

Shorts



Voting ends Friday for 'Best of SLV'

VALLEY — Voting will continue through Friday for the 2022 "Best of the San Luis Valley" contest co-sponsored by the Valley Courier and Valley Publishing.

Hundreds of SLV businesses and organizations have been nominated and voted on in the past two weeks and winners will be announced in all publications on Oct. 26.

To vote, go to: <https://alamosavalleycourier.secondstreetapp.com>, or scan the accompanying QR code.

Meet-and-greet candidate barbecue

SAGUACHE — Saguache County GOP is having a meet-and-greet barbecue at 12 p.m. on Oct. 8 at Otto Mears Park, 525 7th St., Saguache, when the public can meet Saguache County GOP candidates. For more information, email sagctygp@gmail.com.

Kids Crane Festival returns to MV on Oct. 8

MONTE VISTA — Families with children are invited to attend the free Kids Crane Festival, Oct. 8 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge headquarters, 6120 Highway 15.

Come celebrate the return of the migrating Sandhill Cranes to the San Luis Valley. Outdoor activities at the Kids Crane Festival will center around an appreciation of birds and other wildlife. The migration game, crane origami, bird nest identification and owl pine cones are just a few of the activities on tap for the afternoon. A free lunch will be served at noon to children and their adult family members. Activities will begin at 12:30 p.m.

The Kids Crane Festival is hosted by the Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges. For more information about the festival, call 719-588-7007.

Plane tips over on Mineral County Airport runway

CREEDE — The Mineral County Sheriff's Office stated early Tuesday morning that a plane tipped over after landing on the Mineral County Airport's main runway but that there was not an actual crash of any significance. No injuries were reported.

Mosca and Hooper housing action plan presented to Alamosa BOCC

By LUKE LYONS

ALAMOSA — Willa Williford, a workforce housing consultant, presented the Mosca and Hooper Housing Action Plan to the Alamosa Board of County Commissioners during its regular meeting Wednesday, Sept. 28.

The housing and action plan is part of 13 similar action plans Williford has presented across the valley. Both Fort Garland and Blanca and Hooper and Mosca were coordinated together due to community size and

need.

The plan is geared toward expanding education and community outreach (including providing awareness *Please see PLAN on Page 6A*)

Willa Williford, a workforce housing consultant, gave a presentation to the Alamosa Board of County Commissioners on the Hooper and Mosca Housing plan during the commissioners' regular meeting held on Wednesday, Sept. 28, in Alamosa.

Screenshot



Art and food highlight harvest festival

By PATRICK SHEA

CENTER — Offering food for thought and food for lunch and dinner on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, the LOCAL! +

SCENARIA harvest celebration drew crowds to the Ford Motor Garage in Center and the Frontier Drive-Inn *Please see FESTIVAL on Page 4A*



Photo by Patrick Shea

The Folklorica dance group Semillas de la Tierra performed at the Ford Motor Garage in Center on Oct. 1, one of many events at the two-day harvest celebration called Local! + Scenaria.



Photo by Sandra Marquez

In addition to a French Fry Eating contest, harvest party participants at the Frontier Drive-Inn and Ford Motor Garage in Center enjoyed, films, dance, performances, food vendors, and live music on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

SLV counties to receive first round of opioid settlement funds

STAFF REPORT

VALLEY — Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser announced Thursday, Sept. 29, in a press release that the first round of funds from the opioid settlement money will be disbursed to several regions

and local governments.

The overall settlement is more than \$18 million and will be used to combat the opioid epidemic in Colorado.

In a meeting Thursday, the Colorado Opioid Abatement

Council determined the requests for funds that were compiled with approved uses in an agreement that 312 local governments signed and that outlines the ways the funds can be used. The council also asked the banking firm holding the funds to

send the funds to the local regions and governments.

"The release of these funds is an important step forward in our efforts to address the opioid crisis," said Weiser, the chair of the council,

Please see FUNDS on Page 2A

Garden tractor pull contest slowly approaching

By PATRICK SHEA

ALAMOSA COUNTY — Competitive garden tractor drivers will convene at the Del Monte Gun Club in Alamosa County on Oct. 15 to see who can pull a sled the farthest. Without exceeding 3 mph, drivers will try to cover as much ground as possible until they can't move forward anymore.

The contest continues a tradition that the San Luis Valley Antique Iron Club (SLVAIC) started more than 22 years ago.

"The first events we had were some tractor pulls at Ski Hi Park," noted club historian, bylaws writer, and active competitor Jim Clare. "We probably had 25 or 30 tractors," Clare added, emphasizing that people came from the Arkansas

Valley and other parts of Colorado to show off their antiques in action.

Today at the Del Monte Gun Club on Highway 160 between Monte Vista and Alamosa, Clare explained, "we try to have at least three major events on the track every year."

With 37 years experience working for the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (SLVREC) and 25 years as a volunteer firefighter, Clare also helped other organizations and was familiar with creating bylaws and assembling a board.

"I helped them put together bylaws and the procedures to become a 501(3)(c)," Clare said, noting how other members also contributed two decades ago. "Our main intent of becoming a 501(3)

Please see TRACTOR on Page 6A



Photos by Patrick Shea

A founding member of the San Luis Valley Antique Iron Club (SLVAIC), Jim Clare helped write the club's bylaws and will be at the Del Monte Gun Club on Oct. 15 for a garden tractor pull competition.

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OBITUARIES

John Michael 'Mike' Edwards

Homelake resident John Michael "Mike" Edwards, 73, died Sept. 25, 2022, at the Colorado State Veterans Center at Homelake.

Mike's life began in Amarillo, Texas, on Feb. 9, 1949, the son of John Edwards and Colette Drexler Edwards. He served his country in the United States Navy and was honorably discharged after his four years of service.

Mike was an artist and had a special talent with his hands. He worked with many different substrates including designing and cutting monuments, glass, and many others. He loved motorcycles and cars, especially his BMW motorcycle and his old Jeep.

He is survived by his siblings Colette (Mike) Walsh of Lake Tahoe, Nev., Jan Everett of Corrales, N.M., and Jim (Debbie) Edwards of Del Norte, Colo.; his nephews Michael, Lance, Josh, and Jarrett; his nieces Erin, Lea, Jamie, and Julie; his cousin John Wiley Davidson, whom he was very close with; as well as numerous extended family, and a host of friends.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents.



A visitation was held Monday, Oct. 3, 2022, from 5-7 p.m. at the Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista. A Funeral Service was held 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022, also at the Rogers Family Mortuary, 404 Morris St., Monte Vista. Interment will follow services with military honors in the Homelake Veterans Cemetery. Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes and words of comfort for Mike's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

Roland Eugene Martin

Roland Eugene Martin, born Feb. 20, 1930, and passed away Sept. 28, 2022. He was born in Topeka, Kan., to Smith and Opal (Lyon) Martin.

The family moved to Eads, Colo., and later to Waverly, Colo., during the dust bowl in the 30's. He graduated from Alamosa, Colo. Roland met the love of his life, Esther Mauth, and they married in 1950 in Raton, N.M.

They soon moved to Monte Vista, Colo., where Roland worked for the Public Service of Colorado. He retired after 35 years. He also was a volunteer fireman for 20 years.

Roland enjoyed camping, traveling, hunting, boating, and gardening. He also built five homes through the years. Roland and Esther raised two daughters. They were blessed with seven grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

They moved to Georgetown, Texas, in 2006 due to Esther's health. When she passed away in 2011, Roland moved to Kalona to live near his daughter. Esther and Roland were members of the Presbyterian Church.

He is survived by his daughters, Roleen Wright (Alan) and Mallie Campbell (Maurie), brother Lewis Martin, sister Esther May Curley; seven grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren.



Roland was preceded in death by his wife, Esther Martin, parents, Smith and Opal Martin, brother, Eldon Martin and sister, Oma Ringle.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022, at Gay and Ciha Funeral and Cremation Service, the service will be officiated by Rev. Dr. Maurie Campbell.

Memorial donations can be made in Roland's memory to the Tunnel of Towers Foundation (2361 Hylan Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10306) or to St. Jude Children's Hospital (501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105).

To share a thought, memory or condolence with his family, please visit Gay and Ciha Funeral and Cremation Service website at www.gayandciha.com.

YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO



Orionid meteors and Zodiacal Light

Since the new moon is on the 25th, this will be a great time for sky viewing. The Zodiacal Light is an interesting thing to look for. It occurs twice a year, and this time of year it's an early morning event. The Orionid meteor shower also occurs twice a year, and at this time of year it peaks on the 21st in the early morning. So, they're both morning events.

The Zodiacal Light is interesting because when you view it, you're looking edgewise into our solar system. It's sunlight reflecting off dust particles that move in the same plane as Earth and all the planets orbiting our Sun. In spring it appears in the evening, and this time of year it's visible in the morning.

You need to look in the east while the sky is still dark in the morning. It's visible all month and looks like a tall dim pyramid of light stretching

from our planet up into the sky. Even though it's as bright as the Milky Way, it's milkier in appearance. It could look like light coming from our next town over. Because we live so far south, it may look brighter.

Earth interacts with the orbital path of Halley's Comet twice each year. In early May, it's called the Eta Aquarids meteor shower. This time of year, when our planet crosses the comet again, it's called the Orionid meteor shower. Each time our planet plows through dust and cookie crumb size debris, boiled off the comet during its multi trip through our solar system, we are treated to an awesome sight.

The debris strikes our atmosphere around 148,000 mph, which causes these fragments to flare into meteors. Since the moon is so small this time of year, they're going to be great to view. They peak midnight to dawn, but you will most likely only see 15 meteors

per hour. In past years I've gotten up early and went outside to view them. They're wonderful to look at!

It starts in the ENE at 10:30 p.m. and reaches its peak at 5:30 a.m. The constellation Orion rises early morning, and they will be just to the left of that constellation. But they do shoot across the sky. The best days to view them will be Oct. 20, 21, and 22. That's when they will have 20 per hour. They occur from Oct. 2 until Nov. 7, but the peak is Oct. 21. They usually come in spurts and then quiet down for awhile. So go out during the night and have a great time viewing them!

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Sept. 26 and Oct. 2, 2022.

Multiple traffic citations included 10 speeding tickets (\$1,855 in potential fines) and two summons to appear for driving while license under restraint. Staff also handled four crashes (one a hit-and-run),

a stolen vehicle, and one REDDI Report (Report Every Drunk Driver Immediately).

In addition to helping other agencies, the sheriff and deputies assisted four motorists, patrolled Crestone twice and Saguache four times, conducted two welfare checks, and assisted with three ambulance rides. They monitored 10 controlled burns and helped put out a fire in

Villa Grove.

Staff managed one animal problem and multiple human problems — assault, disorderly conduct, two thefts, trespassing, and criminal mischief.

ARRESTS

• A 36-year-old Hooper man was arrested for third-degree assault and criminal mischief.

FUNDS

Continued from Page 1A

in the release.

"This crisis continues to take a toll on Coloradans. We will continue working with our regional opioid abatement councils and local governments as they work together toward a better future for all Coloradans."

Alamosa, Saguache, Mineral, Rio Grande, Conejos and Costilla counties (Region 18) will receive \$187,000. Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt, Jackson and Grand counties will receive \$357,809.

Funding can be requested each year for the next 18 years and 12 of Colorado's 19 regions chose

to request funds during the first period.

Regions that have not yet requested funds can request funding on Nov. 1 and Dec. 15. After the first of each year, funding requests are due by September.

"This process and funding have brought groups together with renewed energy to serve individuals, families, and this at-risk population," said Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske, member of the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council, in a release.

"I can foresee the impact on the San Luis Valley region, from

bringing back prevention education to our youth to creating recovery and treatment options for the community, and I am excited to see what it does for the state."

For more information about the council, go to coag.gov/opioids. To view more information about the funding requests and regions, please visit the Colorado opioid settlement funds framework dashboard at coag.gov/opioids/dashboard.

NEW ARRIVAL

Trey Jordan Barbosa

Parents Jaclyn Kelly Barbosa and Jordan Barbosa of Monte Vista are proud to announce the birth of Trey Jordan Barbosa on Sept. 14, 2022, at San Luis Valley Health in Alamosa. Trey weighed 7 pounds and 15 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Trey was welcomed home by

brother Cliff West Barbosa.

Maternal grandparents are Kathy West and Karry Shreeve of Alamosa.

Paternal grandparents are Cliff and Terri Barbosa of Monte Vista.

Great-grandparents are Phil and Gaynell West and Ernest and Jennie Samora.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

The good, the bad and the ugly

You don't need to be a Clint Eastwood aficionado to recognize that old movie title. "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly" pitted three desperados against one another looking for some lost Civil War gold. It had an iconic and unmistakable music track, too, that often is heard as a ringtone.

Every time Ol' Dutch hears those identifying notes, it makes me want to strap on my six shooter and ride out across some trackless expanse to rescue some poor soul in dire straits. Which means that I sit in my chair and daydream since my six shooter is rusty, my horse died, and they built an interstate highway across the desert.

Now as good as that movie is, this column today is a kind of a takeoff to that as Ol' Dutch has seen a bit of each in the past few weeks.

One really does not have to look far to see a lot of "Good" in the world and this past month I saw plenty of that which culminated in the Grandkids coming out to Colorado to camp. And yes Ol' Dutch did survive his own first real camping experiences just fine albeit with plenty of grumbling and growling around. I figured if I was going to find out if a bear pooped in the woods and follow suit, I might as well growl around like a big stinky ornery one as well. The weather was perfect although a little cold in the mornings and evenings and many memories were made to be cherished by all.

Being in the woods for a month left Ol' Dutch little time to peruse the Internet as usual and I sure came up short on the latest news about Harry and Meghan, Arnold and Maria and Jennifer Aniston. But I did somehow get an email that promised to show me what all the rich and famous look like without makeup. And let me tell you it was "Bad."

I don't mean to really dig into them here but a good share of the people I have seen on television or in movies would not be recognizable without makeup and glitzy clothes. Some would border on being just quite plain in appearance and I can see why they divorce so often as sooner or later their gorgeous partner sees them sans their warpaint and it all goes downhill from there.

Divorce court has to revolve around the claims of false advertising by the woman at that point and it gets bad from then on. Thinking back on things around here I have to admit I am not sure I have ever seen Miss Trixie without her makeup, so I am not sure what I bought into long term here either.

All that talk about the "Good"



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

and the "Bad" leaves us only the "Ugly" to talk about and the older I get the more I seem to be exposed to a form of that most experienced in association with older folks.

It used to be when someone asked about your health all you had to say was "I don't feel so well." At which juncture the other person could say something about that's too bad and that they would pray for you. And then you could talk about something else.

But somehow that has all changed and now if you are foolish enough to ask — and, oftentimes not ask — you will get a complete rendition of their ails, ills and test results, diagnosis, prognosis and medicine lists. And more than likely you will also get to see the latest scar from surgery on some old wrinkled skin that you cannot unsee, ever.

Somehow, we are now privy to information about people's hearts and circulation, blood pressure, diseases and bowel issues in off the cuff conversations that cannot be obtained even by court order due to HIPAA regulations. And having brought that up I think that maybe it would be a good idea that the listener have some form that they could sign to keep from hearing all that from the sufferer of such maladies. Kind of a reverse HIPAA. But that will only work so far as these same folk post it on Facebook for all to see and if you are their friend there you are gonna get the latest and greatest on their goiter and thyroid issues, too.

I guess there is not much I can do about all that at this point, but I do believe I will take Miss Trixie on a Caribbean vacation, schedule a snorkeling expedition and maybe get to see her without her makeup. I will keep you posted on the outcome of that.

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.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October was first proclaimed as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 1989. Since then, October has been a time to acknowledge domestic violence survivors and be a voice for those who may be experiencing it. Domestic violence is prevalent in every community, and affects all people regardless of age, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality.

Every October, Tu Casa, Inc. joins with its partners, supporters, and allies across the country to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). From August 2021 to August 2022, Tu Casa, Inc. has served 285 clients: 192 of which were provided services through Tu Casa and 93 of which were provided services through the SLV CAC.

Tu Casa, Inc. encourages everyone to get involved and help raise awareness about domestic violence. We have seen the power each and every one of us have in making a difference by bringing awareness to domestic violence. This year you can participate by getting involved with the #Weareresilient. This is the official hashtag for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence's DVAM activities, a campaign to "Recognize Our Resilience". Tu Casa, Inc. also hopes to spread awareness by asking

staff and the community to wear purple every Friday in the month of October. The color purple has been nationally recognized as the symbolic color to show support for those who have experienced domestic violence and let them know that help is available for themselves and their families. We encourage you to ask co-workers, friends, and family members to join Tu Casa, Inc. in this month's activities in order to start conversations about domestic violence.

Tu Casa, Inc. invites everyone to our 2nd Annual 'Light up the Night' event on Oct. 14, at 6:30 p.m. under the West pavilion in Cole Park, Alamosa. This event is free to attendees and works to honor victims, survivors, those who have passed, and anyone who has been affected by domestic violence. Refreshments will be served while you are provided with an opportunity to mingle and learn about resources within our community and at Tu Casa, Inc. We will start the ceremony at 6:30 p.m. with a warm welcoming introduction and guest speakers from our community and partners. We will take time to drop flowers in the river with a moment of silence and a performance by the ASU percussion group in honor of the survivors in the San Luis Valley. The night's event will culminate with a candlelight vigil to light up the night and an opportunity

for anyone who wants to share their stories or experience. Attendees are encouraged to take photos and participate in the activities.

Throughout October you can stay updated on events and activities by following our Facebook: www.facebook.com/TuCasaInc and Instagram: www.instagram.com/slvucasa/ pages. We also request that you share photos of how you are raising awareness about this topic and tag us!

Domestic Violence can no longer be ignored; we must work together to raise awareness and to end violence. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, call the Tu Casa, Inc. 24-hour hotline at 719-589-2465. If you would like to make a donation in honor of those who have been impacted by abuse, visit our website at www.slvucasa.net, and click on the link to donate. If you are interested in volunteering with our agency or would like more information about events, contact us at 719-589-2465.

Tu Casa, Inc., which houses Tu Casa and the Children's Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley (SLV CAC), is a non-profit agency that works to empower children and adults to live healthy, violence-free lives throughout the San Luis Valley. All services are free, confidential, and available in English and Spanish.

LETTER

Help restore law and order, vote Anne Kelly for DA

Editor,

As a lifelong law abiding citizen it has been very frustrating to watch the 12th Judicial District Attorney's office degrade to a nonfunctioning entity. It has been on the decline for several election cycles as most of the candidates ran unopposed in the general election.

With the election of Alonzo Payne, the office closed its door to law enforcement and the community that it was supposed to serve and protect. It then opened the exit door to the criminals that were attacking the community. It became necessary (for our survival) to recall Mr. Payne. With the help of the State Attorney General, the process went a little faster and Mr. Payne resigned. His incompetency was later proven by his disbarment.

I must admit that when I read that a lawyer from Boulder had been appointed to attempt to clean up this mess, I was a little skeptical. After all, I always felt that the rise of liberalism that is weakening our laws in Colorado originated somewhere near Boulder and the CU law school. When it was

decided that filling the vacant DA's position required an election this cycle, I thought we were still in deep trouble. At the time I was also reading articles about the trials and tribulations of our previous DA Robert Willett. He was replaced by Mr. Payne by his own party in the primary election two years ago. To further diminish a bad situation Mr. Willett managed to get on the ballot to replace Alonzo Payne. Wow, we are in trouble! How can we restore law and order in the San Luis Valley if the previous DA is disgraced out of office and the guy, he beat in the last election wants back in? We cannot allow the George Soros view of crime to continue!

Just as things looked very bleak two events happened. First, I attended an event where I was able to meet and visit with Anne Kelly who I would bet, like myself, many of you were unaware of who she was. She is currently trying to clean up the disaster left in the DA's office by previous District Attorneys and restore the responsible prosecution of criminals. She is also the Republican

candidate for District Attorney. Next, I read the two-part interview in the Valley Courier which highlighted her distinguished career. Wow, it's been a long time since we have had a DA candidate with that much of a commitment to law and order! This lady cares about crime victims and fair prosecution of criminals.

In my opinion the most important action that the citizens of the 12th Judicial District can do to preserve the San Luis Valley is to elect Kelly as District Attorney in November. We will then need to apply pressure on our County Commissioners to fund the office so it can be adequately staffed and effective. After that is accomplished we will need to monitor and vote out the judges who continue to be soft on bail and criminal sentencing.

Again, everyone, please help restore law and order to our Valley and vote for Kelly. If crimes like theft and domestic abuse are allowed to continue to rage out of control, you or your family may be the next victim!

Mike Mitchell, Monte Vista

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FESTIVAL Continued from Page 1

outside of town. Presentations celebrated agriculture and culture through film, music, dance, multimedia, unique architecture, and a French Fry Eating contest.

Event organizers combined sound systems at the Frontier Drive-Inn to showcase music and film. On Friday, a multimedia artist from New Mexico known as Tone Ranger combined a visual display of his work on-screen while he mixed multiple instruments and sound. The Moonshadow Marauders took the stage before the French Fry Eating competition, a trio of vocalists with percussion, guitar, and an accordion.

North of the stage and screen, Ron Rael discussed the "Skylos" he built using a robot, adobe, and helping hands. He showed off the robot in action during the Frontier Drive-Inn preview this summer, but the finished structures quietly gave viewers a glimpse of the heavens this weekend. Rael's structures look like silos from the outside, yet the clear space within smaller rooms open up to the sky.

On Saturday, Rael joined a panel discussion at the Ford Motor Garage to field questions and describe other projects. A native Valley artist and University of California at Berkeley professor, Rael said his "Skylos hold the sky and connect us to the earth."

Moderating the presentation, Eric Carpio from the Fort Garland Museum introduced the panel. Emma Reesor, Executive Director of the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project, described the challenge of removing more than 600 tires, car bodies, and washing machines from the Alamosa River. Reesor also plugged the group's annual fundraiser called Rio Reels. Starting at 6 p.m. on Oct. 28, the film festival will take place live at the Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista and online as well —

riograndeheadwaters.org/rio-reels.

Representing the Rio Grande Farm Park, Jesus Flores spoke in Spanish. Participants had printouts with translated text from his presentation, but Erica Maldonado took translation a step further. Maldonado handed out headphones to participants, and she stood at the back of the room to translate every presentation — English to Spanish and Spanish to English.

A "place-based storyteller," Christi Bode showed a two-minute teaser from the full-length "Farm to Faucet" movie displayed on-screen at the Frontier Drive-Inn after dark. Bode's film begins with a suggestion to look away from what the river can provide and concentrate on how people will share the water instead.

Sarah Jones rounded out the panel with the lessons she and her husband have learned through their organic farming practices. Now entering a fifth generation of farming, the Jones family manages seven circles or roughly 1,000 acres. They devote about 300 acres to cash crops, including more than 14 varieties of potatoes.

Jones emphasized how spuds can be tough in soil yet ensuring revenue while resting fields can be a challenge. Cover crops don't cover bills and investing in boutique species can be a gamble. Jones said they have taken a measured approach by checking with chefs in Denver and Boulder first to confirm an interest in their heirloom grains and other crops.

After the panel discussion concluded, most of the crowd stepped outside the Ford Motor Garage to order food from Erica Enriquez, the 2022 Dish SLV Cookoff winner. In addition to winning \$1,000 this summer, Enriquez is testing the waters for selling her food on a larger scale.



Designed by Valley native artist and University of California at Berkeley professor Ron Rael, "Skylos" demonstrate how structures built using a robotic adobe construction process can look like silos while offering a clear view of the night sky.



Photos by Patrick Shea

On top of food, music, and dance, the Local! + Scenaria two-day harvest festival featured art displays at the Ford Motor Garage in Center.

Matthew Martinez
 Democrat for State Representative




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RG Headwaters Land Trust preserving San Luis Valley

By DIANE DREKMAN DEL NORTE — The Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust is an organization working to preserve the way of life in the San Luis Valley. Established in 1999, this non-profit land trust protects working farms and ranches as well as river systems and wildlife habitat through conservation easements that keep the land and water intact for future generations. It is the only land grant that services all the counties in San Luis Valley.

The Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust partners with private landowners to create a conservation easement, which is a voluntary legal agreement that protects the land forever.

The purpose of a conservation easement is to support and keep working ranches and farms intact and wildlife habitat protected. The conservation easement states that a landowner cannot subdivide the land or sell the water rights.

Both need to be protected to preserve the whole ecosystem, beneficial to wildlife and agriculture. The landowner retains 100% ownership and is ensured that the property will continue to be used for agriculture for future generations.

Each conservation easement is different, in a way that would be most beneficial to the landowner. The easements are paid for by grants. An example of their work is Crowther Meadows Ranch outside of Manassa. This 160-acre ranch is a haven for birds and other wildlife because of its marshes. The ranch is also used for hay production and grazing.

The Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust is focusing on protecting the Conejos and Rio Grande rivers' (riparian) systems.

The Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust is for and about the community. They offer workshops for landowners and business owners to learn more



Photo by Diane Drekmann

The Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust held its annual Hoedown and Cornhole Tournament Throwdown on Oct. 1 at the Colorado Farm Brewery outside Alamosa.

about conservation easements and other conservation issues, like water and sustainable farming. The Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust realizes the importance of getting children involved.

Board member Steve Russell says, "We provide hands-on activities for children, like planting willows, to get children involved. They don't know about the land. Being involved, the children learn more about their land and Valley."

The hope is by teaching and engaging children in real-life activities, they gain an appreciation and sense of ownership of their way of life. Children go to sheep farms to learn about wool. They collect water samples and learn about water systems.

The Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust has events throughout the year to connect with the community. The Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust held its annual Hoedown and Cornhole Tournament Throwdown on Oct. 1 at the Colorado Farm Brewery outside Alamosa.

The brewery are big supporters of the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust and has a large outdoor venue to hold the event.

The Colorado Farm Brewery is unique. The brewery does every process of brewing onsite, from growing the hops on the land settled 80 years earlier to selling the beer at their restaurant onsite.

There was fun for all-cornhole tournament, rousing music by Wood Belly, delicious beers, and sausage, loaded fries, and a scavenger treasure hunt for the children.

The Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust has its headquarters in Del Norte but serves and welcomes board members from all counties and all walks of life. The trust continues to work to protect working ranches, farms, water, and wildlife in the San Luis Valley.

To become a board member, volunteer, give donations, or more information about the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, call 719-657-0800 or go to the website, riograndelandtrust.org.

Homecoming 2022 Monte Vista Pirates

October 3-8, 2022
Theme - MVHS Hall Of Horrors

- Monday 10/3:**
Dress Up Day: Dress Your Theme
2-4 pm: Hall Decorating
JV Football against Del Norte
- Tuesday 10/4:**
Dress Up Day: Sorority/Fraternity Days
2-4 p.m. Banners, Videos & Peach Volleyball
6:30 p.m. Powder Puff & Coronation (Underclass)
- Wednesday 10/5:**
Dress Up Day: Tough Enough to Wear Pink
2-4 p.m. Tug of War, Dodgeball, Fear Factor
Float Decorating 4-6 p.m.
7 p.m. Bonfire & Pep Rally
- Thursday 10/6:**
Pirate Pride
12:15-2pm-Float Decorating
2:00 Parade Lineup/Parade at 3:00 p.m.
Route: 1st and Adams, down to second, over to Davis and into the high school parking lot. Auditorium dedication after the parade at Bill Metz Elementary
Dance Decorating @ 4p.m.
- Friday 10/7:**
Dance Decorating @ 10am
Football vs. Trinidad @ 6:00pm
Coronation @ halftime King/Queen
- Saturday 10/8:**
Volleyball @ Sangre a.m.
Dance @ 8:00pm (MVHS)
Mandatory cleanup @ 11pm

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PAGE TO REGISTER

PLAN

Continued from Page 1A

of housing resources available throughout the community); improving existing housing inventory; creating new rental properties; building new homes for sale; and improving infrastructure for future land use and development.

The plan can be implemented by the county, used as guidance or not used at all.

"This is part of a Valley-wide effort, that's been led by Dawn Melgares and SLVHC looking throughout the whole valley," said Alamosa Land Use and Building Director Richard Hubler as he introduced Williford to the board. "This is where we have the most opportunity working with housing."

Williford presented a PowerPoint that outlined the housing plan. Headed by SLVHC, the plan calls for five newly built or rehabilitated homes; five to 10 newly built rental units; building one to two homes for sale in which the price range would be \$125,000 to \$200,000; and the identification of areas where future

development could take place.

The timeline for these goals is roughly three to five years.

Williford said creating new housing opportunities can attract employees and younger people, thus helping spur the economy in Hooper, Mosca and beyond.

"Many of the employers in the community have an urgent need around housing to attract and retain employees," Williford said. "Across the valley, we identified we're about 2,000 housing units short. That economic vibrancy is very much tied into our housing inventory and retaining our younger demographic."

Hubler went on to say that while the plan shows five to 10 new rental units would be built, he hopes that number can be exceeded.

He said there is a property owner in Mosca interested in development who could play a role in building more.

"Five to 10 was the goal we set but my hope is to exceed that especially

if I can convince the property owner who wants to build in Mosca to build a couple of duplexes," he said. "In a really pipe-dream world, maybe the USDA would build a housing project. But that's their land and their choice."

One concern brought up by Alamosa County Commissioner Chair Michael Yohn was the lack of infrastructure in both communities, but especially in Mosca.

Yohn pointed out that water, and other municipal services, were lacking. He said that if housing was created to bring in more residents to these areas, these issues would have to be addressed.

"I think the next big thing on the agenda is going to be drinking water," he said. "If you continue to raise the population there, it's going to have to be addressed."

Hubler agreed and said he, too, has put thought into improving infrastructure there.

"The long-term goal probably ought to include at least a community

sewer," Hubler said. "I think a community water system would be excellent if you can control and manage the discharge from the sewer so you're impacting whatever wells you have there."

"That's the first win and to me the lowest hanging fruit."

Alamosa County Administrator Roni Wisdom said that it would make sense financially to look at infrastructure grant funding that will be available.

"I really hope we would use some of this to help Mosca put in the rest of their wastewater treatment system and look at getting some sort of water system there," she said. "Ten percent local match is a lot but it's not much for something like this. I think it makes a lot of sense for us to really look at that."

Wisdom also brought up that many people drive back and forth between Hooper and Mosca and Alamosa.

She said it would benefit families to live closer to where their children go

to school and where they're working.

"Mosca has always been a really tight-knit community that takes care of their people," she said. "I think if we can figure how to work this out, it makes a lot of sense."

Wisdom said that she hopes Alamosa County would certainly help Hooper, which she said has a lot less support with infrastructure.

"The town of Hooper does not have the capacity to do anything like this, they just don't," Wisdom said. "If we could work with the COG and help them with a grant writer, I'd like to see Alamosa County help them," Wisdom said. "I think they're going to need us, dare I say as the big brother helping them along," Wisdom said.

The commissioners agreed that local governments in both communities should be included in further conversations. The board can now decide what it wishes to do with the study and plan, whether that means it adopts the plan or uses it to develop a different plan.

TRACTOR

Continued from Page 1A

(c)," Clare continued, "was to maybe start a museum somewhere."

The veteran competitor and restoration enthusiast said the group hopes to fence off an outdoor display on the empty lot across from the Rio Grande County Museum in Del Norte. SLVAIC has previously displayed farm implements in the museum, and Clare family artifacts are on display at the Saguache County Museum as well.

The Del Monte Gun Club is a designated recreational park area in Alamosa County. In addition to shooting facilities, the park includes the SLVAIC pull track with spectator seating and tillage equipment and thrashing machines on display.

"We're hoping to get quite a few people to show up," Clare anticipated. Separated into at least eight weight classes, the old equipment must be manufactured before 1960 to qualify. Clare said entry into the world of competitive pulling is lower for garden tractors. "We're trying to get more FFA [Future Farmers of America] and 4-H kids involved."

One of at least four clubs in Colorado, SLVAIC meets once a month at the Colorado Potato



Using their facility with bleachers and antiques at the Del Monte Gun Club, the San Luis Valley Antique Iron Club (SLVAIC) will host a garden tractor pull competition on Oct. 15.

Administration Council (CPAC) office next to Safeway in Monte Vista. Dating back to the group's roots, renovating old equipment to honor antiquity is as much a part of SLVAIC as the competitions and museum curation. Newcomers are welcome to stop by the CPAC office at 7:30 on Oct. 5 to learn more about the club and upcoming events.

Clare recalled having more than 100 spectators for competitions at Ski Hi Park in the past, yet he also added, "Some of the wives say it's kind of like watching the grass grow. But an old farmer will say, 'I was raised on one of those.'"

Tractor pulls and drag races are exact opposites. Before most of the two-car duels at the Center

Drag Races on Leach Air Field in Saguache County this summer, racers spun out their tires before reaching the start line. Tractor pullers, on the other hand, hit their finish line when their tires spin out and they're basically stuck.

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Winning the Battle in Your Mind

If you have received Christ as your Savior, then you have an enemy. Did you know that? I know some people feel uncomfortable talking about the devil, but he is real and it's important for us to face the truth about him so we can have a victorious life in Christ.

Now, we don't need to be afraid of him because as believers in Jesus, the Holy Spirit who lives in us is greater than our enemy in the world (1 John 4:4). But we can't ignore the enemy's attacks and overcome him. And the Word of God tells us how to "fight the good fight of the faith" (1 Timothy 6:12 NIV) using the weapon of the Word.

We Are in a War
Ephesians 6:12 says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." And 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 says, "The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

There is a battle raging and the battlefield is the mind. That's why it is critical for us to learn how to renew our minds with the weapon of God's Word.

Romans 12:2 exhorts us to "not be conformed to this world...but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind..." (AMPC). The Word of God is the most powerful thing on the earth, and if we will really learn the truth in it, then the power of the Word will literally transform our lives by "demolishing strongholds" in our minds.

Know Your Enemy
The Bible teaches us that the devil "is a liar [himself] and the father of lies" (John 8:44 AMPC). He comes

against us by bombarding our minds with cleverly devised patterns of nagging thoughts that lead to suspicion, doubt, fear, reasoning and theories that refute the truth of God's Word. When these thoughts get rooted in our minds, then we have strongholds that give the enemy control.

A stronghold is an area where the enemy entrenches himself and takes control. So when the Bible talks about strongholds in our mind, it's referring to areas where the enemy has become entrenched in our thoughts, causing us to believe something that's absolutely not true, but because we believe it's true, it has become a reality for us.

Before I learned about being transformed by the renewing of my mind according to God's Word, I believed things that weren't true, and they created a mess in my life. I remember thinking things like, "Nobody cares about me or loves me. Nothing good is going to happen in my life, so I might as well not expect anything good. I'm always going to have a second-class life because I was abused by my father and I'm damaged goods."

It's taken years of diligently studying God's Word and prayer, but God has set me free from those strongholds and I have come to the place where I can live in His righteousness, peace and joy every day. And like John 8:32 says, the truth has set me free!

Wield Your Sword
Let's go back to Ephesians 6. Verses 12-18 tell us who our enemy is and that we need to put on the armor of God so we can stand our ground and resist him. Verse 17 says to "take the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God" (AMPC).

So how do we "wield the Word"? It's simple: When we hear the Word, speak the Word, meditate on the Word and sing praises from the Word of God, we are doing spiritual warfare. And as



we study the Word, it becomes a filter in our mind that reveals the lies of the enemy and gives us the truth. That's why the devil will do everything he can to distract us from spending time with God and studying the Word.

I want to encourage you today to make a determined decision to keep your relationship with God and His Word your number one priority. Look up every scripture you can find about renewing the mind, then meditate on those scriptures and say them out loud. Ask God to reveal any strongholds in your mind and help you tear them down with His Word. Then, when the enemy comes against you, you won't be deceived. And like me, your testimony will be: Thank You, God! Your Truth has set me free!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's CD audiobook *Battlefield of the Mind*. 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 *THE POWER OF THANK YOU* (FaithWords). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

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

San Luis Valley Scoreboard 2022-2023

FOOTBALL

Sierra Grande 67	
.....Sangre de Cristo	0
Mancos 60Sargent 6
Centauri 54Center 0
Alamosa 28La Junta 20
Mountain Valley 57	
.....Miami-Yoder	0
Dove Creek 50Sanford 8
Monte Vista 52Del Norte 6

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Center School District Annual Open House



Courtesy photos
Center school's annual open house was held on Wednesday, Sept. 28, and was a success. There was a great turnout of families, students, and community organizations, school district officials noted. Families were treated to a barbecue dinner, listened to music provided by DJ Jose Villagomez from Adams State, had the chance to get to know Center teachers and staff a little better, and received information on available resources and opportunities. Part of Center's district work is focused on continuing to strengthen positive relationships with families and the community as we work together to provide our students with the best educational experience possible. Research shows that when schools and systems are co-created and designed with all members of the families and

communities they represent, better outcomes, public trust, and innovation all result. To this end, the district is working on the development of its graduate profile. During the Open House, families had the chance to provide feedback on this process and share their input on their hopes and dreams for Center graduates. The night concluded with a raffle, thanks to the generous contributions of local businesses.

Recycle unused paint at drop-off event in Saguache on Nov. 8

CONTRIBUTED
 PaintCare is having a free one-day paint drop-off event for Saguache County from 2 to 6 p.m. on Nov. 8 at Town of Saguache Community Building, 525 7th St., Saguache.

Households and businesses can drop off unused paint for recycling. Households may bring any amount of paint, stain, and or varnish. Limits may apply to businesses. The event will be held rain or shine.

PaintCare will accept unwanted house paint and primers (latex or oil-based); stains; deck and concrete sealers; and clear finishes (varnish and shellac). Paint must be in sealed, original containers with the original manufacturer's label.

PaintCare cannot accept leaking, unlabeled, or empty containers; aerosol spray paints; drums or containers larger than five gallons;

hazardous waste or other chemicals, such as paint thinner, solvents, motor oil, spackle, glue, adhesive, roofing tar, pesticides, or cleaning chemicals. Paint in good condition will be made immediately available to the public for free at this event.

For more information, visit www.paintcare.org/states/colorado/. To register, visit online <https://paint-saguache.eventbrite.com>.
 Business limits: To use the PaintCare program for oil-based paint, a business must qualify as an exempt generator under federal and any similar state hazardous waste generator rules. Visit www.paintcare.org/VSQG, for more information on exempt generator rules. If your business does not qualify as an exempt generator, it will not be able to use the program for oil-based paint, but it can still use the program for latex products.

NOTICE OF ELECTION
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and particularly to the electors of the San Luis Valley Irrigation District in Alamosa, Rio Grande and Saguache Counties, Colorado.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on Tuesday, the 6th day of December, 2022, between the hours of 8:00 o'clock a.m. and 6:00 o'clock p.m. At that time, one (1) Director for Division I will be elected to serve one (1) 3-year term, and one (1) Director at Large will be elected to serve one (1) 3-year term.
 Nomination petitions are available from:
 Amy S. Dean, District Secretary
 296 Miles Street
 Center, Colorado 81125
amy@slvid.org
 Nomination petitions must be filed no later than Friday, the 4th day of November, 2022, and no earlier than Friday, October 21, 2022.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that applications for absent voter's ballots may be filed with the Secretary of the District at the above address not earlier than forty-five days (Friday, the 21st day of October, 2022) before the election, not later than 4:00 o'clock p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election (Friday, the 3rd of December, 2022).
 San Luis Valley Irrigation District
 By s/s Amy S. Dean
 No. 1648 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, October 6, 2022.

Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

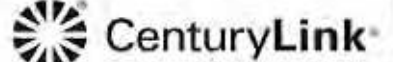
The Colorado Public Utilities Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$28.50 per month and business services are \$41.00 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in the Lifeline program, which makes residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers may qualify for Lifeline discounts of \$5.25/month for voice or bundled voice service or \$9.25/month for qualifying broadband or broadband bundles. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to qualify.

CenturyLink also participates in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides eligible households with a discount on broadband service. The ACP provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

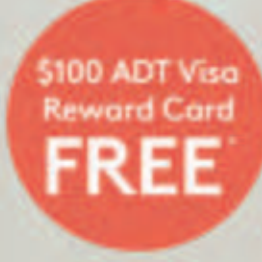
For both programs, a household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Services are not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in these programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain these discounts can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from these programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit <https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html> for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.



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 DF-CD-NP-Q421

Small business focus of URGED annual dinner

By MARIE MCCOLM

DEL NORTE — Small business was the focus of Upper Rio Grande Economic Development's annual dinner on Tuesday, Sept. 27, at the Windsor Hotel in Del Norte.

Tony Gagliardi, who is the Colorado State Director of the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB), was the featured speaker.

Gagliardi spoke of how small business and big businesses were different in the scale of the economy. He said small businesses pay out a lot more in tax than big businesses, adding that when a small business opens, they are already in the hole money wise.

Gagliardi said personal tax breaks are much more important to small businesses than big businesses.

NFIB can help small businesses work through these challenges and more.

"The founder of NFIB recognized that large businesses have someone to speak on their behalf, but small businesses didn't have that, and there was no organized platform to give them representation, that is how the NFIB was developed," he said. "Our membership today covers right around 300,000 members. In Colorado, we have between 6,200 and 6,500 members. If there is one thing I can't stress enough, is a one-size-fits-all rule, regulation or tax, it does not help mainstream, it does harm to mainstream, for all of these reasons that's why we became the voice for small businesses. The number one issue for small businesses, is affordable health care for employers."

Gagliardi also spoke about various statistics in small businesses and how the NFIB is doing extensive research to help small businesses in many different areas.

Mike Hurst, the President of the Del Norte Bank, was the first speaker of the night. He spoke about the history URGED.

"Back around 2004 a group of us realized that there was a great value of communication when Red McCombs was trying to form 'The Village at Wolf Creek,'" Hurst said. "There was a loud conservation movement, but it wasn't a very balanced discussion. We formed Upper Rio Grande Economic Development to counterbalance that heavy effort that they were putting forth. We did that for a long time."

Hurst said communication has always been at the core of URGED and was spotlighted even more recently by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"What we learned was, one of the most valuable things that was happening was our own interaction

with each other," Hurst said. "After the last two years, I think we can all appreciate that this lack of connectivity, that there is cost attached to that. We really started communicating, the towns were talking to each other, and the towns were all coordinating. We looked at it and decided wow this is so great, lets hire somebody to direct it."

Hurst said getting people on board was just the beginning.

"We went to about 20 organizations and said, 'We would like to put some real muscle on this little organization we have; would you put up some real money,'" Hurst said. "One hundred percent of them said yes, not one said this is too much money, and they were big checks."

"So, then we started really doing the economic development and talk about a thankless job. So many of the successes that have happened over the years, you can't talk about them, with legislators, with town councils, with working out the mechanizations with this stuff we call business, out of sight, to make things work."

Hurst said the group looked at what was important for people — housing and jobs.

"That is our mission to talk about ways to make more jobs, more housing available, for the west end of the Valley," Hurst said.

Local Senator Cleve Simpson also spoke at the dinner. Simpson talked about the districts that he covers, and how economic circumstances have affected some of the areas.

Simpson gave some examples of how populations reduced due to economic circumstances, and how some other development areas have been affected.

"I have switched from representing Senate District 35, now I represent Senate District 6, the San Luis Valley and everything west," Simpson said. "We are in a water security challenge where our demands exceed our supplies. Challenging times are in front of us, and the impact these challenges have on folks, it's tangible how we deal with this. I have been really vocal about how irrigated agriculture is going to change. If we are thoughtful, engaged and very deliberate about it, there will be an incremental change, if not a fundamental change."

Simpson represents Crowley County in the Arkansas Valley and said they have gone from a community that had 50,000 irrigated acres in the 1970's and early 80's of sugar beets and alfalfa, and because of pressures and economic circumstances it really crashed the sugar beet market and folks there.

"I know the choices they made," Simpson said. "They chose to sell an abundance of their water to municipal interests in the Denver metro area. So today instead of 50,000 acres they have 5,000 acres."

He encouraged people to "pay attention" to what happens in the Colorado River system.

"What happens in the Colorado River will eventually impact us here as well," Simpson said. "I talk about water all the time, but there are so many other issues that are so important as well, like ag, water, economic issues, the list just goes on and on."

Simpson concluded by saying, "It's been a passion of mine to figure out

how to keep our communities, and our economies, and our cultures whole. The San Luis Valley is a place for solar energy."

Simpson said that there will also be a discussion at the Alamosa County Commissioners office, regarding the opportunity for more solar development in Colorado.

Get out there and Capture Your Fall Scenery!!

Fall in the San Luis Valley means leaves are changing colors everywhere!

Valley Publishing would love to see your pictures of any scenery displaying Fall. The top 3 photos will be printed in our papers. Winners will get a T-shirt, a tumbler, and a year-long digital subscription to your paper of choice. Submit photos from Sept. 22 to Oct. 22. Winners will be announced on Nov. 9.

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Photo by Lori Nagel

Crestone Studio Tour artists jumping in anticipation.

Sanford Elementary receives National Blue Ribbon award

BY DIANE DREKMANN

SANFORD — Sanford Elementary was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School — one of only four schools in Colorado to receive the honor.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program is an integral part of the U.S. Department of Education. The program recognizes excellence in traditional and non-traditional schools for other schools to emulate and create better schools.

The program looks at several criteria: school excellence, schools that underwent positive change, and schools that were able to close the subgroup achievement gap — in other words — a school where minorities and disadvantaged students achieve the same education goals as schools with more resources.

Sanford Elementary closed the subgroup achievement gap, according to Principal Dena Jaminet.

“The students were all achieving the same education goals at the same rate despite a large population of at risk and Title 1 (free and reduced lunch) students,” she said.

Out of 400 nominees, 297 schools from across the nation were chosen for the Blue Ribbon status. Each school will be honored in Washington, DC at an awards ceremony and presented



Photo by Diane Drekmann

Sanford Elementary was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School — one of only four schools in Colorado to receive the honor.

with a plaque and flag to proudly show their commitment to excellence.

Sanford School District Superintendent Kevin Edgar, who is the brother of North Conejos School District Superintendent Darren Edgar, and Principal Jaminet will travel to Washington, DC in November to accept the award.

What makes Sanford Elementary successful? Since coming to Sanford Elementary four years ago, Jaminet has seen many positive changes. She shared some reasons for Sanford’s success.

Two years ago, a program called Mustang Minutes was started.

“Each student receives 30 minutes of help every day with enrichment or intervention for what they need,”

Jaminet said.

Last year, a reading program was implemented to better align with Colorado State standards.

“Teachers go over data every day to meet students at their level to create better success,” Jaminet added.

There are leadership teams with 100% student participation. Children are rewarded with tokens that can be used in their Book Vending Machine to receive a new book for positive behavior like being a good problem solver, being a good citizen, good listener, good communicator, behaviors necessary for future success.

To be an excellent school, there has to be a deep commitment, involvement, trust and support with

Please see AWARD on Page 2

Crestone Artists Open Studio Tour is Oct. 8-9

BY CHRISTINA LAKISH

CRESTONE — Crestone Artists’ tenth annual Open Studio Tour has diverse array of artwork in a multitude of media. The Crestone area has deep wells of talent and for one weekend each year, the artists open their studios, sharing insight into their creative processes, philosophy, and techniques.

Artists will open their studios Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 8 and 9, from noon to 5 p.m. Friday Oct. 7, 5-8 p.m. meet the artists, celebrate the start of the tour weekend and plan an itinerary at a festive reception for the Tour Sampler

Exhibition at the T-Road Brewing Company, 120 West Silver.

Come back to T-Road on Saturday from 7:30-9 p.m. for a reading and open mic hosted by the Crestone Poemfest Poets. The exhibition will be on display Sept. 15 through Oct. 31.

The Open Studio tour has been a yearly tradition since 2005 and has been steadily growing with a base of established artists who’ve continued the event for years.

A full-color catalog with a tour map is available at businesses and other

Please see TOUR on Page 2

Understanding the Fall Color Change

Land, Water and People

BY GREGG GOODLAND

“The whole forest is on fire!” was the only line I could see when the email notification lit up my phone in what I thought was the dead of the night last night. It was actually only 8:22p.m. but I had nodded off on the sofa when the alarm of the text intruded on my evening nap. Wide awake in an instant, I hurriedly opened the message to find a great response from one of the Rio Grande National Forest’s field going employees. “I was down on Hwy 17 heading to Chama and the mountains are amazing,” was the second line of the message responding to my request for information on where the best fall colors were on our Forest. As my heart settled back into my chest with the knowledge that my forest wasn’t actually on fire, my concern drained and quickly evolved into a pleasant, almost fulfilling feeling. My favorite time of year had indeed arrived.

Being an avid hater of hot weather, the cooler temperatures of autumn days has been eagerly appreciated each year throughout my life. Providing welcomed relief from the summer heat, coupled with some of the most predictable and pleasant days of the year, it is a time when you can plan outdoor activities

and be relatively confident in the forecast. I’ve climbed most of my Colorado 14er’s during fall days. I simply prefer to take less risk in our high country than during the mid-summer months and monsoonal activity.

The cooler weather also brings with it the bonus of the spectacular autumnal colors we experience each year. Often curious about the “why” of natural processes, I find myself digging into the science of color changes almost every year. Last fall, the knowledgeable Adam Moore, District Forester for the Colorado State Forest Service, shared with many of us the science of why the leaves on aspens, shrubs and other deciduous trees change color. In his Forest Specialist Series presentation, Adam talked about the process occurring in the trees that leads to the beautiful colors we see each year. Let’s take a quick review.

Chlorophyll is responsible for helping trees turn sunlight into food by changing light into sugar. It is also the chemical that gives plants their green color. Plants require warm temperatures and sunlight to produce chlorophyll. Interestingly, most of the spectacular colors of autumn have been in the leaves all

summer. But they have been covered up by the dominant green of the chlorophyll. As the weather cools, and shorter days settle in, the amount of chlorophyll produced begins to decrease and the existing chlorophyll is slowly broken down. This diminishes the green color of the leaves and reveals the existing and varied colors.

The three types of pigments involved in autumn color processes are anthocyanin, carotenoids, and chlorophyll. Anthocyanin produces the blue, violet, or red pigments found in plants. The carotenoids produce bright yellow, red, and orange colors in plants; the primary fall colors we see around here. Trees hold on to leaves to continue drawing nutrients to store for next year, even after chlorophyll production stops. Eventually, trees shed their leaves and go into a period of dormancy. And you all know what that means! Brrrrr!

For a great explanation of the science behind the annual color changes, I encourage you to visit the “Science of Fall Colors” page on the Forest Service’s national site: www.fs.usda.gov/visit/fall-colors/science-of-fall-colors

To get out and see the colors for yourselves, I do recommend taking the trip over LaManga Pass on highway 17 west of Antonito. Although, I also love the colors near Road Canyon and Rio Grande Reservoirs. And then there are the Carnero and Moon Pass areas. Well, you get the idea. Get out and find your old reliable aspen stand or explore new locations. But do it soon, because the colors never seem to last all winter!

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

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Courtesy photos

Kristof Kosmowski uses a palette knife to blend vibrant colors.



Paul Bareis creates beauty and meaning with steel, clay and copper.



Blue StarSeed's visionary oil paintings will be on the Open Studio Tour.

TOUR

Continued from Page 1

locations throughout the region and at www.CrestoneArtists.com.

There are 20 artists at 15 locations to visit on the tour. Wander through and experience Leigha Nicole's delicate brush paintings, the stunning landscapes in oils and acrylics of Fred Trompler, and David Lee's brilliant, handmade paper works.

Paul Bareis shares his vision of the sacred through his unique sculptural work, while Kim Roberts expresses the beauty of the San Luis Valley in her landscapes.

Leslie Henslee shares colorful landscapes and Josefina Gordh takes you to a mystical place with luxurious dyed and printed silks.

Amy Jo Arndt's joyous mixed media pieces show her love of Colorado's nature, and Monte Cristo Dean takes us into abstract and psychedelic realms.

Alan Sutherland shares his inner journey through abstract sculptural works in wood, and Noah Baen's colorful works merge landscape and animal forms.

Jandi Namba's intuitive art in a variety of media reflects a peaceful and mystical feeling.

Internationally known Stephen Futral will share a wide range of visually stimulating work, while Blue StarSeed's figurative works express the human and cosmic visions.

Jennifer Thomson uses color to explore the spiritual in unique and powerful ways.

Kristof Kosmowski's pseudo-realism is an artistic treat.

Noemi Kosmowski meditatively uses paint to explore her fascination with the natural world of animals and plants.

AWARD

Continued from Page 1A

everyone — from the superintendent, principals, school board, teachers, and parents united in wanting to provide a quality education for their children, school officials noted.

Sanford had a celebration with their students after receiving the National Blue Ribbon Award notification. They hope to celebrate with the community before going to Washington, DC.

Author-illustrator Joni Franks delights readers of all ages with inspirational stories guiding children through life.

Corez Hines takes wood burning to a new level with powerful expressions of nature, and Christina Lakish uses media from watercolor to glass beads to express her love of the natural world.

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Community supports Fun with 911 event

By DIANE DREKMANN
LA JARA — After a two-year absence because of COVID-19, Conejos County showed strong support for the Fun with 911 event on Saturday, Sept. 24, in La Jara.

Firefighters, county law enforcement, Colorado State Patrol, EMS, helicopter service, and public health workers were all there to meet the community and let people know what they do.

“It is a chance to see the officers when they are not working. We are people too with families,” said Chief of La Jara Police Jerry Lujan.

Smokey the Bear was there, representing the Forest Service. Smokey the Bear was an actual bear that was badly burned in a New Mexico forest fire in 1950 and then became the agency’s mascot and symbol.

Children climbed inside the Eagle Air Med helicopter and saw the inside of a fire truck. The helicopter is based in the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center in Alamosa. Similar to Flight for Life, they will respond to any 911 scene call or hospital to hospital call anywhere in the Valley or beyond.

Colorado State Patrol had demonstrations using goggles showing different levels of intoxication.

“People drink a little and make it home safely, drink more next time, make it home safely, and people develop an overconfidence, and... Everything can change in the blink of an eye,” CSP stated.

Some booths held a coloring contest. There was a ring toss and jumpy castles.

Garrett Storm, one of the organizers



Photos by Diane Drekmann
 After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the Fun with 911 event held on Saturday, Sept. 24, in La Jara.

of the event, held a silent auction with railroad trips and signed sports memorabilia.

Nadia Flores, victim advocate coordinator for Conejos County, did face painting.

EMTs Brandon Sowards and Derrick Garcia gave CPR demonstrations.

La Jara showed off its new fire truck. The state COVID vaccination bus was at the event.



South Fork Blood Drive set for Oct. 15

SOUTH FORK — The next South Fork Blood Drive is planned for 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 15, at the South Fork Community Building.

This blood drive is open to the public. All donors are being asked to provide either their ID or donor cards when they come in to donate.

Sign up at www.bloodhero.com, sponsor code: southfork, or contact

Karen Miller, 720-313-4834 or mkmillermink@aol.com.

The last blood drive of this year will be Dec. 17, same hours, however, this will be weather permitting as the donation truck will be coming over Wolf Creek Pass. Anybody that signs up for this one will be notified as soon as possible if they must cancel. This could be the day before or that morning.

Kids Crane Festival returns to MV on Oct. 8

MONTE VISTA — Families with children are invited to attend the free Kids Crane Festival, Oct. 8 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge headquarters, 6120 Highway 15.

Come celebrate the return of the migrating Sandhill Cranes to the San Luis Valley. Outdoor activities at the Kids Crane Festival will center around an appreciation of birds and other wildlife. The migration game, crane origami, bird nest identification and owl pine cones are just a few of the activities on tap for the afternoon. A free lunch will be served at noon to children and their adult family members. Activities will begin at 12:30 p.m.

The Kids Crane Festival is hosted by the Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges. For more information about the festival, call 719-588-7007.

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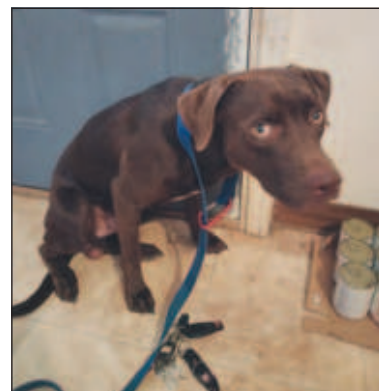
We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.

Visit Our Facebook Page

We want to say Thank You for all the recent donations we have received! Every bit helps us take care of these wonderful pups! Our current biggest need is straw and tarps for outdoor kennels and treats for the dogs, thank you all!

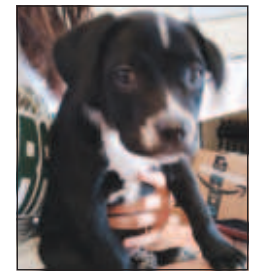


Brody is a Sheba Inu/Shepherd mix approximately 8 months old, and ready to find his forever home! He's a very playful pup, does well with all the people he has met so far, but is a tad picky on who his dog friends are. Brody is more of a dominant and hyper dog so he will need lots of engagement and exercise. Come meet him today!



Cyrus is about 11 months old and is a Chocolate Lab. He's a very nervous guy who takes a little time to warm up but once he does he's a cuddly baby. Cyrus has a lot of energy and quite a bark when he gets excited. He's still learning that the world isn't that scary so leash training is still a work in progress. If Cyrus sounds like the guy for you, come meet him today!

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04 Lost & Found

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4pm-8pm depending on the needs of our students.) Bilingual is preferred but not required. To apply, send a Cover Letter, Resume, and application found at www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities to Carrie Zimmerman, Superintendent of Schools, Center School District 26JT, 550 S. Sylvester Avenue, Center, CO 81125. Email kketola@center.k12.co.us or Kruggles@center.k12.co.us for more information. (10-26)

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tional skills. Duties include invoicing and freight allocations. Must be able to multi-task and work some Saturdays. Will train right person. Benefits include paid vacation, insurance and 401(k). E-mail questions and resume to dchapman@mntking.com. (10-26)

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Cozy one-bedroom house, Dennis Street Monte Vista, partially furnished house, NO PETS! \$650/Month, \$650/Deposit call 719-580-5400.(10/19)

17 Real Estate For Sale

35.71 acres between Monte Vista and Alamosa on County Line Road, borders highway, good grass, easy access, power and ready to build on. Priced \$109,000. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty Inc 719-873-1700. (9/22)

7 Quarters with pivots, 9350 GPM well water, 25 Shares of Rio Grande Canal, 3 decrees of good water rights out of Carnero Creek, fenced, new 200 pipe corral calf feedlot, good production and locations. Call Bruce at Steffens & Company Realty Inc 719-580-0770. (9/22)

23 Lawn and Garden

For Sale or Rent: 35 Ton Log-splitter available at County Line Small Engine Repair LLC. Call 719-589-6466.(10/12)

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28 Household Goods

Want used Washer and Dryer. Call 719-398-1026. (10-26)

32 Fuel & Heating

NEED FIREWOOD? Call Elam at Cozy Glo LLC. 719-480-5047. \$175.00, Delivery available. (12/28)TFN

35 Heavy Equipment

For rent construction equipment. Skid loader CAT 262 D-2017, bucket, pallet forks, brush hog, auger with 1 foot bit and 2 foot bit. Excavator CAT 306 CR 2021, 2 foot and 3 foot buckets. Dozer 2022 CAT D3, weighs approximately 30,000 pounds, blade in front and ripper in back. Call only 719-849-0367. (10-26)

36 Miscellaneous

Free Dell All In One Printer 968 no longer needed that is why I am giving it away. Phone 719-628-2166. Leave message and I will return your call. (10/5)

FOR SALE: Autocrate Antique Stove in Creede, Wood Burning & Propane. I have used it for over 50 years. Best offer takes it. Call 409-370-1815. (10/05)

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37 Wanted

WANTED: 5-40 acres in Costilla County Hwy 159 or along-side Hwy 160. Call Shawn at 217-851-2078. (10/19)

38 Machinery, Tools, Equipment

Tools for Sale: Coats Tire Machine and balancer, A-Frame Scaffolding, Senco Construction Air Gun, LG NEW Window Air Conditioner, Hand Router w/new bits. For information on more tools and pricing call 719-850-2027.(10/05)

48 Pets and Supplies

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in a long time. Would thrive best as large charismatic pasture pets versus work animals. Two would be good for kids but neither are 100% sound. Call for more information. 719-850-9970. (10/05)

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63 Trucks

2000 Ford F250 4x4 extended cab long bed V10 89000 miles excellent condition 20,000 call 719 580-2509 (11/02)

65 Professional Services

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SCAN ME



South Fork Fall Fest sees success in the first year

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — The parking lot outside of the South Fork Community Center was transformed early Saturday evening on Sept. 24 and a line of hungry guests wrapped all the way down the length of the pickleball courts as the smell of freshly roasted pork filled the air. The first-ever Fall Festival was well on its way to being a success and there was more to come.

Many in the San Luis Valley woke up Friday morning, Sept. 23, to see that summer had changed fonts and autumn was just about in full swing in the high country just above the town of South Fork.

A team of volunteers from both the South Fork Visitor Center and Town of South Fork showed up to see how their two hogs were doing from when they were placed in the ground the night before.

“Believe it or not, the community center actually has a pig roasting pit behind the north side. It been there about 20 years, but it was covered in dirt, so, we cleaned it out and roasted the pigs for about 19 hours. We started it Friday night and pulled it out about 3 p.m. on Saturday to start cleaning it and getting ready for our hungry guests,” said South Fork Visitor Center Director Dustin Hund.

By that evening, the town and all who passed through could smell the intoxicating aroma and a crowd began to gather outside of the community center as local band, The Bent Ears hit the outdoor stage and the South Fork Fire Rescue lit a bonfire. It was the perfect ending to the first full day of fall and the aspen trees’ fall foliage made sure to show up for the event in style.

The mountains were a sight to be seen that morning and into the day, drawing crowds of people to the high country for a glimpse at the changing of the seasons. By the time they came down from their day of fun, they were eager to partake in the free hog roast sponsored by the visitor center and the town. Plates were filled to the brim with freshly roasted pork and accompanying sides.

Tables filled quickly and many who came to attend the dinner sat in the bleachers or set up chairs outside to enjoy the evening sky and the live entertainment. As the evening wore on, people gathered around the bonfire and watched as the sun sank below the mountains. As the evening rolled on, it became clear within the first couple of hours that more people than anticipated had shown up.

“It was made abundantly clear that we were going to run out of food. Within the first hour, we had already run out of cookies and rolls. We served about 500 people and about 600 showed up, so unfortunately, we had to turn some folks away. We will be better prepared next year,” said Hund.

Next up, the Town of South Fork and the visitor center will be

hosting their annual South Fork Chili Cookoff. It is free to enter the contest, and anyone who is interested is asked to contact Hund at 719-873-5512. The event will be from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 13. There will be a \$5 entrance fee for people coming to taste.

After the Chili Cookoff, the South Fork Fire Rescue Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting its annual Halloween Extravaganza on Oct. 31 from 4 to 7 p.m. Activities for all ages are planned.



South Fork came out in style on Saturday for its first-ever Fall Festival at the community center. Staff members from the Town of South Fork and the South Fork Visitor Center roasted two hogs for a feast that served 500 people on Saturday.

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

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HVCC wraps up volleyball, flag football schedule

CONTRIBUTED
DEL NORTE — Hi, community members! Happy new week. High Valley Community Center has been busy wrapping up HVCC volleyball and flag football, learning about new cultures through our afterschool activities, helping with homework, and swimming with the kiddos!
 Girls basketball is right around the corner! Practice will be Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 27, and will take place at the HVCC Gym on 810 Oak St. Games will be Wednesdays and Saturdays. Game schedules will be available as soon as they are completed. Feel free to keep an eye out for it on our website, www.TheHVCC.org.
 Co-ed K-second grade and boys third– sixth grade basketball registrations will be available at the end of October. Please keep in mind that all participants must be registered through HVCC to play.
 Every Friday until Thanksgiving break, except for Oct. 7, we will be taking the kids to the Sand Dunes Recreation Pool for swimming lessons and free swimming. We ask that you provide your kids with a towel, a change of clothes, and appropriate footwear. We will provide

sunscreen, food, and fun! High Valley will be open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., the bus leaves at 10 a.m. and will return by 4 p.m.
 We are happy to announce that we will be providing homework assistance for junior high and high school-aged students through our partnership with the Upper Rio Grande School District. HVCC staff will be available at the school from 4:15-5:30 p.m., Tuesdays- Thursdays. Students are also welcome to join us at the HVCC location as well.
 Last Friday, Jodi's water aerobic class was a hit with the Encore participants! Jodi will be teaching classes every other Friday morning until Thanksgiving break. The dates are as follows Sept. 30, Oct. 14 and 28, and Nov. 11. If you are eligible for Encore and would like to participate, please give us a day's advance notice so we have an idea of who will be attending. We will provide transportation as well as lunch! Our direct line is 719-657-2172. Don't forget, Zumba classes will resume on Thursday, Sept. 29. We hope to see you there!
 All of us at HVCC wish you all a happy and safe week ahead!

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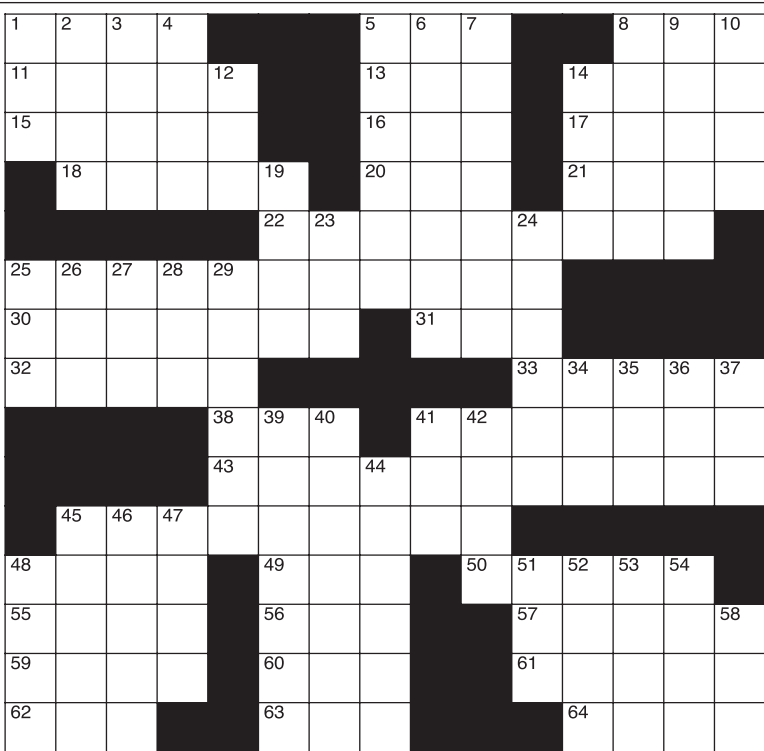
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One who regrets
- 5. Time zone
- 8. Subway dweller
- 11. Bend in a river
- 13. Alias
- 14. Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
- 15. Very (music)
- 16. Zero
- 17. Phil __, former CIA
- 18. Competitions
- 20. Unwell
- 21. Puts in place
- 22. Gets rid of
- 25. Allows light to pass through
- 30. Climbed quickly
- 31. We all have it
- 32. There's a North & South
- 33. Emaciation
- 38. Supervises flying
- 41. Very dark colors
- 43. Unwanted
- 45. Grants
- 48. Three visited Jesus
- 49. Wife of Amun
- 50. Broadway actress Daisy
- 55. A Spanish river
- 56. I (German)
- 57. French opera composer
- 59. Six (Spanish)
- 60. Last letter
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. Noah had one

Solution to last week's puzzle

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



- 63. Make a mistake
- 64. Tall plant
- 27. Where birds fly
- 28. Midway between north and northeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Computer memory
- 2. "Et __": "And wife" (Latin)
- 3. Ancient Syrian city
- 4. College army
- 5. Cassava
- 6. Talented
- 7. Capital of Estonia
- 8. Finger millet
- 9. In a way, assists
- 10. Men's fashion accessories
- 12. Misery
- 14. Skin disorder
- 19. Selling at specially reduced prices
- 23. Good friend
- 24. Stationary portion of a generator
- 25. Expression of disappointment
- 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 29. Chaotic states
- 34. Comedic actress Gasteiger
- 35. Kids' dining accessory
- 36. Snake-like fish
- 37. Midway between south and southeast
- 39. Assign lifelike qualities to
- 40. One who cites
- 41. Midway between east and southeast
- 42. North wind
- 44. One or the other
- 45. Cavalry sword
- 46. Of the Hungarian language
- 47. Life stories
- 48. Flat tableland with steep edges
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Plant that makes gum
- 53. French cleric
- 54. One point east of northeast
- 58. Free from

South Fork Fire Rescue receive safety beacons

STAFF REPORT
SOUTH FORK — On Monday, Sept. 26, the families of Ace Towing and Snow Mobile Auto Repair presented every South Fork Fire Rescue member with a Guardian Angel personal safety beacon.
 The device emits red and white flashing, or constant light making emergency responders highly visible on the scene of an accident or roadside emergency. Having roots in both fire and law enforcement,

Evan Dick, owner of Ace Towing, of Monte Vista, said this was his way of giving back to the local agencies that he routinely works with.
 The gift of the personal beacons highlights the safety concerns faced by first responders and tow companies. The members of South Fork Fire Department thanked the families of Ace Towing and Snows Mobile Auto Repair for their generous donation.

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