to do this, and so did my family, and we did,” Martinez said. “This memorial is here to remind anyone who looks at this memorial that freedom is never free. We were all honorably discharged, but vets go through a lot when they leave home and go to



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.



Vietnam, our freedom is not free, many people fight for it, and I hope that anyone who looks at this and sees this, remembers that.”

To visit the memorial, drive to 5320 West County Road 5 North, at 7 Mile Plaza.

The memorial at 7 Mile Plaza was done in three parts. The first was for people from the small community who served in the Vietnam War. The second part was for the ‘Fallen Soldier’ and includes the symbolic combat boots with an M16 and helmet. The recently completed third part was the addition of the names of World War II and Vietnam er veterans that served from 7 Mile Plaza.

Photos by Marie Mccolm



San Luis Valley Scoreboard 2022 -2023

FOOTBALL

Class A-6 Man

#5 Otis 55.....#12 Sierra Grande 13

Class A-8 Man

#8 Sanford 34 #9 Vail Christian 8

Class 1A

#7 Centauri 26.....#10 Gunnison 14

#8 Monte Vista 28..... #9 Holyoke 21

Class 2A

#11 Alamosa 27..... #18 D’Evelyn 7

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Friday Health Plans scaling back from 7 states to 5

'Layoffs possible in 2023 but nothing close to rumors'

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Friday Health Plans, the Colorado-based health insurance company with main operations located in Alamosa, is reducing the number of states where it offers health coverage from seven states to five, effective Jan. 1, 2023.

The reduction in states has raised questions about potential layoffs at the Alamosa location with rumors circulating that as many as 80% of its employees could be laid off.

"Let's set the record straight on this first thing," said Tracy Fagin, chief marketing and experience officer with the company. "Friday Health Plans will continue to provide health plans as part of the Affordable Care Act in Colorado, North Carolina, Georgia, Nevada and Oklahoma.

"We're in seven states now and will be in those five states in 2023. We'll be available in all the same regions we've been in Colorado, including the valley, for the years we've been in business. We're in Colorado. We're staying in Colorado. We're a Colorado-based company."

When asked about potential layoffs, Fagin said employees have been made aware of the situation.

"We don't have a timeframe on this yet," Fagin said. "It will depend upon the number of members who enroll during the open enrollment period that started on Nov. 1. But we're looking forward to a good open enrollment in Colorado and the other four states where we're strong."

The company will have a much better idea as the enrollment cut-off date, Jan. 15, 2023, draws nearer.

The two states where Friday will no longer have a presence in 2023 are New Mexico and Texas. The decision to leave New Mexico was made by the company, due to fewer members being enrolled than anticipated when they expanded into the area.

The decision to leave Texas "for now," was made under different circumstances.

"Texas was our largest state in terms of the numbers of members," Fagin said. "We enrolled more members than we anticipated which meant increased costs of operation."

This year was a banner year for enrollment, she said. Due to COVID, the bipartisan American Rescue Plan Act provided additional funding for subsidies through the Affordable Care Act, which allowed more people to access health care.

"That's great," Fagin said. "That's what we want; people to have access to health care to keep themselves and their families healthy and cared for."

As a result, Friday grew very quickly in Texas and "insurance regulators asked us to pause our operations there. We're not the only company that is facing this. Other companies around the nation are doing this, as well."

Fagin emphasized that Friday is in good standing with all the Divisions of Insurance in the five states where it will operate in 2023.

The Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act also has guaranteed health care subsidies for another three years, which provides the potential for more growth in Colorado. Fagin said Bright Health Plans (a health plan company that offers coverage in other parts of the state outside of the valley) will not offer plans in Colorado starting in 2023, and there's potential for growth among Friday members, as a result.

But, she said, for now and into the foreseeable future, every employee is needed.

"We'll continue to provide services to members in Texas through the end of the year, and we'll be in the other four states going forward in 2023," she said.

"The people who work in Alamosa are the backbone of our company. We provide a great service to our 21,000 members in Colorado and the other states, and it's all those people in Alamosa who make Friday such a great company. It sounds cheesy but people in Alamosa really care about the members."

As far as local plans, Friday will

continue with plans to improve the big parking lot downtown., which will serve as the future site of the Alamosa's Farmers Market.

"We hadn't gotten our permit yet for the building expansion, so we're pausing on that and will be revisiting that in a year," she said. "That's not news to any of the contractors who have been working on that project."

Friday also has plans to return to Texas at some point in the future, but, for now, the company is focusing on the five states where they are "very strong."



Friday Health Plans is scaling back from seven states to five at the start of the new year. The Colorado-based health insurance company has its main operations located in Alamosa. Photo by Luke Lyons

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Annual Holiday Bazaar Dec. 2-3

Santa Claus expected to be in town for event

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce would like to invite community members to attend the Holiday Bazaar, Dec. 2 and 3.



This traditional event has been held in Monte Vista for many years, organized by the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce in an effort to provide an opportunity for local businesses and organizations to promote their business-organizations and their unique products and services.

What better way than to come together as a community than to support our small businesses and organizations during the holidays! With the completion of the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex, the Monte

Vista Chamber of Commerce has decided to host the event at the new complex, providing a comfortable and large space for all who attend.

Be good for goodness sake and shop the booths at the Holiday Bazaar, eat some delicious food and refreshments, and bundle up for outdoor carriage rides!

You better not pout because the Monte Vista Chamber has been contacted by Santa! He wants to visit all the children while he's in town and will be available for visits Dec 2 and 3, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.!

Santa not only loves to visit children and families, but furry friends too! You can bring your pets to visit Santa Friday, Dec. 2, 3 to 4 p.m. (all pets must be leashed or in a pet carrier to enter)! Professional photography packages will be available for purchase for all children, families, and pets!

If you would like to be a vendor or become a sponsor for Santa's Visit, please visit the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce website, montevistachamber.org to register-sponsor! You can also scan the QR code that will link you to the website! Please contact the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce for more information, 719-852-2731 or email chamber@montevistachamber.org.

South Fork welcomes new veterinary clinic

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — The South Fork community excitedly welcomed a new veterinarian to town. Jody Duff and her husband are originally from Ohio. After visiting Colorado when she was in college, Duff knew that her path would lead her back and eventually it did, and the timing couldn't have been more perfect.

"We decided to move to Colorado during 2020 and in the middle of COVID. We went out to visit some friends that lived in Parker, Colorado, and we decided to move here. We first moved to the Black Forest area around Colorado Springs, but it wasn't long after the pandemic ended that we decided we didn't like the influx of people. Traffic became to be too much, it was taking too long for us to commute to work and the growth after COVID was just crazy," said Duff.

It was around this time that friends brought them to found South Fork.

"They're avid skiers and found South Fork through Wolf Creek Ski Resort. We went to visit and just loved it. We kept saying, this place it great! We missed living in



Courtesy photo

Jody Duff and her Husband have opened the South Fork Veterinary Clinic. The community of South Fork is pleased with the new business and has shown it with welcoming support.

a smaller community at this point. There is something about being in a small town and being able to run into patients at the grocery store or out for a walk around town. Up where we were, we didn't have that, so we made the move," Duff said.

Duff and her husband did some

research and noticed that South Fork did not have a veterinarian.

"There was a vet up in Creede and one in Monte Vista, but nothing close to where South Fork was. After seeing that the community could support a business like that, **Please see DUFF on Page 3**

DN family honored for efforts in foster and adoption community

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — A Del Norte family will be honored by the Colorado Department of Human Services for their efforts in the foster and adoption community.

November marks the beginning of National Adoption Month and each year, a family that has gone above and beyond in the adoption and foster care community is recognized for their efforts. This year, the Colorado Department of Human Services has chosen the Ledford family of Del Norte.

Taylor and Dylan Ledford never thought that they would become foster parents let alone parents to four wonderful, adopted children but that is exactly what happened, and neither would change it for the world. Their story began as many do, with just a sprinkle of fate and a whole bunch of providence which led them down the path of foster care and then eventually adoption.

"We lived in Greeley and my

husband, Dylan, was a teacher and our oldest and him became close in terms of teacher and student friendship. Eventually after being there for a few years, he got to three out of the four children we ended up adopting. We knew their story and the situation they were going through in terms of their foster parents and then they had to be emergency removed into another family who happened to be another teacher at the same school," explained Taylor.

Taylor continued to explain that through the path of providence, or happen stance, her husband remained friends with the teacher and commenced with plans to move to Del Norte.

"When COVID happened, we decided to move, and Dylan was pretty bummed he wasn't going to say goodbye because we were moving, so he reached out to the foster parent who informed us that she was not going to be able to keep the children and we are looking for



Courtesy photo

The Ledford family from Del Norte is being honored for their efforts in adoptive care through the Colorado Department of Human Services this week in Denver. The young couple stepped outside of their comfort zone and adopted four siblings.

an adoption family," said Taylor.

It was at this point that Dylan and Taylor took their time in making a big decision and it was because of this

that they would later be recognized for their efforts as adoptive parents. In Colorado, there are an estimated 3,738 children in foster care. There

are 37 children in Rio Grande County waiting for permanent homes, but the Ledfords were going to play a huge role. **Please see FAMILY on Page 3**

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Senior CONNECTIONS

Social media: It's not just for kids anymore

Perhaps due to the popularity of social media among a generation of young people who grew up with it, platforms such as Instagram and Facebook are often associated with people born in the 21st century. However, a 2018 study from the Pew Institute found that 65 percent of adults between the ages of 50 and 64 used Facebook and 68 percent used YouTube.

Social media is often on the receiving end of negative attention, but it's also a potentially valuable tool that can help men and women over 50 stay connected with their communities. That's not always so easy for adults who no longer have children at home. And as its name suggests, social media can help users connect with others who share their interests. Such connections also can be hard to make for adults over 50.

Adults over 50 may be more comfortable with social media now than they were a decade ago, but it's still a good idea to brush up on basic security measures that can help men and women protect their privacy as they utilize platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

• Protect your personal information. No social media user has the right to access your personal in-

formation, including your address, date of birth or other data unique to you. Avoid interacting with anyone who requests personal information, employing the function to block such users from connecting with you when possible. It's also important to keep information about travel plans private. For example, sharing details of an upcoming vacation can serve notice to potential criminals that no one will be in your house, making it a potential target for burglars.

• Aim for quality, not quantity, when building social media networks. Avoid accepting friend requests from individuals you don't

know. Cyber criminals often gain access to victims via social media, so limit your social media network to people you know and trust.

• Turn off location information. The technology behind social media is impressive and even makes it possible to determine where users are when they tweet or post to other platforms. But many users, especially those concerned about their privacy, don't want to share location information with anyone, much less strangers. Turn off location information and routinely double check to make sure it's still turned off.

• Discuss others' privacy concerns

before posting to social media. Social media isn't for everyone, and some people may not want photos of themselves or their children posted to platforms like Facebook or Instagram. Prior to posting pictures or information about other people,

confirm that they're OK with you doing so.

Adults over 50 are engaging with social media. But no matter how comfortable users become, it's still best to keep various social media safety protocols in mind.



Tips on how to make new friends after 50

The early years of midlife are a hectic time for many people. Around the time many people reach their late 30s and early 40s, they're balancing the responsibilities of a career and a family. But as people enter their 50s, some of those responsibilities tend to be less significant, leaving more time for recreational pursuits.

Hobbies and other pursuits outside of work are often more fun when enjoyed with friends. People over 50 undoubtedly recognize that it's not always so easy to make new friends, even though it's undeniably beneficial to have supportive relationships into your golden years. A 2017 study from researchers at Michigan State University found that valuing friendships was a stronger predictor of health and happiness among older adults than valuing family. Those results align with an earlier Australian study that found Australians age 70 or older tended to live significantly longer if they had more strong friendships.

Making friends after 50 might not be as simple as it was during your school days, but these strategies can help men and women in midlife build new friendships.

• Identify your interests. Fifty-somethings who have spent the last couple of decades building a career and raising a family can give some serious thought to their interests outside of work or passions they hope

to pursue now that they have more time to commit to such pursuits. The more interested you are in a given activity, the more likely you are to stick with it. And the longer you stick with something, the more likely you are to meet like-minded individuals (i.e., future friends) willing to make similar commitments.

• Utilize social media. In years past, men and women over 50 may not have had any readily available tools to reach out and connect with new people. Social media has made it much easier to build such connections. Even the most obscure passions likely have a social media group of locals devoted to them, and these groups can be great ways to meet new people. A local runner's club may have its own social media accounts, and local governments and community groups often share information about sports leagues and other groups via social media.

• Sign up for group outings. Communities often sponsor group outings to museums, the theater, sporting events, and other day trips. Signing up for a bus trip to a local museum presents a great opportunity to meet people who share your interests, providing the potential to build lasting friendships built on a foundation of shared interests.

• Broaden your horizons. Just because you're in your 50s doesn't mean your friends have to be. Don't hesitate to invite younger or older acquaintances and colleagues over for dinner or on weekend excursions. Friends come in all shapes, sizes and ages, so you could be missing out if you're not willing to extend a hand in friendship to people of different ages and backgrounds.

Making friends after 50 can be

challenging. However, various strategies can help men and women over 50 connect with new people.



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Christmas tree permits go on sale early November

Rio Grande National Forest offers early online permits
CONTRIBUTED
MONTE VISTA — Christmas

tree permits for the Rio Grande National Forest will become available to purchase online beginning Nov. 1 and will go through this holiday season.

Permits can be found at recreation.gov by searching “Rio Grande Christmas Tree.”

This early season option offers an easy alternative to the in-person sales that are scheduled to begin in late November.

“We are pleased to offer this early option for our forest users that are eager to get their Christmas tree permits and begin planning their outing,” said Carlos Gonzales, Recreation Program Manager for

the Rio Grande National Forest. “Each year, hundreds of families harvest a tree from the forest, and we want encourage early trip planning with this online permit option.”

Users must have a permit with them to harvest a Christmas tree. Several rules apply to this activity and can be found at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/Rio_Grande_Christmas_Tree.

The permits cost \$8 per tree and

there will be a small transaction fee charged by Recreation.gov. More information about Christmas tree harvesting on the RGNF will be available when we announce in-person sales at our offices and with our vendors later this season.

“The RGNF recognizes that many visitors love to come into our offices to get their annual permit and we will welcome them soon,” Gonzales added.

FAMILY

Continued from Page 1

role in bringing that number down by four in the coming months.

“That morning I prayed, and I said OK, we’re ready for children whatever that may mean because adoption had already been on our hearts and foster was on the table for a while but so was biological children. I just kept thinking, my gosh, what are the odds that their foster family were looking for an adoption family? So, we put our names in the adoption pool for our children and it all worked out,” said Taylor.

It was a rollercoaster ride for the family after that. The children were introduced to Dylan and Taylor. Dylan and Taylor and their four new children moved from the suburbs of Greeley to the tiny mountain town of Del Norte which was a shock all in itself. “Surprisingly the children adjusted rather quickly. There were moments where things were hard, one being going to such a small school and making friends, but they made it through and now they love it,” said Dylan.

Now the family spends time traveling and recreating outdoors in and around Del Norte.

“The children always say things like, ‘Wow! Look at that sunset! I would have never seen that in Greeley!’ Or they will beg to go for

a hike, it really has turned out to be the best,” continued Dylan.

Next the Ledford’s will be traveling to Denver to receive an award for their efforts as adoptive parents with their children, now ages 12 to 16 alongside them.

“We recognize families for their extraordinary efforts in adoptive and foster families. The Ledford’s stood out because of their age, they are a young married couple and for their willingness to adopt four siblings. Sometimes in adoption situations, siblings can be split up so when we can keep them together, that is a wonderful thing,” said Adrienne Baxter, who is a Colorado Department of Human Services Recruitment and Retention Communications Specialist in the Office of Children, Youth and Families.

When asked if they could say anything to the community, both Baxter and the Ledford’s had the same response.

“Don’t be afraid to try. It doesn’t matter your age, whether you’re married or single. We are looking for families to open their hearts and their homes to a child. It can be a rewarding experience,” they said.

For more information visit, www.cdhs.colorado.gov.

DUFF

Continued from Page 1

we decided to open the clinic. At first, I was looking at renting a place and then the building where we ended up came for sale and that was that. It was meant to be,” laughed Duff.

Duff has a degree from Ohio State University as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and has an interest in training and animal dentistry.

“I am a very thorough doctor compared to some of others in my field. I want to get to know you and your animal. When you come see me for say an ear infection, I will treat the ear infection, but I will also do a full exam to help find the cause of the infection if there is one. I take more time and answer questions. I really focus on thorough, preventative care and that matters to me,” said Duff.

Her success so far has been attributed to the welcoming community, her staff and her office manager Jessica Golightly.

“I really wouldn’t be where I am without all of the community being so supportive, my staff for being amazing and fast learners and my office manager Jessica. The whole experience has been amazing,” Duff said.

Duff is also working on creating an emergency fund at the new clinic for situations like the one that happened a few weeks ago involving Meadow the lost dog that was found at Big Meadows Reservoir.

Duff helped secure and treat the dog when reports of the lost animal started to come in and through that experience, Duff wants to help other animals in the same or similar situations.

“People can donate to the fund, and we will use it in emergency situations like the one involving Meadow. It’s nice to have something like that that a community can fall back on,” she said.

Free Well Water Testing in SLV!

- Dr. Katherine James with the Colorado School of Public Health is leading a water quality project in the SLV
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06 Personals

The adopted children of **Don McAninch** might be interested in his status and might be possible for an inheritance. If interested, call 505-325-4417. Only names we have are Lee and Elizabeth. (11-9)

07 Help Wanted

RG Bank is now accepting applications for the position of full-time teller. The job is primarily in Monte Vista, but work in Alamosa is also required on occasion. Interested parties can see more and download an application at: www.rgbank.bank/contact-us/#employment. (11-30)

CSU San Luis Valley Research Center in Center, Colo., seeks Potato Breeding Research Associ-

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Creede School BOE recognizes Tillery for unique approach

BY LYNDSIE FERRELL

CREEDE — The Creede School District Board of Education recognized elementary school math teacher Jim Tillery during a school board meeting on Oct. 25.

Tillery has been with the district in several roles throughout many years. As a math teacher for the elementary school, he is working with students to find unique and interesting ways that they can learn math by using real-life situations and examples.

“In my journeys throughout the building and my walk throughs, I kept coming up on this one classroom where these students are just bouncing with joy about learning math and science and engineering. Mr. Tillery has done some really remarkable things and I thought it would be appropriate for him to come and share with you today,” said Creede School Superintendent Keith Crispell.

Tillery was accompanied by one of his students who volunteered to help with his presentation to the school board. Tillery began the presentation by stating that it was a learning curve for him coming into a third-grade classroom after teaching in high school for so many years and that he wanted to look at creative ways to help students learn hard subjects.

“It’s a big deal to get into the classroom and be creative in ways

to teach them how to learn and then apply it to real-life scenarios and that is way better than sitting here and teaching repetitively. That can be hard, there is a lot of repetition but if you can apply it somehow to real life it helps them learn,” said Tillery.

Tillery then pulled out a bowling score sheet that had been written on the white board and his third-grade assistant worked through the missing numbers predicting what score would come up next using mathematical equations from memory. The process gained the attention of the board who clapped when the assistant was finished.

Tillery then said that the students have been using tricks to help them apply mathematical concepts to real-life situations and, in this case, the students are learning how to create scores. Tillery’s assistant also showed the board that he can calculate multiplication problems involving the number nine on his fingers, again using a trick that was taught to him by Tillery.

Students in Tillery’s class will be going on a fieldtrip soon to a neighboring bowling alley as a reward for their success in the classroom.

The Creede School Board of Education was pleased with Tillery and his assistant’s presentation and asked that they keep them posted as they move forward.

Virtual Continental Divide Summit is Nov. 15-16

The 2022 virtual Continental Divide Trail Gateway Community Summit is on Nov. 15-16. This free virtual event, hosted by the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, will gather communities across the Rocky Mountain West to share, learn, and contribute to the completion, promotion and protection of the Continental Divide Trail (CDT).

Topics of exploration include: connecting across communities, the Gateway Community Program, who uses the CDT, trail stewardship, and more. For additional info and registration options for this free event, visit <https://continentaldivide-trail.org/event/gateway-community-summit-2022/>.

Holiday Bake Sale and Bazaar Nov. 11

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Christian Reformed Church will be having its Holiday Bake Sale and Bazaar a week earlier this year. It will be on Friday, Nov. 11, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

wide assortment of gift items for Christmas and baked goods to freeze for Thanksgiving.

The bazaar will be held in the Waverly Youth and Community Center, 1836 County Road 10 South, in Alamosa County. For directions or information, call 719-589-2072 or 719-589-2001.



“This is the best restaurant in this town or anywhere close the pizza is amazing fresh vegetables the staff is awesome if you’re in South Fork going to eat dinner at the Mountain Pizza and Tap Room I really love this place. I wouldn’t mind working there someday.”
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We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.



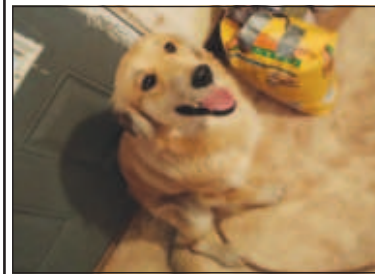
We’re still looking for a part time kennel worker here at the shelter so if you’re interested please stop by!

We want to say Thank You for all the recent donations of dog food we’ve received!

LOST & FOUND



Found in Monte Vista at 200 Pintada on 10/25/22



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Found on Worth St in Center on 10/28/22

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

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

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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

S	S	E	G	A	L	A	S	A	M	B	O	S		
P	E	G	R	I	A	N	T	V	E	I	N	S		
A	P	R	E	D	I	E	V	E	D	D	E	R		
S	T	E	L	E	S	A	C	R	I	D				
M	A	S	A	N	D	A	M	A	S	C	E	N	E	
		S	I	G	A	C			O	R	A	D		
C	A	E	C	A	M	A	L	E	S		M	U		
O	S		G	R	A	D	A	T	E	S	A	C		
M	I		E	A	R	E	D		P	A	U	S		
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S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S		R	A	T	E	S
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M	E	R	L	E		S	Y	N	C	S		E	T	A

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

FOR SALE

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 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
298 Aspen Drive • South Fork

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

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SOLD

\$658,000 MLS #785486
441 Lande • South Fork

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SOLD

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

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FOR SALE

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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JUST LISTED!

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

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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 625 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-painted 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! Price \$669,500 MLS #796518
115 La Lomita 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 in front porch. Beautiful Kitchen with matching appliances and custom-made cabinets with soft close drawers that include spice rack and corner round with plenty of storage for all your cooking entertainment needs. Dining area just off the kitchen and living room area with propane stove and beautiful brick fireplace with wood burning stove in living area. Perfect place with beautiful views to curl up enjoy the fire and devour a good book. This home has three heat sources to keep you cozy and warm all winter long. Off back side of the kitchen is a bright sunroom currently being used for a wonderful craft room with large sliding door looking out to the back deck with stunning views of trees and mountains perfect for bird watching with the many varieties of birds that visit this area. Downstairs Master/Guest bedroom with large closet and cozy picture window seat for bird watching. Wonderful place to just sit with your morning cup of coffee, relax and enjoy. Off the sunroom is door to large 2 car garage with huge workbench and cabinets for all your tools and woodworking needs. Upstairs you have an additional bath and two guest bedrooms with large windows where you feel as if you are sleeping amongst the beautiful pine trees. Off the Sunroom and out the back garage door awaits a wonderful deck to the back yard with a gas grill hooked up to propane for grilling and entertaining friends and family. Out back you will be charmed by the little fly shop with electricity and all its storage amenities with extra shelving. There's an additional shed which is used and perfect for wood storage. This home is one you must see! Located in Ponderosa Country Estates with no HOA, paved roads and Town of South Fork water and sewer system. You will love visiting with the abundant wildlife that visits this neighborhood, moments from the Rio Grande River, Rio Grande Golf Club, Wolf Creek ski area and everything outdoors! Don't let this one pass you by! Won't last! Call me and schedule your personal showing today! \$885,000 MLS #796641
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FOR SALE

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 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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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

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