

Shorts

Del Norte Food Bank distribution is Nov. 19

DELNORTE — The Del Norte Food Bank will hold its November/Thanksgiving distribution from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19.

Regular clients will be served between 9 and 10 a.m. New clients — anyone coming to the food bank for the first time this year — will be served after 10 a.m.

The Del Norte Food Bank serves people needing food assistance in the Del Norte and South Fork areas and is in the alley behind the Pioneer United Church, 630 Spruce St., Del Norte.

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 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.



Judge issues orders in Baca Grande township petition case

BY PATRICK SHEA

BACA GRANDE SUBDIVISIONS — District Court Judge Crista L. Newmyer-Olsen issued on Nov. 9 an order for the Baca Grande Property Owners Association and two orders for the volunteer group who petitioned to create the Town of Baca Grande.

District Court involvement dates back to Aug. 8 when the township group filed their original petition. On Sept. 30, the Baca Grande POA filed two motions, one for the court to intervene in

Please see BACA on Page 6A

Driving south through the Baca Grande Chalets reveals Columbia Point next to Kit Carson Peak.

Photo by Patrick Shea



Photo by Patrick Shea

Terry Gillette helped Eve Braden officially break ground at the Valley to Valley Senior Care Center construction project on Nov. 11, a four-phase plan to provide day-visit services, apartments, and assisted living a mile north of Saguache.

Veterans break ground, break bread in Saguache

BY PATRICK SHEA

SAGUACHE — Saguache County commissioners, war veterans, Valley to Valley administrators, and septic system crews broke ground north of Saguache on the morning of

Nov. 11. Many of them capped off Veterans Day hours later with a chili feast, war history lesson, musical duet, silent auction, art contest, and special recognition for the woman behind the Valley to Valley Senior Care Center project.

Eve Braden had help from Terry Gillette from Saguache, other veterans, and volunteers throughout the day, but she started the process in 2006 when they opened the Senior Care Center in

Please see VETS on Page 5A



File photo

Craig Barraclough

Rio Grande County Administrator resigns

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — Rio Grande County Administrator Craig Barraclough resigned last week due to “unreconcilable differences”, according to a statement by the Rio Grande County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioners stated it was an amicable decision by all involved.

Please see RESIGNS on Page 6A

DA Kelly holds office, Martinez wins HD62

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — While results are considered unofficial until certified, the Secretary of State is reporting the following local tallies for the district attorney’s race in the 12th Judicial District and House District 62.

In the closely watched district attorney’s race where Republican and recently appointed DA Anne Kelly ran to keep her office in a contest with Democrat and former DA Bob Willett, Kelly was victorious, receiving 62% of the votes across the San Luis Valley and former Willett garnering 38%.

Support in most of the counties

was similar with Kelly receiving 62% of the vote in Alamosa to Willett’s 38%. In Conejos, there was a 61% to 39% split and, in Mineral, 64% to 36%. Kelly performed the best in Rio Grande County where she took 67% of the voter compared to 33% for Willett.

Tallies showed a somewhat different picture with a close race in Saguache, where Kelly received 51% of the vote to Willett’s 49%. Willett came out on top in Costilla with 54% of the vote compared to Kelly’s 46%.

In the race to replace Rep. Donald

Please see RESULTS on Page 6A



Republican and incumbent 12th Judicial District Attorney Anne Kelly held her office and Democrat Matthew Martinez was elected to represent House District 62 in Tuesday’s election.



File photos

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OBITUARIES

Ernest Floyd Tempfel

Ernest Floyd Tempfel, 82, of Warsaw, Mo., passed away Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2022, at Bothwell Regional Health Center in Sedalia.

Floyd was born August 29, 1940, in Boonville, Mo., a son of Francis and Katie (Troupe) Tempfel, who preceded him in death.

He married the love of his life, Karen Sue Cochran on Sept. 2, 1961, in Boonville, Mo. They recently celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary.

Floyd spent most of his formative years in Pilot Grove, Mo., and graduated from Boonville High School in 1958.

Floyd with his brother Oscar bought and managed the DX service station on Main Street in Boonville before beginning work with the Orschelen Farm and Home Stores.

He went on to manage Orschelen stores in Chillicothe and Marshall. Floyd found his professional calling, however, when he became certified as an orthotist and prosthetist. Orthotists and prosthetists design and fabricate medical supportive devices and measure and fit patients for them. Floyd's entrepreneurial spirit led him to open and manage over 20 clinics across Missouri and Oklahoma. One of his proudest achievements was making an electronic below-the-elbow arm that was so responsive it was capable of picking up a raw egg without breaking the shell.

Floyd and Karen enjoyed many years of living in a variety of communities including their hometowns of Pilot Grove and Boonville; Creede, Colo.; Okeechobee, Fla.; and Warsaw.

Floyd enjoyed fishing and traveling in their RV home, including caravanning with friends to Alaska one summer. He had a lifelong appetite for western novels and movies.

In addition to his wife Karen,



survivors include nieces Tina Tempfel Stanley of Bedford, Va.; Sandra Cochran Smith of Clinton; Linnet Harlan of Pacific Grove, Calif.; Laurel Harlan and Heather Harlan of Columbia; one nephew Tim Harlan also of Columbia; and brother-in-law Brent H. Cochran, Lee's Summit.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother Oscar Tempfel and daughter, Tracie Lee Tempfel.

Funeral rites will begin with interment on Thursday, Nov. 17, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Walnut Grove Cemetery in Boonville, Mo., followed by a Celebration of Life Service at 2 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Boonville with the Rev. Tad Schuldt officiating. Immediately following the service, guests are encouraged to greet and visit with the family at the church.

Memorial contributions are suggested to St. Johns United Church of Christ [yes, no apostrophe], 14191 Billingsville Road, Boonville, MO 65233.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted into the care of Meisenheimer-Page-Dady Funeral Home, Pilot Grove, Mo.

Lena Sue 'Susie' McCown Crabtree

Lena Sue "Susie" McCown Crabtree of Del Norte, Colo., formerly of Allenspark, Colo., passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by loved ones on Oct. 30, 2022, at the age of 67, after a hard-fought battle with cancer.

Loved and respected by all who knew her, Susie was a wise woman and a true mountain woman who had many talents. She enjoyed hiking, mountain biking, winter camping and telemark skiing.

She was a dedicated and loving wife, mother and grandmother, an artist, a musician, a gardener, an animal lover and caretaker, a seamstress and an avid reader with an excellent knowledge of history.

Susie was a self-taught watercolor artist who was inspired by the richly diverse Rocky Mountains where she also studied and gathered wild medicinal plants.

Her passion for gardening was immense and she successfully grew a high-altitude organic garden employing many techniques she learned along the way including natural composting and fertilizing, permaculture and regenerative soil practices.

She believed in sharing the knowledge she learned and sharing the abundance with friends and neighbors. She believed in taking care of the Earth for future generations.

Susie was preceded in death by her parents Claude and Corrine McCown and her brother Travis McCown. She is survived by her husband John Mueller of Del Norte, Colo., her daughter Guinevere Crabtree of Estes Park, Colo., her grandson Alexander Henderson of Windsor, Colo., and her brother and sister-in-law Mike and Debbie McCown of Whitehouse, Texas, and nephew Nicholas McCown



of Whitehouse Texas.

Private services will be held Dec. 2, 2022. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to: La Puente Home Alamosa, CO, lapuentehome.org or URGAS Conour Animal Shelter Monte Vista, CO, urgasonouranimalshelter.org. To express condolences to the family, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com. Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista is in care of the arrangements.

Jerry Post, 93

Ralph Jerald "Jerry" Post Passed away April 15, 2020, of complications from COVID. He was born in Walsenburg, Colo., on Nov. 28, 1926, to Ralph and Laura (Stuckey) Pospahala. He spent his childhood along with his younger sister Shirley, in Monte Vista, Colo., where his mother taught school and his father ran a filling station and used furniture store.

After graduating from Monte Vista High School, he enlisted in the Navy where he proudly served as a Radarman aboard the USS Pierce in the Pacific during the end of WWII. He attended Adams State College for a year before transferring to Denver University where he earned his business degree in 1950.

In 1956 he married Jeanine "Nini" Wortman and in 1957 they had their son, Doug. They spent the next 56 years in their Denver home where Jerry had a long career as a Sales Representative and Territory Manager with Johns Manville and later, Pipeline Accessories Corporation. He sold water and sewer pipe for large-scale construction projects such as the Snowmass and Vail developments. His friendly and understated demeanor as well as his loyalty and a great sense of humor

made Jerry a successful salesman and a great friend.

Active in his community, Jerry served two years as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force reserves. He was a member the American Legion, Elks Club, the Masonic Lodge and Kiwanis Club. He was a long-time Bronco fan and stayed in touch with his hometown by taking the Monte Vista Journal for his entire life.

The constant wellspring in Jerry and Nini's 64-year marriage were their friends and family. He was a generous and supportive father, a caring husband, and a devoted grandfather. An extremely loyal and empathetic friend, he made a kept friendships in all parts of his life. Many people cite Jerry as being a big help to them when they needed it. In 2017 they moved to California to be closer to family. He missed his native Colorado but retained his devotion to family and gratitude for his life.

Jerry is preceded in death by his sister Shirley Killian and his parents, Ralph and Laura. He preceded his wife Nini in death. He leaves behind son Doug (Ellen) and grandchild Daniel of Los Angeles, Calif. He also leaves behind his niece, Colleen Ydo, her sons Ryan Ydo and Brad



(Shelby) Killian, and nephew Gary (Louisa) Killian and their son Mike (April) Killian.

A celebration of life will be held for Jerry and his wife Nini at First Plymouth Congregational Church in Denver on Dec. 10, 2022, at 11 a.m. with a reception to follow.

To leave a message for the Post family, please go to: <https://tinyurl.com/FPC-PostFamily>.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Nov. 7 and Nov. 13, 2022.

Staff handled a wildlife violation, and they dealt with loose livestock north of Del Norte and in Saguache. In addition to patrolling Saguache seven times, they fielded nine calls from Villa Grove, three from Crestone, one from Hooper, six from Moffat, two from Del Norte, and other calls throughout the county.

Deputies followed up on a warrant in Saguache, responded to a Saf2Tell call, handled a child abuse incident, and conducted one search and rescue operation. They managed a suicidal subject and six ambulance rides. They also addressed a utility problem, a

noise complaint, and suspicious activity in Saguache and Del Norte. They conducted welfare checks in Saguache and Villa Grove.

In addition to handling one abandoned vehicle, staff responded to a stolen vehicle report, and they issued three speeding tickets (\$105, \$170, and \$235).

ARRESTS

- A 58-year-old Moffat man was arrested for failing to appear and failure to comply (a 30-day contempt of court sentence).
- A 27-year-old Alamosa woman was arrested for failing to appear in Saguache County court.
- A 40-year-old Center man was arrested on two counts of contempt of court (failure to comply).

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

You are a winner

I know some of you readers out there who are probably too young to remember the days before Al Gore invented the Internet or even the time he claimed to have done so. But believe it or not, prior to the www-everything, U.S. Mail was the primary carrier of outrageous claims and promises to your mailbox. It started out pretty slow at first but then someone decided it was their God given duty to deforest the entire planet by jamming everyone's mailbox with offers of outlandish proportions. I guess the most famous was the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes. Now while I cannot recall specifically how that all worked, you basically got a slick advertising envelope with promises of a million dollars. And this was long enough ago when a million dollars meant something.

Fast forward to today and the Internet has taken over the role of long promises and hope for a windfall but with a new twist altogether. 'Nary a day goes by now that Ol' Dutch does not receive some great news via email about winning something or some offer of great financial gain if only I will open said email. Why just this past week I have emails from McAfee, offers of free non-stick pans, generators on sale, can't miss annuities, Medicare plans, clinical trials, Walmart rewards, free government money for the taking and a Walgreens gift card.

Now as good as those all sound Ol' Dutch wasn't born yesterday as Miss Trixie so often likes to remind me, and the old adage "if it sounds too good to be true it probably is" never rang truer than it does today. I learned long ago that none of these offers are true and in fact if you click on them it only leads you to getting more of the same as now they have your email as a willing participant.

This is how a lot of my friends get viruses on their computers as if you answer some of these, you have opened yourself up to the scammers and hackers worldwide. And when you do that, Miss Trixie gets the call from friends and relatives to somehow come save them from such scrupulous people and rebuild their computer.

And it appears that now all you have to do is look online at something like a new truck and suddenly your computer screen is inundated with offers and information about trucks close to where you live. It is amazing and wondrous in fact that some



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

computer somewhere keeps track of all your preferences and searches on the world wide web and then tries to hook you up with things like that.

And now I heard that soon they will be able to interface that same infernal machine with a person's brain so that all you have to do is think about something and it will appear on the screen. Which may in fact help as we age as all we would have to do is search the history on the machine to find out what we have forgotten. But I can see two definite problems already. One being finding people with brains to interface with may be a real issue in the U.S.A after all the events of the last few years.

And, secondly, scientists have proven that men think about sex every seven seconds which will lead to a lot of unproductive time online and make working with a computer almost impossible at least in mixed company. I guess it's inevitable that these advances will come and there is probably nothing we can do about them if we want to continue with the smart phones and laptops. It looks like Ol' Dutch may need to clean up his thoughts, however, before the brain reading Artificial Intelligence takes over and displays it for all the world to see.

One good thing about it is we will be able to see what the politicians are really thinking and how they are lying ahead of the elections and maybe, just maybe we can rescue this nation from its problems.

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.

the Sun in a reliable pattern like a planet. Encke has an oval orbit, where it circles the Sun from inside Mercury's orbit then loops out close to Jupiter before returning. It reaches its closest proximity to Earth every 33 years, when it's most visible to us. The last time was 1997, and the next time will be 2030. This year will be its 62nd observed return.

It was first recorded as being seen in 1786, but not recognized as a returning comet until 1819 by German astronomer Johann Encke, hence its

LETTERS

SLV Fast Friends bringing back dirt drag racing

Editor,
SLV Fast Friends, in conjunction with the OptiMystics Citizens Action Network, the City of Monte Vista, Rio Grande County, and the Best Western Movie Manor entertainment complex, will bring dirt drag racing back to the San Luis Valley on June 2-4, 2023. After a three-year hiatus, traditional hot rods and race cars will once again roar down the one eighth-mile course on the site of a historic dirt airfield to the west of US Highway 160, near the foothills of the San Juan Mountain range.

Unlike the previous events of this type at this venue, Draggin' on Dirt will be staffed by volunteers, with all

proceeds after expenses being donated to the San Luis Valley 4-H Foundation's Scholar Support program. This will benefit youth in the San Luis Valley in a number of endeavors.

As SLV Fast Friends is starting from scratch, this event's success depends on gathering sponsors and donors to pay for the materials and services needed in order to make it happen. Anyone wishing to donate to this worthy cause will have their contribution acknowledged in many ways, from having their business or other name emblazoned on the event t-shirts, posters, and banners as well as listed on several sites online. As SLV

Fast Friends is being fiscally sponsored by the OptiMystics Citizens Action Network, a 501c3 organization, all donations are tax-exempt, allowing donors to write off their contribution.

All interested parties wishing to become a sponsor or donor are encouraged to contact SLV Fast Friends founder and director Larry Garner at dragginondirt@gmail.com, 719-588-8566, or on the SLV Fast Friends group on Facebook.

Donations can be mailed to SLV Fast Friends, P.O. Box 535, Hooper, CO 81136-0535.

*LC Garner
Hooper*

MVS, Moffat and Crestone students are off to the Eastern Seaboard

Editor,
That is right. After lots of hard work and support the trip to Europe in March of 2023 is fully paid off! We can't thank all of you enough for your help and support! Since we all know the importance of hands-on learning, we have decided to do another trip to see all of America's great history in person.

In March of 2023, we will be taking a group of 25 students from Mountain Valley, Moffat, and Crestone to the Easter Seaboard to learn and see all the things that make America great!

They will start in Boston and end in Washington, D.C., our nation's capital. Students will have a personal tour guide for the entire trip telling them all about the history and answering

their questions. Travelers will have the opportunity to earn high school credit while on this trip.

Students will explore the Freedom Trail, Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum, United Nations Headquarters, Chrysler Building, 9/11 Survivor lead tour, Central Park, Statue of Liberty, Charging Bull Sculpture, Time Square, Liberty Bell, Congress Hall, White House, Arlington Cemetery, War Memorials across D.C., Library of Congress, U.S. Supreme Court, Smithsonian Museum and so much more! This will be a great opportunity for our students.

You will see students continuing to work hard through fundraising efforts this next year and hopefully for years to come for this once-in-a-lifetime

opportunity. If you would like to help contribute to these efforts you can make donations to Crystal Knight, c/o MVS, 403 Pitkin Ave., Saguache, CO 81149. Should you have any questions or fundraising opportunities, please

reach out to Mrs. Knight or Mrs. Johnson at 719-655 2578 or email knightc@valley.k12.co.us or johnsona@valley.k12.co.us If you have some fall yard work that needs to be completed before the real winter starts, please reach out to us and we will send students your way.

If you are interested in joining us, please reach out! There is still some space left!

*Crystal Knight
Mountain Valley School*

Food banks need support during holiday season

Editor,
The holiday season is almost upon us, reminding us of the needs of all the food banks in the San Luis Valley. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, our local food banks all experience increased demand as families strive to provide their families with holiday fare.

At the Del Norte food bank which serves both Del Norte and South Fork, we try to provide everything a household would need to make a delicious holiday meal in addition to

food staples such as breakfast cereal, rice, pasta, etc. Especially needed this year are turkeys/turkey breasts and whole or half hams. We can be contacted by telephone at 719-850-2643, and monetary donations may be sent to Del Norte Food Bank, PO Box 72, Del Norte, CO 81132.

Needs of all the food banks tend to be similar, and we ask that all items be unopened and not past their expiration date. We would suggest that you donate to your local food

bank. Thank you all for your generous donations which will be a huge help for many families in our communities. Becky Hand, Del Norte Emergency Food Bank Director

For more information, please contact your local food bank.

- Center: 719-496-1653
- Creede: 719-658-2416
- Del Norte: 719-850-2643
- Monte Vista: 719-655-2537

*Jack Hunt
Del Norte*

YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

Comet Encke

This is the year of the comet, so far, we've had Lemmon and Pan STARRS. Soon you'll be able to see ISON, but for now you'll have to settle for our "old faithful" comet Encke. It's "old faithful" because it has the shortest orbit of any known periodic comet and appears every 3.3 years. Periodic means that it orbits

above the horizon, slightly less than 1/4 of the way up.

You'll need to do this about 2 hours before sunrise, or about 4:45 a.m. Look for a hazy star with a tail.

I've been doing this column for 13 years. Now that I'm 76, I've decided that this year will be my last year. If any of you want to take it over, just call Valley Publishing to tell them you want to take it over from me.

about 3 miles in diameter. Nov. 21 is its perihelion when it circles around the Sun and its tail becomes more visible. This is a predawn morning comet, so you'll have to get up early to see it. It's been visible with telescopes since September, and currently requires binoculars. Encke will brighten at the end of this month, but dawn's light may interfere as Encke becomes visible slightly later each morning.

So, grab your binoculars and look in the eastern sky about 20 degrees

above the horizon, slightly less than 1/4 of the way up.

You'll need to do this about 2 hours before sunrise, or about 4:45 a.m. Look for a hazy star with a tail.

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Homelake celebrates six World War II veterans

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — Six World War II veterans were spotlighted during a Veterans Day program at the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake on Friday, Nov. 11.

Homelake planned to celebrate its WWII veterans in 2020 — the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II — but due to the COVID-19 pandemic they could not.

Leo Zamora, Robert Toepfer, Willard Martin, Richard Gottlieb, George Blake and a man who requested to be unnamed are residents of the Homelake center.

About 50 people, residents, staff and family, attended the ceremony at Homelake on Friday afternoon.

The Rev. Debria Upton began service with an opening prayer that was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, the Star-Spangled Banner, a Salute to the Armed Forces, closing remarks by Mindy Montague, NHA, and refreshments.

Monte Vista Middle School eighth-grader William Walker read his essay titled “My Pledge to Our Veterans” during the program.

The accomplishments of each World War II veteran were highlighted by presenters Homelake Admissions Director Pam Self and Homelake Activities Director Melanie Squire.

Zamora served in the U.S. Army from 1943-45. Toepfer served in the Army from 1940-45 and received the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal. Martin served in the Army from 1944-46 and received the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and the Occupation Medal for Germany.



A Veterans Day Program was held on Friday, Nov. 11, at the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake

Courtesy photos

Gottlieb served in the Army Air Force from 1943-46 and received the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and the Air Medal. Blake served in the Army from 1940-45 and received the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal. The unnamed veteran served in the Army from 1945-46 and received the Army Occupation Medal for Japan.



Leo Zamora



Richard Gottlieb



Willard Martin



Robert Toepfer



George Blake

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Thanksgiving

November 23 & 24 issues:

Display, Legal, Classified Advertising - Wednesday, Nov. 16 @ 5 p.m.

Editorial - Thursday, Nov. 17 @ 5 p.m.

Our office will be closed on November 24.

Valley Publishing

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Have a Safe &
Happy Thanksgiving



Photos by Patrick Shea

Terry Gillette ran through the chronology of war over centuries before the Veterans Day chili feast at the Saguache Community Center on Nov. 11.

Left: During the Veterans Day presentation and chili feast at the Saguache Community Center on Nov. 11, Eve Braden received a plaque from the Marquis Who's Who Publications Board selection for 2022-2023 in recognition for her work launching the Senior Care Centers in Salida, and now Saguache.



VETS

Continued from Page 1A

Salida, a daytime support facility. "Make no mistake," Gillette explained to the crowd of dozens gathered for the wind-chilly ceremony. Towering more than a foot above Braden with his arm around her, Gillette continued, "big things come in small packages. Don't mess with this woman. She'll get it done. She has carried the heavy water. I'm happy to come alongside her to help her out with what I can in this area."

Braden said they first applied with the Veteran's Administration in 2008. Now VA-approved and accepted by Tri-West Healthcare, Valley to Valley services Chaffee County, northern Fremont County, and soon northern Saguache County. But the journey to the Veterans Day celebration a mile outside Saguache included a lot of obstacles to overcome.

Finding land was a challenge until former Saguache resident and artist Byron Williams donated a 10-acre parcel before he passed away. Fundraising posed persistent challenges, but Braden and her crew raised more than \$17,000 during a Mardi Gras event at Joyful Journey in 2019.

Next, the pandemic removed 2020 from the calendar, and vendor pricing and availability became new challenges in 2021. Then vandals monkey-wrenched the project by disabling machinery. Braden persevered, and she choked up while she told the ground-breaking crowd that they ultimately raised \$1.2 million.

Toward the end of the evening celebration at the Saguache Community Center, Braden's husband Jerry stepped up to the microphone with a plaque and a purpose.

Seemingly embarrassed, Eve dropped her head and muttered, "I hope you like the couch" before walking to the stage to accept her honor. She repeated the phrase within hot-mic range. Then she shared her appreciation for Gillette, other veterans, volunteers, and support over many years to finally begin construction.

Phase One will include daytime drop-in services, apartments, and assisted living. The Valley to Valley day services currently offered in Salida include transportation, socialization through activities,

respite care, ADLS care, medication administration, nursing care, and family support.

Phase One began with breaking ground for the septic system. Then they'll build the main building, the day center, respite care, and assisted living for 10 people. For Phase Two, they'll add more assisted living and

begin building apartments. Phases Three and Four will feature more accommodations.

In addition to accepting more donations for the long-term project, Braden asked for help researching the soil and finding seeds for appropriate ground coverage now that construction has begun.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



Free well water testing in the San Luis Valley

CONTRIBUTED

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Dr. Katherine James with the Colorado School of Public Health, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus, and local community partners are leading a water quality project in the San Luis Valley.

They are providing free household water quality testing for private well owners in Saguache, Rio Grande, Alamosa, Conejos, and Costilla counties.

Testing focuses on heavy metals and may include pH, conductivity, hardness, temperature, and turbidity.

Owners will receive full test reports and professional interpretation of all lab analysis conducted.

All information received for this project will be strictly confidential,

according to organizers.

Sample kits will be mailed to participants with multiple sample return options.

Key regional findings will contribute to water conservation efforts by the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council and Rio Grande Water Conservation District.

New scientific information about the SLV aquifer systems will contribute to community strategies to mitigate impacts of drought on water quality.

Well owners can sign up to participate by using <https://bit.ly/31bl01t>.

For more information, email Nick Stoll, Project Coordinator Nicholas.Stoll@cuanschutz.edu or Dr. Kathy James, Lead Researcher, Kathy.James@cuanschutz.edu.

San Luis Valley Scoreboard 2022 -2023

STATE FOOTBALL QUARTER-FINALS

Class A-8 Man
 #1 Hartun 62 #8 Sanford 14

Class 1A
 #1 Limon 50 #8 Monte Vista 20
 #2 Strasburg 37 #7 Centauri 0

Class 2A
 #1 Delta 37 #8 Alamosa 8

STATE VOLLEYBALL

Class 2A
 #7 Denver Christian def #10 Sanford 3-0
 #8 St. Mary's def #10 Sanford 3-1

Class 3A
 #5 Alamosa def # 12 Manitou Springs 3-1
 #5 Alamosa def # 4 Faith Christian 3-1
 #9 Resurrection Christian def #5 Alamosa 3-0
 #3 Platte Valley def #5 Alamosa 3-0
 #7 Centauri def #10 Delta 3-1
 #2 Eaton def #7 Centauri 3-0
 #7 Centauri def #8 Valley 3-1
 #3 Platte Valley def #7 Centauri 3-0

Thanks to these businesses for supporting SLV sports!



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Center Kiwanis Club delivers dictionaries

Courtesy photo
Third-grade students in area schools recently were the recipients of dictionaries provided by the Kiwanis Club of Center. The dictionaries were delivered to third-graders at the following elementary schools: Center, Sargent, Bill Metz in Monte Vista, Mountain Valley, Moffat, Crestone Charter, Sangre De Cristo, and to the Amish and Mennonite schools. Kiwanis members making the deliveries were Janet and Don Noland, Lewis Entz, Dick Ramstetter, and Skip McClure. Kiwanis International is a global community of clubs, members and partners dedicated to improving the lives of children one community at a time. The Kiwanis Club of Center has been serving the children in the area for over 90 years. Pictured is the third-grade class of Heather Smith at the Bill Metz Elementary School in Monte Vista.



Kiwanis members making the deliveries were Janet and Don Noland, Lewis Entz, Dick Ramstetter, and Skip McClure. Kiwanis International is a global community of clubs, members and partners dedicated to improving the lives of children one community at a time. The Kiwanis Club of Center has been serving the children in the area for over 90 years. Pictured is the third-grade class of Heather Smith at the Bill Metz Elementary School in Monte Vista.

RESIGNS

Continued from Page 1A

Barracough had been with the county since July of 2021. Rio Grande County Board Chairman Gene Glover stated, “We accepted Mr. Barracough’s resignation due to unreconcilable differences. No one did anything wrong, we just couldn’t come to an agreement on how the board and Mr. Barracough envisioned the county

moving forward.” The board is looking to hire a new administrator and wants to find someone that fits the vision the board has for the future of Rio Grande County. RioGrandeCountyhasexperienced some turnover in its leadership over the past five years. Barracough also issued a

statement. “It’s very unfortunate that it didn’t work out for either me or the board,” he stated. “There are some truly talented and devoted staff and leaders at the county, and they deserve a solid, stable administration. I sincerely hope that someday the board finds what they’re looking for.”

RESULTS

Continued from Page 1A

Valdez, who currently represents House District 62, the match-up between political newcomers Democrat Matthew Martinez and Republican Carol Rigenbach went in the Democrat’s favor with Martinez receiving 55% of the vote and Rigenbach receiving 45% district-wide. HD62 encompasses the six counties in the Valley plus part of Pueblo and Huerfano. A closer look at the race shows that, while Rigenbach won

in five of the eight counties. A decisive victory for Martinez in Pueblo — where more than a third of voters live — played a significant role. In the Valley, Rigenbach won in Alamosa with 52% of the votes to Martinez’s 48%. In Conejos, she won 53% to 47%. In Mineral, Rigenbach received 58% of the votes to Martinez’s 42% and, in Rio Grande there was a similar split of 59% to 41%. In Huerfano County,

Rigenbach won 55% to 45%. But, in Pueblo where 10,838 out of the total 28,894 votes were cast, Martinez had a pivotal victory, receiving 67% of the votes to Rigenbach’s 33%. Costilla showed similar support with 65% supporting Martinez and 35% going for Rigenbach. The eighth county — Saguache — came in for Martinez at a 12% margin, with Martinez garnering 56% of the vote to Rigenbach’s 44%.

Simple, Practical Approaches to Your Best Life

It seems that so many people struggle to keep up with the demands of daily life and stay focused on achieving the best that God has for them. Distractions such as phone calls, text messages, traffic jams, a flat tire, a sick child, family crisis, or any number of inconveniences can pop up suddenly. No matter how hard we try, circumstances often don’t go the way we planned. But there are ways to keep life simple so we can achieve our goals. I think it’s healthy to stop periodically and take an inventory of our lives. It’s important to ask, “Am I really living the life Christ died for me to have? Or am I settling for something less?” Regardless of what’s happened in the past or what obstacles seem to be in our way, God has a big, full life in store for each one of us. But it’s up to us whether we’re going to get the best out of life and make the most of our time, talents, relationships and opportunities. The book of Genesis contains a great lesson in this area. It shares the story of Abraham’s father, Terah, who gathered his family, packed up everything, and set out for his ultimate destination—Canaan. However, Genesis 11:31 tells us, “... Together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they settled there” (NIV). I wonder how many people start out to do one thing in life but settle somewhere along the way because they get tired or because it’s convenient. It’s not really what they want, but it’s something they think they can “settle for.” Are there areas in your life where you have settled, or maybe just haven’t made as much progress as you had hoped? **Make a Commitment to Be More Than Mediocre** The Lord has called us to excellence, and we don’t have to settle for mediocrity. The word mediocre literally means “to live halfway between success and failure.” And that’s where so many people live; they haven’t completely

failed, but they’re also not where they really want to be. This applies to every area of our lives. Maybe you’ve begun studying the Bible and you have a goal to really know God’s Word and develop an intimate, close relationship with Him. If that’s the case, don’t settle for just reading a chapter a day to “put your time in”; stay determined to make it a priority because knowing God’s Word is the key to truly knowing God. Or maybe you have a goal to lose 20 pounds. If so, make a decision that you’re not going to give up when it gets difficult. Even if you have a bad day and actually gain weight, be determined to bounce back the next day! Sometimes we get used to the place where we are and forget there’s something better. Life gets busy, complicated, or even comfortable, and we lose sight of the dreams and goals we used to have. That’s when we need to stir ourselves up and become determined to attain every single part of God’s plan for our lives. **What If...** Let’s take a few moments to play the “What If?” game: What if you decided to give God your all and seek Him with your whole heart? What if you demanded the best from yourself instead of settling for “just average”? What if you stopped making excuses why you can’t accomplish your dreams and goals? What if you changed the way you speak and refused to say anything negative? What if you started confronting problems instead of running away from them? What if you decided to stop procrastinating? Can you imagine where you would be this time next year if you followed through with just one or two of these things? **Give It Your All** The Bible is full of scriptures that encourage us to do our best. Second



Timothy 2:15 says, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed...” (NIV). I love that phrase “do your best.” It may be easier to go halfway, but what if you decided to give your best in your marriage, at your job, or any other area of your life? Some of the greatest blessings in my life now are things that have required the most effort. Today, my husband, Dave, and I have the awesome privilege of sharing God’s Word with millions of people through Joyce Meyer Ministries. Many times throughout the years it required tremendous sacrifice and the decision to keep moving forward when we felt like giving up. I am so glad we didn’t stop halfway when things got tough. The truth is if you will do what you can do, God will do His part and do what you can’t do. It’s simple—keep your focus on God, give Him your best, and He will give you His best for you! *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.

BACA

Continued from Page 1A

the matter and another to dismiss the case. On Oct. 4, the court intervened but did not dismiss the township petition effort. The ruling on Nov. 9 held the motion to dismiss in abeyance while considering an amended petition.

The petitioners submitted an amended petition on Oct. 21. Working without an attorney, the volunteer group is “pro se,” which they claim would hold them to a less stringent standard than a licensed attorney would be expected to meet.

But under a section in the Nov. 9 order entitled “Even Pro Se Parties Must Abide by the Applicable Law,” Judge Newmyer-Olsen noted a detail within the Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure.

“As mentioned above,” the ruling states, “one of the procedural rules permits a party to file an amended pleading once as a matter of course prior to the opposing party’s filing of a responsive pleading. By filing the Amended Petition, the Petitioners have exhausted their opportunity to amend their pleading as a matter of course.”

However, Judge Newmyer-Olsen’s order also granted permission to amend the petition. The group’s amendment addressed a number of issues raised since the township process began. After holding weekly meetings and updating information for the petition amendment, the group is taking a holiday break. The judge’s second order specified that, “the Petitioners must designate one to three representatives for the signing of pleadings/motions and for conferring with the Association’s

counsel prior to filing motions.” Judge Newmyer-Olsen held the POA’s Motion to Dismiss in abeyance until the amended petition can be fully reviewed, but POA attorneys have until Nov. 16 to notify the court if they will follow the original motion filed on Sept. 30 or will file a new Motion to Dismiss. If they choose to file a new motion, they have until Nov. 23.

On Monday, Nov. 14, the Baca Grande POA board sent an email to members with directions to a folder on the POA website entitled: “Civil Action 2022CV5 - Petition to Form a Town.” The 26 documents are publicly available, with the exception of the POA board statement. In addition to orders from the judge, the documents include petition amendment exhibits and motions filed.

The Baca Grande Property Owners Association board of directors will hold its November meeting at 10 a.m. on Nov. 17. Members can attend in person at the Baca Grande POA meeting hall or via Zoom.

According to the township petitioners’ website, “The BG Committee is taking a much-needed break from Zoom meetings ahead of the upcoming holiday. Stay tuned to the website — www.townofbacagrande.info — for a planned community debate, election updates, and our soon-to-be-unveiled Town of Baca Grande Facebook page, Instagram page and YouTube channel! Happy Thanksgiving.”

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. Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope with “Road and Bridge Gasoline and Fuel 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. 1651 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, October 27 and November 3, 10, 17 and 23, 2022.**

ELECTION OF THE SAN LUIS VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on Tuesday, the 6th day of December, 2022 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The Board of Directors of the District has designated the following polling place within the District:
 Office of the San Luis Valley Irrigation District
 296 Miles Street
 Town of Center, Saguache County, Colorado
 At said election, the electors of the District shall vote for Director(s) to serve the following term(s) of office on the Board of Directors of the District:
 One Director for Division I for a 3-Year Term
 The name(s) of person(s) nominated and term(s) of office for which nominated are as follows:
 Randall Palmgren, Director for Division I for a 3-year term
 One Director at Large for a 3-year term
 The name(s) of person(s) nominated and term(s) of office for which nominated are as follows:
 Sheldon Rockey, Director at Large for a 3-year term
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that an elector of said District for the purpose of said election is a person who (1) owns taxable real property within the District, and (2) is over the age of twenty-one years.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that applications for absent voter’s ballots may be filed with the Secretary of the District, Amy S. Dean, at 296 Miles Street, Center, Colorado until 4:00 p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election. Affidavits of intent to be a write-in candidate must be filed no later than 4:00 o’clock p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election (Friday, the 2nd of December, 2022).
 San Luis Valley Irrigation District
 By: /s/ Amy S. Dean
 Secretary
No. 1654 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, November 17 and 24 and December 1, 2022.

CRT announces transformational 58th season

CRT will again present a fully indoor season with a family-friendly fairytale, new work, comedy, drama, and everything in between

by Michael Perlman (“Always...Patsy Cline,” “Is He Dead?”).

Next up in the intimate Ruth Humphreys Brown Theatre is the world premiere of “Mountain Octopus” by Beth Kander (“Hazardous Materials,” “To the Moon”) which will feature longtime CRT company members Christy Brandt and Kate Berry. One year after a tragic loss, a small town full of quirky characters gathers together to patch up what’s broken. Nothing goes quite as planned... but ultimately each person finds something unexpected within their old familiar world or something that feels like home in a new and unfamiliar place.

Also at the Ruth Humphreys Brown Theatre is “The Royale” by Marco Ramirez, directed by Kyle Haden who directed the world premiere of “Hazardous Materials” in 2019. The most anticipated show of 2022 has finally arrived. Set in the early 20th century and inspired by the life of the first Black heavyweight champion of the world, Jack Johnson, this sports drama brings to life the ultimate fight for a place in history.

The Mainstage will also feature “CLUE: On Stage” written by Sandy Rustin based on the Paramount Pictures Motion Picture screenplay by Jonathan Lynn and the Hasbro board game CLUE. It’s a dark and stormy night and you’ve been invited to a very mysterious dinner party at the ominous Boddy Manor. Each of the guests has an alias, the butler offers a variety of weapons, and the host is, well, dead. Join the iconic cast of characters known as Scarlet, Plum, White, Green, Peacock and Mustard as they race to find out whodunnit before the body count stacks up. “CLUE: On Stage” will be directed by CRT Producing Artistic Director John DiAntonio.

Rounding out the Mainstage is the family-friendly fairytale “Rogers + Hammerstein’s Cinderella,” directed by Brittni Shambaugh Addison. This 2013 Broadway adaptation of the beloved musical with a new book by Douglas Carter Beane sparkles with new characters, a hilarious libretto, and exciting twists alongside the classic score by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. With unforgettable songs such as “In My Own Little Corner,” “Impossible/It’s Possible” and “Ten Minutes Ago,” you’ll be tapping your feet all the way home.

If it’s improv that delights, Boomtown! Improv Comedy also returns to The Ruth starting June 16. Now at 9:30 p.m. so you can be in bed by 11 p.m. exhausted by all of the frivolity.

CRT’s annual Headwaters New Play Festival is back for its 11th year, featuring new work by 2023 commissioned playwright, Leonard Madrid. Madrid is a New Mexico-based playwright and theatre maker. He has received the Kennedy Center’s Latinx Playwriting award three times and his play, “Cebollas,” was part of the 2022 Colorado New Play Summit at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. 2023 will also see the return of the 10 Minute Play Festival, which will take place during Headwaters Festival weekend in late August.

Education at CRT will be celebrating 21 years of The KID Show with “Ask a Kid” written by Steve Moulds and directed by CRT’s Associate Education Director Jenni Harbour. In this new sci-fi musical, a group of friends forms an advice column for the students at their school, and it’s a runaway success. But when the questions coming in start getting weird, the kids investigate. Is someone pranking them



— or are these bizarre messages surprisingly sincere? Running July 28 through July 30 at The Ruth, The KID Show offers a professional theatrical experience for students ages 10 and older through the creation of an original show. Additionally, the Education Department hosts camps for learners of all ages June 13 through July 1.

CRT’s flagship program, the Young Audience Outreach Tour, now in its 40th season, is staging the world premiere of “The City Dog and the Prairie Dog” by Diana Grisanti, Aug. 25 and Aug. 26, at the Virginia Christensen Multi Use Facility. Featuring the creative team of “Casa Alfonsa and El Guayabo/The Guava Tree,” “The City Dog and the Prairie Dog” is a bilingual musical for grades K-6, exploring themes of community and belonging. Expect to dance, laugh, and sing along, with lots of audience participation.

For more information on the season schedule and ticket information, go to www.creederep.org.

CONTRIBUTED

CREEDE— Beginning May 19, Creede Repertory Theatre (CRT) will produce its 58th season, which includes comedy, drama, romance, a world premiere and something for the entire family. CRT will continue to champion its thriving educational and audience engagement programming.

“Excitement is palpable for summer 2023,” says Producing Artistic Director John DiAntonio. “We’ve got a large-scale classic musical back on the Mainstage and a whodunnit that will leave audiences rolling in the aisles with laughter. Two shows are returning to our stages in 2023: one finally getting its due after a postponement last summer and the other back by popular demand. Our investment in new work continues with a world premiere written exclusively for Creede Rep; and, as always, explosive improv comedy and dynamic educational programs that will reach tens of thousands of students.”

The season begins at CRT’s historic Mainstage Theatre with the return of 2021’s “Dear Jack, Dear Louise” by Ken Ludwig. Sparks fly and love blossoms from a world away when US Army doctor, Jack, begins a correspondence with aspiring actress, Louise, during WWII. This romantic comedy and audience favorite will again feature Caitlin Wise and Graham Ward, and will be directed

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DF-CD-NP-G421



Duda to serve as Acting Divide District Ranger

CONTRIBUTED
DEL NORTE — The Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) announced Thursday, Nov. 10, that Kevin Duda has begun serving as the acting District Ranger on the Divide Ranger District based out of Del Norte.

Duda has served on the Divide Ranger District since 2008, beginning as a Forester and most recently as the Supervisory Forester. Prior to his arrival on the Divide District, he worked on the Conejos Peak Ranger District for three years while completing his bachelor's in Forestry and master's in Forest Sciences at Colorado State University.

"I am excited about Kevin Duda serving in this key leadership position on the Divide Ranger District," said Rio Grande National Forest Supervisor Dan Dallas. "Kevin's wealth of local knowledge, vast experience in forestry and silviculture will be advantageous to the District, Forest and the community."

Duda added, "I was raised in the San Luis Valley and have a tremendous amount of respect for both the tenacity and the kindness of communities here. Serving as the Acting District Ranger has been humbling to see firsthand how each of the employees on the District show up as professionals and passionately manage land and resources on behalf of the public."

Duda stepped into the position on Sept. 19, behind the Carson National Forest's, Chris Griffith, who served in the role from June 2. Duda will serve in a four-month appointment or until District Ranger, Martha Williamson, returns from her leave of absence.

In their free time, Duda and his wife enjoy exploring the outdoors with their dogs and spending time with family.



Will be published in the December 14, 2022 issues of your local newspaper

Send your Letters to Santa to be included in this very special issue by Monday, December 5 to email: bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com or mail: Valley Publishing PO Box 607 Monte Vista, CO 81144

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76th Spud Bowl Queen is Kenadie Crowther



CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — Kenadie Crowther, a senior at Sanford High School, was crowned the 76th Spud Bowl Queen during halftime of the Adams State University Spud Bowl Football Game on Nov. 5.

The Spud Bowl tradition began in 1946, when the potato farmers in the San Luis Valley were asked to contribute sacks of spuds to the University, which, in turn, were

Kenadie Crowther, Sanford High School, is the 2022 Spud Bowl Queen.

converted into cash to supplement the athletic program. The tradition and spirit have continued, and Spud Bowl remains a highlight of each football season.

Each year, San Luis Valley high schools are asked to nominate a senior candidate for Spud Bowl. The candidates are interviewed by a panel of judges, and the winner is selected and announced at halftime of the football game. The Colorado Potato Administrative Committee and Adams State University Foundation award scholarships of \$1,000 to

Please see QUEEN on Page 2



Photos by Linda Relyea

The 2022 Adams State Spud Bowl candidates included, left to right, Angelica Martinez, Del Norte HS; Kelly Gardea, Center HS; KeiAnna Duran, Monte Vista HS; Marissa Floriani; Sargent HS; Marissa Clark, Sierra Grande HS; Danarose Duran, Moffat HS; Carmelita Rael, Centennial HS; Kenadie Crowther, Sanford HS; Rachael Fritz, Sangre de Cristo HS; Taylor Christensen, Centauri HS; Amela Van, Alamosa HS.



Courtesy photo

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.

Wolf Creek Ski Area open for the season

CONTRIBUTED

WOLF CREEK PASS — 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

Please see SKI on Page 2

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



Photo by Marie Mccolm

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.

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

See MEMORIAL on Page 2

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Courtesy photo

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

SKI

Continued from Page 1A

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.

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.

Wolf Creek is gearing up for



Photo by Linda Relyea

Boomer and Interim President David Tandberg and First Lady Darin Tandberg congratulate the 2022 Adams State Spud Bowl Queen Kenadie Crowther.

QUEEN

Continued from Page 1A

each contestant to attend Adams State and \$2,000 to the Spud Bowl Queen.

The 2022 Adams State Spud Bowl candidates included, Amela Van, Alamosa HS; Taylor Christensen, Centauri HS; Carmelita Rael, Centennial HS; Kelly Gardea, Center HS; Angelica Martinez, Del Norte HS; Danarose Duran, Moffat HS; KeiAnna Duran, Monte Vista

HS; Kenadie Crowther, Sanford HS; Rachael Fritz, Sangre de Cristo HS; Marissa Floriani; Sargent HS; and Marissa Clark, Sierra Grande HS.

Judges for this year's contest were Roger Mix and Tyler Mitchell, Colorado Potato Administrative Committee, and Maria Valdez, Adams State accounting technician II.

MEMORIAL

Continued from Page 1A

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 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.

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Lantzy appreciates his educational foundation from ASU

CONTRIBUTED
ALAMOSA — Michael Lantzy, Class of 1964 and 1965, remains passionate about his alma mater and the foundation it provided for his professional and personal success. He is a Willis Fassett Jr Award recipient for 2022.

"I am humbled to be considered and receive this honor," Lantzy said. "When you look at past recipients it puts me in a pretty good category."

The award is named in honor of the late Willis Fassett Jr., a long-time president of the Adams State University Foundation Board of Directors. Lantzy was recognized at the Annual Donor and Student Recognition Banquet, on Nov. 1.

"Supporting Adams State seems like the right thing to do. It is not an over overstatement that I would not have had the success in my career without Adams State," Lantzy said. "I especially appreciated the personal attention, from then President Fred Plachy, coaches, professors, staff, and boosters. They took a real interest in me. They mentored me and by following their advice I received two degrees and entered my professional career with the skills needed to succeed."

Lantzy established the Loren & Alice Shipp Scholarship in 2000.

"While I was a student, Alice worked in the public affairs office and she and her husband, Loren, opened their home and made me feel very welcome," he said.

The Shipp were athletic boosters at the time, and the young football player from Detroit appreciated their generosity of spirit.

In 2009, Lantzy amended the scholarship and increased the value; a year

later, with encouragement from his family, he changed the name of the scholarship to the Michael and Diana Lantzy Scholarship. The scholarship supports a member of an athletic team with a 2.5 GPA with 30 earned credit hours.

Lantzy played football for Adams State and has empathy for student-athletes who maintain a high academic standard and are also committed to their sport.

"I know how much time and effort it takes. Student-athletes need to be physically prepared during the season and often work through the off-season all while taking a full academic load. If I can help another athlete, I am very willing to do so," he said.

After earning his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Adams State, Lantzy taught high school and coached after graduating. He continues to speak passionately about education. "Education provides a viable opportunity for those who want to follow that path. I appreciate Billy Adams' vision and hope that Adams State continues to reach students where they are and guide them to meet their full potential."

Lantzy encourages students to seize the moment and take advantage of the opportunities at Adams State.

"When you get to be 80, you realize the special things in your life. Adams State was there for me, and I will continue to support it," Lantzy said.

He hopes alumni who have Adams State to thank for their career consider making a donation.

"Students work hard and need financial assistance," Lantzy said. "Someone has to meet that need. I encourage everyone to think about

it and start out small and contribute whatever you want to after that."

Lantzy retired from Oakland Community College in 1992, after 25 years serving the college as department head and in his last year as assistant professor of accountancy. He and Diana have been married for almost 54 years. Diana is also a retired educator. They have two sons, Michael and Brian (Marcy) and two amazing grandchildren.

Lantzy was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013 with the 1962 football team.



Pictured, Diana and Michael Lantzy. Michael Lantzy is a 2022 Willis Fassett Jr. Award recipient.

Courtesy photo

SLVH participating in DAISY Award program

CONTRIBUTED
ALAMOSA — Nurses at San Luis Valley Health are being honored with The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. The award is part of the DAISY Foundation's mission to recognize the extraordinary, compassionate nursing care they provide patients and families every day.

The DAISY Foundation is a not-for-profit organization, established in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, by members of his family. Patrick died at the age of 33 in late 1999 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little-known but not uncommon auto-immune disease. DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System. The care Patrick and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families.

Nurses may be nominated by patients, families, and colleagues. The award recipient is chosen by a committee at SLV Health to receive The DAISY Award. Awards are presented throughout the year at celebrations attended by the Honoree's colleagues, patients, and visitors. Each Honoree receives a certificate commending her or him as an "Extraordinary Nurse."

The certificate reads: "In deep appreciation of all you do, who you are, and the incredibly meaningful difference you make in the lives of so many people." Nurses can be nominated by completing a card located in the hospital or online at www.sanluisvalleyhealth.org/about-slvh/daisy-nursing-excellence.

Said Bonnie Barnes, FAAN, President and Co-Founder of The DAISY Foundation, "When Patrick was critically ill, our family experienced firsthand the remarkable skill and care nurses provide patients every day and

night. Yet these unsung heroes are seldom recognized for the super-human, extraordinary, compassionate work they do. The kind of work the nurses at SLV Health are called on to do every day epitomizes the purpose of The DAISY Award."

More information is available at <http://DAISYfoundation.org>.

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Make A Difference Day was a success

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.

We have made a difference in our community!

This event benefits all who participate.



Photos courtesy of Baer family

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Western San Luis Valley Resiliency, 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 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.

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 devel-

opers, 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 experi-

ence 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."

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.

Photos by Patrick Shea



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.

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New transmission line route proposed for Alamosa-Antonito project

Upgraded project will deliver safety and reliability to Southern Colorado

CONTRIBUTED
DENVER — Xcel Energy has proposed a route for a new transmission line that will rebuild infrastructure in the region, replace an aging power line, and deliver continued reliability and safety for Southern Colorado.

The proposed project, a 40-mile long 69-kilovolt transmission line in Alamosa and Conejos counties primarily follows Highway 285, county roads and field boundaries. This proposal will replace an existing aging project that has reached the end of its useful life and must be replaced.

The new line will meet updated system and electrical requirements, including the use of fire-resistant steel, and will improve electric service for customers in the region. Because the existing power line must remain energized to serve customers in the region during construction, a new route was required for this project.

Rebuilding the Alamosa to Antonito transmission line is part of the comprehensive Xcel Energy wildfire mitigation plan that includes reviewing, upgrading and rebuilding aging infrastructure around the region to increase safety and limit the possibility of wildfires associated with transmission infrastructure.

“Xcel Energy is committed to delivering reliable, safe and affordable electricity for our customers, and rebuilding projects like the Alamosa to Antonito transmission line help deliver on that promise,” said Ashley Valdez, area manager, communities and local government affairs serving Southern Colorado. “This new route proposal is the result of significant feedback provided by local community members and helps meet the needs of the San Luis Valley.”

For nearly a year, Xcel Energy has worked with community stakeholders and landowners to identify a route that minimizes impacts to landowners and agricultural operations, while also delivering reliability, safety and meeting system needs. Open houses were held in November 2021 and March 2022 to solicit feedback on potential route options and land use concerns.

Permit applications will be filed

with Alamosa and Conejos counties, which have similar review processes. Alamosa County will review the permit application at an upcoming Board of County Commissioners meeting. Conejos County’s Planning Commission will hold a public hearing and provide a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners which will decide whether to approve the application. The hearings will be scheduled in the coming weeks following initial review of the applications.

Following approval of the permits, Xcel Energy will begin working with landowners to purchase easements and begin planning for construction, which is expected to begin in late 2023.

Additional information is available by calling 1-855-839-8865, emailing AlamosatoAntonito@xcelenergy.com or visiting www.xcelenergy.com/AlamosatoAntonito.

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.



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Xcel Energy to conduct power line inspections in San Luis 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 xcelenergy-wildfireprotection.com

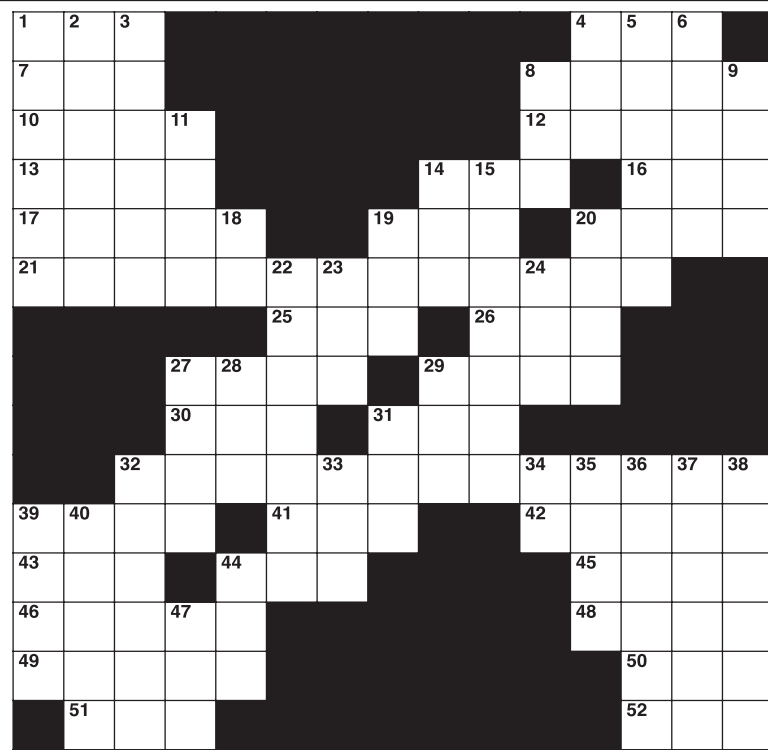
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Runs PCs
4. An entertaining, eccentric person
7. Small, faint constellation
8. Indigo bush
10. Not excessive
12. African antelope
13. A way to fly a glider
14. Tough softly
16. In the course of
17. Early Mesoamerican people
19. A way to drop down
20. Mistake!
21. Housing developments
25. Baseball stat
26. No (Scottish)
27. Type of cuisine
29. British Army infantrymen (abbr.)
30. Marry
31. Buffer solution
32. Legendary rock band
39. Recording industry show
41. A way to consume
42. Lake in Botswana
43. Political action committee
44. Field force unit (abbr.)
45. Very eager
46. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues



48. Nocturnal insect
49. Challenged to perform
50. Thus far
51. Famed NYC arena
52. Commercials
20. Poems meant to be sung
22. Actor Cooper
23. Luke’s mentor ___-Wan
24. Clumsy person
27. Figures
28. Polish Baltic coast peninsula
29. Old cloth
31. Explosive
32. Automobiles
33. 007’s creator
34. The Volunteer State
35. Old Irish alphabet
36. Japanese city
37. Portrayed emotion
38. Observers
39. Mimicked
40. Polite reference to a woman
44. Male parent
47. Peter Griffin’s daughter

CLUES DOWN

1. Small, purple-black fruit
2. Baltimore ballplayer
3. Highly seasoned sausage
4. Split pulses
5. Northwestern Mexico town
6. Edible fruit
8. Upper-class southern young woman
9. Sums up
11. The most worthless part
14. Dash
15. Sufferings
18. Clearinghouse (abbr.)
19. Indian title of respect

Solution to last week’s puzzle

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

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Victim Response Unit seeks volunteers in Saguache County

BY PATRICK SHEA
SAGUACHE COUNTY — Domestic Violence Awareness Month ended on Halloween, but victimization doesn't take a holiday.

The Saguache County Sheriff's Office Victim Response Unit and the Center Police Department are recruiting volunteers to help crime victims throughout the county navigate court proceedings and leverage their rights.

Assisting Ellen Cox, who is the county's Advocate Coordinator from the Saguache County Sheriff's Office, Beatrice Casados has been advocating for crime victims since she was victimized herself more than 20 years ago.

Casados said, "I cover the Center area, and I cover most of our Spanish-speaking victims. We do need help. We need some volunteers, big time."

Casados said she has worked with the sheriff's office for almost six years, in addition to her job with the Center Police Department. Recalling a few volunteers, she said, "We had one in Crestone, and we had one that was based in the Moffat area." She also said she had occasional help from a woman in Center.

Casados said volunteers receive extensive training. When law enforcement handles a situation, they work with the Victim Response Unit immediately. Volunteers arrive at the scene and begin the long relationship with victims facing multiple challenges.

For training, Casados said, "they will go on calls with us. They would learn about victim's rights, sexual assaults, and unattended grief."

Colorado is one of 37 states with a Victim Rights Law. In addition to a promise to treat victims with fairness, respect, and dignity, Colorado's law aims to make sure victims "are free from intimidation, harassment, and abuse."

According to the Victim Rights

Act, victims can be notified automatically when courtroom dates are scheduled, for example. Some victims attend sessions in the courtroom, others listen anonymously, and Casados said some prefer to be debriefed by a volunteer after each hearing or important change in the process.

With time and venue changes for multiple appearances, court dates require tracking. Victim advocates communicate calendar changes and other updates.

Also, a victim can sign up to receive notification when an offender goes on probation. This requires paperwork, but the one-page form from the Colorado Probation Victim Notification Program includes fewer than 10 items.

When victims take time off work for court dates or meetings with justice officials, they have a right to work out agreements with employers to ensure continued employment. They also have the right to be informed of potential financial assistance, as well as protection if they are being harassed or intimidated.

For children who are victims of crime, victim response units use simple language to communicate the process, intercede in court if a young victim needs help, and advise district attorneys before they ask the child to be a witness.

Casados said all victims are offered services, and she estimated that roughly 85 percent of them accept the offer. She also explained how victim advocates from Saguache County hand off cases to District Attorney staff when proceedings move to the 12th Judicial District courtroom.

For more information about volunteering, call Cox at 719-655-2544. You can also ask to contact her at the Saguache County Sheriff's Office. You can contact Casados in the Center Police Department — 719-754-3141.

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Creede Community Thanksgiving dinner 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.

Conejos Peak Ranger District to proceed with Trail Gulch Vegetation Management Project

Project implementation could take up to 15 years

CONTRIBUTED
MONTE VISTA — The Conejos Peak Ranger District of the Rio Grande National Forest announced Thursday, Oct. 27, the availability of the final decision notice and environmental assessment for the Trail Gulch Vegetation Management Project. District Ranger, Andrea Jones, has documented her decision to implement the project as originally proposed, with a minor modification. The project includes a mix of vegetation treatment strategies including hand and mechanical thinning, pile and broadcast prescribed burning up to 8,400 acres and commercial timber harvesting on up to 9,500 acres over the next 15 years. The actions are designed to improve overall forest health and return fire as a landscape scale management tool.

“Getting to this point has been a long and thoughtful process,” said Conejos Peak District Ranger, Andrea Jones. “I cannot express enough appreciation for the partners, stakeholders and my staff for work-

ing together on what can be a new normal for landscape scale forest treatments. This work will, undoubtedly, greatly benefit the land and our communities.”

The Trail Gulch project, located 10 miles west of Antonito, along and south of State Highway 17 in Conejos County, also includes water improvement projects to improve overall watershed health in the project area. Project implementation, including commercial harvest, is subject to acquiring the funds for operations.

The final project outcome was modified in the decision notice to remove 85 acres of proposed treatment due to overlap with a previous project. This adjustment provides for maintenance of existing high-value lynx habitat.

To view information on the Trail Gulch Project, visit the official project webpage at www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60258. To view the new decision notice, navigate to the “Decision” tab under the Project Documents heading. Another informational webpage on the project is found here: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/riogrande/trailgulch. You may also call the Conejos Peak Ranger District office at 719-657-3321.

For information on the Rio Grande National Forest, call 719-852-5941, or visit their website www.fs.usda.gov/main/riogrande/home.

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- ▶ Look for coverage with no deductibles.
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¹“Medicare & You,” Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2021. ²“How might my oral and dental health change as I age?”, www.usnews.com, 11/30/2018. ³American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2018 Survey of Dental Fees, Copyright 2018, American Dental Association.

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DF-CD-NP-G421

Adams State honors donors at annual dinner



Courtesy photo

Pictured, Adams State University Interim President David Tandberg; Darin Tandberg; Vern Heersink, Alamosa County Commissioner; Margaret and John Faron; Lori Laske, Alamosa County Commissioner; and Christian Santistevan. At the Annual Donor and Student Recognition Dinner on Nov. 1 the Willis Fassett Jr. Awards were presented to Porter Realty, Inc. and Michael Lantzy, Class of 1964 and 1965. The Grizzly Club also presented their annual awards to Alamosa County Commissioners, Corporate Partner of the Year and the Individual Partner of the Year to John Faron, Class of 1963 and 1969, and Margaret Faron, Class of 1961.

Center trustees select Fresquez to run CPD

By PATRICK SHEA

CENTER — The journey for Aaron Fresquez to become the new Police Chief in Center officially concluded on Oct. 25 when the town trustees announced their decision to choose Fresquez over other candidates for the job.

As Fresquez noted on the Center Police Department Facebook page, “I am excited for this new adventure. I will continue to do my best and work just as hard in keeping the community safe, and leading my troops to do the same.”

When former Police Chief Dale Meek took a different job in Alaska, Fresquez assumed the interim police chief position immediately. At the same time, city officials conducted the hiring practice from scratch, according to Town Manager Brian Lujan.

“We went through the whole process for the position,” Lujan said. “We got a number of applications and resumes, and then we had a work session where the board rated the resumes.”

They narrowed it down to four applicants — five including Fresquez. Lujan sent a request for information form to the four prospects, the first step in running background checks, contacting employers, and learning more about the candidates.

“Out of the four,” Lujan explained, “only two returned that request for information form back to me with their signature.”

Lujan and town officials conducted two interviews in one evening and interviewed Fresquez. On Oct. 25, according to Lujan, “the board felt comfortable enough to make the decision based on his qualifications, his longevity with the department, and his ability to keep continuity with what Chief Meek was progressing toward.”

In addition to cooperating with other agencies during emergencies and large events like the Seven Peaks Music Festival in Villa Grove last Labor Day Weekend, Fresquez has engaged with the community with new ideas that follow the path Chief Meek paved.

The Coffee with the Chief tradition continues. Guest speakers touch on topics, and other members of the department participate as well. The Center Drag Races drew residents together for a fun afternoon focused on fixing the problem of

street racing.

Similarly, the K-9 Unit is expanding successfully. Leveraging his expertise and background, Officer Adam Fresquez spearheads training. The dogs ultimately become part of the department’s staff or are sold to other agencies. Beyond the town of Center, other police departments have requested more information and training for dogs.

Looking ahead, the new police chief invited other local law enforce-

ment professionals to come to 500 S. Broadway St. for a two-day training session Dec. 12-13. The “Advanced Criminal Enforcement Interdiction Tactics” class costs \$279 per student. For more information, the website for Advanced Criminal Enforcement Interdiction Tactics is aceinterdiction.com.

Interested law enforcement professionals can also contact the Center Police Department to learn more about the training.

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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

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441 Lande • South Fork

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SOLD

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

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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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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 on walls with cathedral ceilings, wood floor, large bay windows, wood burning stove, propane rock fireplace, radiant floor heating and propane on demand Water system. This home has three heat sources to keep you warm and comfortable all winter long. Master bedroom has large his & her master walk-in closets and patio door leading out to the back deck. Perfect place to enjoy your hot morning cup of coffee. The master bath has a beautiful large walk-in tile shower and dual sinks. There are two additional nice size guest bedrooms for your company to stay and enjoy. The kitchen overlooks the living area with large eat in counter and plenty of counter space and lots of built-in cabinets. There is a butler pantry for extra storage that features a beautiful, frosted glass door. This is an outstanding property with abundant wildlife surrounded by national forest and BML land and close to the mighty Rio Grande River, Wolf Creek Ski area and the Rio Grande Golf Resort. There is numerous hiking, four wheeling, mountain biking trails in the area for you to have fun and explore! Don't miss this opportunity! Start your adventure! call/text me and schedule your personal showing today! 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
484 Conifer Drive • South Fork

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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 Rinnai on-demand water tanks. Light Touch lighting system and electrical in the floor. Master bedroom is on the main floor with sitting area with luscious mountain views. Master bath with beautiful large tiled walk-in shower. Guest bedroom and bath on main floor with elegant soaking antique tub. Upstairs spacious loft with two electronic skylights with rain sensors that will close automatically with additional sleeping areas including office space and additional large size bedroom with barn door and bath. Enjoy your 3-car garage with large workshop and more than enough room for all your mountain toys. Your family and friends will love the upstairs bungalow above the garage with kitchenette, living area, built-in beds additional bedroom and bath. Bring your family and friends to gather to enjoy the great outdoors! 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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