

Shorts

Virtual Continental Divide Summit is Nov. 15-16

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

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

Gateway Church trunk-or-treat is Oct. 31

DEL NORTE — Gateway Church is having a trunk-or-treat from 5 to 7 p.m. on Oct. 31 in the church's parking lot at 975 Grande Ave., Del Norte.

There will be a hot beverage bar, free food, trunk-or-treat, a bounce house and more.

Creede Arts Council presents Jamboree on Nov. 12

CONTRIBUTED
CREEDE — Join Rally 'Round, Caldera, and the Creede Arts Council at the Creede Elks Lodge on Saturday, Nov. 12, at 6 p.m. for the second-ever Jamboree. A Jamboree, according to Merriam-Webster, is a large festive gathering or a long, mixed program of entertainment.

Dancing will be encouraged at the Jamboree. Rally 'Round is a reggae band featuring Malcolm Snead, Joe Baker, and Steve Reynolds. Caldera, a Creede-based quartet, melds Americana and Rock sounds to create a blend of insightful originals and distinct covers.

The Jamboree proceeds will benefit the nonprofit mission of the Creede Arts Council to cultivate the arts in the community. A free-will donation will be accepted at the door and the Elks will offer a cash bar. The Creede Arts Council will provide snacks.

For more information, contact the CAC at 719-658-0312 or creedearts@outlook.com.

Center community developing, meeting with MASS

By PATRICK SHEA

CENTER — Members of the Center town board and business community convened with residents and representatives from partner organizations to share development ideas on Oct. 18. Meetings and site visits continued on Oct. 19, building on a foundation started years ago.

Shortly after Center Town Manager Brian Lujan took his position, he initiated project development with Downtown Colorado Inc. (DCI) in 2018. Center became one of DCI's Challenge Communities, and one of the first steps entailed finding people to rejuvenate six vacant buildings.

Please see MASS on Page 2A



Photo by Patrick Shea

Residents, town officials, and business owners met on Oct. 18 to discuss development ideas and ensure that no one is displaced as the town grows.

Young family loses everything in Monday house fire

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

CENTER — A woman, her boyfriend, her two children and their dogs are safe after a fire in their home in Center Monday. However, the family said that they have lost everything they own.

At 2:28 a.m. on Monday, the Center Fire Department was dispatched to a house fire on the 600 block of Miles Street. When fire crews arrived on scene, they found the house already filled with smoke and the fire contained to the interior.

In the minutes prior to CFD being dispatched, one of the residents of the house, Devon Valdez, 21, woke up with difficulty breathing. He discovered that the small house in Center where Valdez lives with his girlfriend, Brisa Castillo, 21; and her two children, ages 2 and 4; was filled with smoke. He woke Castillo and when the two went into the living room, flames could be seen running up the wall next to the woodburning stove.

Castillo's children were spending the night with her mother and both Valdez and Castillo were able to evacuate without any injuries. Their dogs, who are "outside" dogs, were in the yard and also were unharmed.

Valdez immediately contacted the Center Police Department which dispatched the Center

Please see FIRE on Page 2A



Devon Valdez, Brisa Castillo and her two children pose with one of their dogs. The family lost 'everything' in a house fire Monday morning.

Baca Grande communicating through court

By PATRICK SHEA

BACAGRANDE SUBDIVISIONS — The volunteer group pushing to create the Town of Baca Grande and the Baca Grande Property Owners Association have been communicating through the court system.

Operating independently from the Baca Grande POA, the volunteer group initiated the township effort when they filed a petition on Aug. 8. On Oct. 4, the Baca Grande POA filed a Motion to Intervene and a Motion to Dismiss with the Saguache County District Court. The court issued an order granting the Motion to Intervene and gave the township group until Oct. 21 to respond.

According to Desiree Marceau, a lead township volunteer, they responded by the Oct. 21 deadline. Before the group's sixth information-sharing meeting on Oct. 24, Marceau confirmed receipt of the response. Now the Baca Grande POA representatives have until Nov. 4 to respond to the response.

"What happens after that," Marceau explained on the Zoom call, "is the judge reviews everything and then she makes

Please see BACA on Page 2A

Valley commissioners share county challenges

By PATRICK SHEA

ALAMOSA — County commissioners gathered in Alamosa and via ZOOM on Oct. 24 for presentations and discussions about issues spanning counties across the San Luis Valley.

Chairperson Ramona Weber from Mineral County started the meeting by asking for additions to the agenda. People around the room quickly echoed a request to talk about a redundant power transmission line for the Valley.

"The Public Utilities Commission is opening up a conversation about their future planning," noted Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske later

Please see COUNTIES on Page 2A



Photo by Patrick Shea

Commissioners from all six San Luis Valley counties met in Alamosa on Oct. 24 to discuss budgets, a redundant power transmission line, and Rio Grande Basin fish.

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Juvenile arrested at MVHS football game for allegedly possessing stolen gun

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — A juvenile male from Alamosa was arrested Friday at the Monte Vista High School football game for allegedly possessing a stolen handgun, according to a press release issued over the weekend.

Monte Vista Police Department officers contacted the 15-year-old Alamosa resident and reportedly found him in possession of a handgun that was allegedly stolen earlier from a residence

in Monte Vista, the release states. Police were tipped off, reportedly, from a citizen. According to the release, the juvenile male was arrested and charged with a number of felonies including possession of a handgun on school grounds, possession of a handgun by a juvenile and burglary.

There was no further information available as of deadline on Monday.

All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

BACA

Continued from Page 1A

a final order.” The chat scroll on the side of the Oct. 24 Zoom call echoed a deference to the legal system over direct communication. When one participant asked for clarification about a legal question, the responses deflected to court proceedings.

In response to the request for clarification, the audience was directed to request documents from the county court.

A participant asked, “So why your hesitancy to answer my question?” The response was “because, frankly, it doesn’t merit a response, the judge holds authority to make the decision and it won’t be made on Zoom.”

Casita Park, one of the five subdivisions that make up the Baca Grande, has an estimated 60 households. Some homes are vacation retreats, but more than half of the full-time residents work in or around Crestone. Spearheaded by long-time resident Colleen Bennett in the 1970s, Casita Park has accelerated community involvement in 2022.

In February, they formed the Casita Park Action Committee to address issues. In April, they canvassed the community to identify resident concerns. On Earth Day, they hosted a free trash day. Volunteers brought trucks for gathering refuse near the playground, and they drove to residents who couldn’t make it and picked up their trash.

In May, they conducted another cleanup operation and had a massive yard sale.

By the end of the summer, the Casita

Park Action Committee worked with the Baca Grande POA to get a letter of support for a Saguache County sales tax grant. The money would allow them to resume watering the trees in the park, create shade, install benches, and plant more trees. In September, they hosted a huge harvest celebration for residents.

Now a half-century in existence, the Baca Grande POA has grown to more than 1,400 residents. The population of Crestone is less than 200. Crestone’s town budget is primarily funded through sales taxes, including taxes collected on e-commerce purchases from Baca Grande people who pick up their packages at the Crestone post office.

Until recently, Crestone paid the Baca Grande \$200 a month to process the town’s waste through the Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District. Reportedly initiated in 2005, the agreement has been a bargain for the town.

Annexation with Crestone is unlikely, according to presenters, because of a power imbalance. If the communities combined, Baca Grande voters would substantially outnumber the Crestone voters.

Baca Grande POA administrators did not present or appear to be on the Oct. 24 township meeting ZOOM call, much like the absence of township volunteers at recent POA gatherings.

Residents and property owners attend what appear to be separate meetings between the POA and the volunteer group, who appear to communicate through the legal system instead of holding joint discussions.

COUNTIES

Continued from Page 1A

in the meeting. “We want to be sure the San Luis Valley is included.”

Commissioner Laske stressed two key points about a second transmission line for power.

“For one, it will produce redundancy, for safety. As we saw in both Texas and Boulder, we could be cut off from electricity pretty quick,” Laske said. “There’s a bonus to it too. If this transmission line was created, we would be able to export our solar.”

“I look at this as a positive,” noted Rio Grande County Commissioner Scott Deacon.

With 35 years of experience in utilities, Deacon said, “A lot of people don’t understand that all of

our transmission lines come in from the north. If something happens up north, we lose it all.”

The current work on existing transmission lines heading north includes upgrades from 69kv to 115kv.

The timeline to give the PUC feedback is short. The process for providing input starts on Dec. 2.

“By January 2, we would need to let them know if we wanted to be what are called ‘interveners’ in this discussion,” Laske explained. “The reason I came to this group is because I don’t think one county can do this. To get an intervener, we would have to put funds together as a whole and pay — most likely an attorney — for someone with

FIRE

Continued from Page 1A

Fire Department.

Valdez said fire crews — including 12 firefighters — arrived on the scene no more than 10 minutes after being dispatched.

Center Fire Chief Russell Brown said crews were able to extinguish the fire relatively quickly and no other structures were impacted. He said the smoke damage to the interior of the house is extensive. His crews were on scene until about 4:30 a.m.

Meanwhile, the young family said they’ve lost everything they own.

Valdez, who works for the grounds department at Alamosa School District, said he’s “in shock.”

“It’s still kind of hard to believe that this happened to our family,” he said.

Castillo, who worked at the High Valley Community Center Day Care in Del Norte until recently accepting a job at Abba Eye Care in Alamosa, said they haven’t told the children yet. “Everything is gone,” she said.

One of the first family members Valdez contacted was his uncle Jeremy Silva, best known for independently organizing campaigns to provide

new shoes and backpacks filled with supplies for school-aged kids in the valley.

“My nephew and his family have nothing,” Silva said. “They didn’t have renter’s insurance and everything they own was destroyed in the fire.”

Silva said he hopes that people in the valley will extend a helping hand to his nephew’s family and has set up a go fund me page that can be found at gofundme.com by searching “Brisa Castillo.”

The family is also welcoming any household items and children’s clothing, girl’s size 4t-5t and shoe size 9-10 and boy’s size 5-6t and shoe size



Courtesy photos

The interior of Valdez and Castillo’s home after the early Monday morning fire.

13c. Anyone interested in making donations of household items or clothing should contact Silva at 719-849-0380.

MASS

Continued from Page 1A

Working with the MASS Design Group (Model of Architecture Serving Society), the combined efforts today target housing and opportunities based on current community needs.

Before the meeting on Oct. 18, students from Center High School went through an exercise that attendees continued in the evening. With eight large-format maps of Center situated around the room, participants used sticky notes to identify ideas and memories from different parts of town. Dozens of notes showed their sentiments.

MASS Design Group representatives printed examples of previously completed projects in other towns and asked participants to identify their preferences. Some pictures showed renovations to provide housing in existing buildings. Although Center has opportunities for in-town housing, developing the

North 90 project is the priority. Just shy of 90 acres, the vacant plot offers potential.

Before putting a shovel in the ground, however, community input and intentional planning take time. Lujan and the Town Board already addressed prerequisite issues to make the discussions possible. They tackled the town budget to overcome shortfalls. They continue to improve the town’s water and power systems with plans to accommodate more residents and businesses. They also hosted events that eventually turned vacant properties into private ownership. Speaking at the meeting, one of the new property owners said his building will host art activities and gallery showings in the future.

Participants enjoyed a catered meal during the evening meeting and shared thoughts. One resident lamented having to drive to another

town to buy certain essentials. Although Center has the third-largest population in the San Luis Valley, the Worth Street business district does not sell everything locals need. Another resident noted that Center does not have motels or lodging options. When schools travel to compete against the Vikings, they leave town for accommodations at night.

The presenters said they have not generated a “leakage report” yet, which is a way to calculate revenue lost when residents leave town for shopping and services.

Unlike speculation development, the current approach begins and ends with community needs. While other towns target tourism for revenue, Center is not on the beaten path for tourists passing through. Income in tourism towns change throughout the seasons, another reason the development plans for Center address community needs first.

a background with the Public Utilities Commissions to be our intervener and watch out for the San Luis Valley.”

Laske encouraged her fellow Valley commissioners to respond quickly because it might be another 10 years before they have another chance to take part in planning. The input window closes Feb. 1, 2023.

Speaking for Senator Michael Bennet, Erin Minks credited State Senator Cleve Simpson for getting the San Luis Valley listed as a miscellaneous item on the PUC agenda in December and January.

“This was something he worked on last spring,” Minks said. “Xcel was originally planning to go forward with

their 10-year plan and not even study the Valley.”

Saguache County Commissioner Tom McCracken made a motion to support Alamosa County as the lead group pursuing an intervener for the PUC discussions. After refining the wording slightly, the motion passed.

In addition to other topics, they discussed 14 budget line items they share across counties. The total request from the District Attorney’s office for all six counties, for example, is \$2,031,870. Mineral County budgeted \$25,000. With the highest population, Alamosa County set aside \$732,000.

Following the holidays, the group will meet again on Jan. 23, 2023.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

You can go home again

YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO



Demon star

The new moon was on the 25th, we still have beautiful dark skies for viewing. The Milky Way is beginning to move from the South to the Southwest as Earth's solar orbit changes into the autumn position. The other end still appears in the NE. Don't forget to look for the Taurid fireballs in the eastern evening sky.

Uranus is visible all night in the constellation Pisces, the fish which is along the ecliptic in the ESE. The ecliptic is the path of the Sun, moon and planets travel along in our sky. Currently it's about one-third of the way up. Try looking for it first with binoculars. It may appear light blue.

This is also a great time to look for the Andromeda galaxy. Just look for Cassiopeia halfway up in the NE. The bottom star of the upper half of the "W" points to it. The galaxy is about a hand's width to the right and slightly lower. Use binoculars to find it, and

then look with unaided vision. I guarantee you can see it on a clear dark night.

Now that Halloween is almost here, it's time to find the Demon star in the constellation Perseus. Its official name is Beta Perseis but is more commonly known as Algol which is Arabic for head of the ghoul or head of the demon. So, it's also called the Ghoul star.

Perseus is the constellation that sits below Cassiopeia. It's a large constellation in the shape of a man with a large triangular shape body. The brightest star Mirfak is on the lower left body where the leg begins. Algol is to the right of Mirfak anchoring the other side of the body.

Algol is a multiple star system of three stars, but only two are visible to us. The light changes each time one star passes in front of the other as they spin around each other. This causes it to vary in brightness over a regular

time interval of 2 days, 20 hours and 49 minutes. It dims for 10 hours, and then gets bright again.

Because of this, Algol is called an eclipsing variable star. This dip in brightness can be seen with unaided vision. So, go out and look at it for several nights in a row to see the change in brightness.

It's assumed that since ancient stargazers didn't know why this happened, they thought that Algol was associated with demons or monsters. Greeks and Romans identified it with the head of Medusa, a monster with snakes in place of hair. Have a fun Halloween.



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

This past weekend found Miss Trixie and Ol' Dutch traversing the plains of North Texas and through Oklahoma's Arbuckle Mountains in a journey back in time. For it was home to Kansas for me and the 70th anniversary of the founding of my home church.

Now while this may not seem such a great celebration to most of you as churches have been around much longer, this was special because it was on that weekend some seven decades ago that my dad, Fast Freddy, founded this church. And eventually a Bible College.

At 92 my dad is still going strong and so he was invited to have the service there. All 29 of us descendants attended. We all stayed together in one huge mansion-like facility and so it was "noisy," which is what you get when we get together.

My earliest memories as a child were being with my mother's extended family, all talking at the same time, yet everyone was able to keep track of what was being said.

The same is true for this modern version of our family. For Ol' Dutch, though, hearing all that conversation amplified by a hearing aid means it is loud and brain shattering at times. Add to this mix a plethora of little kids running and screaming and playing and you can only imagine the noise level we generated.

The one thing about being hard of hearing is a person can shut off the darned device which then results in a seemingly happy expression on your face all day long while others are suffering from noise exposure.

While other folks suffer with their nerves being attacked and frayed almost to the breaking point, Ol' Dutch — either by turning off the hearing aids or running out of battery in them — can sit and watch the mayhem around him and smile.

The only problem with that is when one of the kids gets in trouble, I can't for the life of me figure out why as it was all calm and quiet to me. My grands always seek out grandpa for consolation and, unless it was some catastrophic error on their part, I always take their side and dry their tears.

Which is a lot like God, I guess, as He also does that for us even though

we may deserve a good spanking from Him from time to time.

My dad led the singing and preached a great sermon. Many people who have attended there for the past 40 years were in attendance, so it was good to see all of them again.

We even got by the entire weekend without a family fight and only a few kid tears, so yes, miracles are still occurring.

A man by the name of Thomas Wolfe wrote a novel called "You Can't Go Home Again." The premise was that times in the past can be remembered fondly, but can never be experienced again.

But poor old Thomas, who passed at the ripe old age of 38, was never fortunate enough to have gone back to a reunion of the sort we had this past weekend as we were able to do just that. For we told funny stories and cried a few tears over the many memories we shared. At least for a moment, we were able to go home once again.

So, it's off to Texas we go following in the footsteps of Charles Goodnight and Davy Crockett and others who somehow thought that was good idea at least at the moment. And the yellow rose of Texas herself, Miss Trixie, seated beside me singing the accolades of the great state of her birth. And honestly, only a state of that size could ever hold someone as great as Miss Trixie.

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

LETTERS

MVFD thanks community for support, prepares for annual chili supper

Editor,

The Monte Vista Fire Department would first and foremost like to send our sincere condolences to those who were affected by the fire that struck our community this spring. While this tragedy rocked our district to its core, our town once again came together and faced adversity head on. With the continued support of the district, community and surrounding emergency agencies, the Monte Vista Fire Protection District continues to be committed to offering the public the best service possible.

Last year your contributions helped us reach our goal in purchasing a battery-powered chainsaw with vent master attachment, two battery-

powered fans for efficient ventilation applications and two thermal cameras to aid in zero-visibility rescue and fire operations. This year with your help we hope to reach our goal of purchasing cribbing and struts used in auto extrication, and also purchasing an LED marquee sign to provide the community with up-to-date emergency information. We kindly ask for your support in meeting this goal.

The Monte Vista Fire Department is a volunteer organization with 20 volunteers. This year our department has already responded to over 250 calls and participated in 1,500 combined training hours. The MVFD continues to respond to structure fires,

fire alarms, car accidents, grass fires and gas leaks. The department also works together with other San Luis Valley fire departments when called on for mutual aid.

In closing, please join us for our annual chili supper. Every firefighter looks forward to interacting with those that we serve and being a gathering place for our community is something we truly cherish. We look forward to seeing our friends, our families, and our community on Nov. 12 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the firehouse.

The Monte Vista Fire Department would like to thank you for your continued support.

MVFD Fundraising Committee

Martinez will work hard for Valley if elected to House District 62 seat

Editor,

Matthew Martinez will work hard for the San Luis Valley and Colorado House District 62.

I'm thrilled to have Martinez as a neighbor, and I can't think of a better person to represent us in the Colorado House of Representatives. He has served his local community and his country. His passion for this community is visible in all the work and volunteering he does. The issues that Martinez is focusing on that are dearest to me are water, healthcare and the rights of our veterans.

Unsurprisingly Martinez will

fight tooth and nail, anyone who wishes to export water from this Valley. But he also wants to make sure his constituents have clean drinking water. He believes that every citizen has the right to quality affordable healthcare and shouldn't have to choose between that and food or housing. I believe we're doing much better in Colorado than other states, but we have a long way to go before every man, woman and child here, has access to this. I don't think anyone would suggest that veterans should have to fight for rights at home after

fighting for their country. Yet, they are constantly having to fight for benefits and support owed to them by the country they serve. Martinez, as a veteran of the United States Marines, knows this only too well and will fight with every available means to make sure they don't have to.

When you fill in your ballot, which should be in the mail, if you haven't already received it, please join me in voting for Matthew Martinez for Colorado House District 62!

*Laura Conchelos
Monte Vista*

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MVPD arrests three people on drug charges

STAFF REPORT
MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista Police Department served search warrants at three city residences on Oct. 24 and 25 that led to the arrest of three people on drug charges.

Over the course of the past few weeks, MVPD detectives obtained search warrants for several locations within Monte Vista for distribution of narcotics.

On Oct. 24 and 25, the Monte Vista Police Department served three search warrants with assistance from the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office and the Colorado State Patrol.

The first search warrant was served in the 300 block of Davis Street where Adam Trujillo, 30, of Monte Vista was arrested and charged with suspicion of unlawful possession of a controlled substance and unlawful distribution of a controlled substance. Officers

reported recovering methamphetamine and heroin. Trujillo was booked into the Rio Grande County Jail.

Later in the day on Oct. 24, a search warrant was executed in the 100 block of Faraday Street within Monte Vista. Raymond Ramirez, 46, and Rachel Ramirez, 53, both of Monte Vista, were arrested for suspicion of unlawful possession of a controlled substance, unlawful distribution of a controlled substance and special offender due to the amount of drugs and weapons recovered. Both were booked into the Rio Grande County Jail.

Officers reported recovering from the Faraday Street location seven firearms, heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and cash during the execution of this search warrant.

On Oct. 25, a search warrant was executed in the 500 block of Franklin



Photo courtesy of MVPD
Monte Vista Police Department officers reported recovering seven firearms, heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and cash during the execution of a search warrant on Oct. 24 at a residence in the 100 block of Faraday Street.

Street. During the execution of the warrant, officers encountered 12 people within the house. Officers also found drug paraphernalia and numerous used needles throughout the house. Ronnie Mascarenes, 30, of Monte Vista was arrested for an outstanding warrant. This investigation is ongoing.

Teen dies in crash on Hwy. 160 east of Blanca

Staff Report
COSTILLA COUNTY — A teen not wearing a seatbelt died in car crash Monday morning, Oct. 24, on Highway 160 east of Blanca, the Colorado State Patrol reported.

At approximately 8:59 a.m., a white 2003 Saturn LS200 sedan was traveling west on Highway 160 approximately 3 miles east of Blanca. This location is approximately 23 miles east of Alamosa in Costilla County.

The 19-year-old driver of the Saturn drifted off the right side of the roadway and down a slight embankment into a dry ditch. The Saturn continued along in the ditch and then collided with a metal culvert with its front.

The Saturn then rotated counterclockwise and came to rest on its wheels facing south. The restrained male driver was seriously injured and transported via ground ambulance to the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center in Alamosa then later flown out to Penrose Hospital. The unrestrained



Photo courtesy of CSP
A white 2003 Saturn was involved in a single-vehicle crash Monday morning, Oct. 24, on Highway 160 east of Blanca. The passenger died at the scene and the driver was seriously injured.

19-year-old male passenger in the vehicle died at the scene.

The crash remains under investigation by the Colorado State Patrol Vehicular Crimes Unit.

Investigation ongoing after police pursuit in Costilla County

STAFF REPORT
COSTILLA COUNTY — An investigation is ongoing after a police chase and the discovery of a property with several reportedly stolen items was made by Costilla County Sheriff's deputies as well as several other law enforcement agencies last week.

According to a press release issued by the CCSO, deputies Thursday responded to a property located off County Road J2 southwest of San Luis on Thursday in regards to a possible stolen vehicle out of Taos County.

The driver led deputies on a pursuit across the Colorado-New Mexico state line, along with law enforcement officials of the Taos

County Sheriff's Office. While in pursuit, another reportedly stolen vehicle was identified on Garcia Road just south of Garcia, Colo.

On Friday, the release said, a search warrant was executed at the property located off CRJ 2. Deputies found several vehicles, trailers and items that were said to be stolen.

The estimated value of the items, according to the release, is between \$100,00 and \$150,000.

The warrant was executed by the CCSO, TCSO, Blanca Police Department, Conejos County Sheriff's Office and Colorado Division of Wildlife.

The investigation is ongoing.

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Tomorrow's Bread today: Valley bread makers create non-profit to help combat food insecurities

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Two valley bread makers have created Tomorrow's Bread, a non-profit bread donation program that will help address food insecurity issues in the San Luis Valley.

Tomorrow's Bread was introduced to the public Friday at an event held at Milagro's Coffee House in Alamosa.

In 2019, Costilla native and valley resident Jessica Larriva was taking care of her mother during the pandemic when she had an idea. Larriva, the baker and executive director, operates Tumbleweed Bread in Monte Vista along with Operations Director Jake Gefell.

Tumbleweed Bread — in business since 2018 — is a wholesale, for-profit company that has a unique reputation in the valley for its "bread, the old fashion way." Larriva uses only regionally grown whole grains that are then stone ground and naturally leavened (as was common in ancestral diets) to make bread in a way that preserves the nutritional benefits.

Business was going well when the Tumbleweed Bread was first formed and flourished even as the pandemic

caused shut downs everywhere.

But it wasn't a business model that Larriva was thinking of when she had the idea. Larriva, who bakes all the bread herself, was thinking of all the people who were impacted by the pandemic and were not getting the nutritional food that they needed.

In response, she and Gefell launched a community bread donation program through their bakery where, for a \$5 donation, people could donate a loaf of healthy, organic, whole wheat bread to local organizations or individuals.

And, the program took off. "We've donated hundreds of pounds of food to our local homeless shelter's kitchen through the kind donations of generous individuals from all across the country, and even beyond," Larriva said.

A single loaf of Tumbleweed Bread weighs a pound.

Larriva said she became frustrated that she wasn't providing as much bread to those in need as she wanted to and had no network established to connect with those in need in a broader way.

That led to Larriva and Gefell's decision to form a non-profit specifically devoted to community bread donations through their for-profit sister organization. Such a move would allow them to access grants, funding and tax-exempt donations to support their mission.

Thanks to grant funding from the Women's Foundation of Colorado Women and Girls of Color Fund, Larriva and Gefell have now launched Tomorrow's Bread, a 501(c)3 that will provide local food banks and, as partnerships evolve, other service organizations with locally sourced and baked bread.

"We estimate — given our current production infrastructure — in our first fully-funded year we will donate nearly 12,000 pounds of local, nourishing, organic food La Puente's Shelter kitchen and Food Bank System," Larriva said.

Larriva suggests that is just a start. She said she "looks forward to the future and seeing what's possible" providing healthy, nutritious bread to those who may not otherwise have access while investing in the



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Jessica Larriva, executive director of Tumbleweed Bread and Tomorrow's Bread, and Lupita Garcia of Colorado Women's Foundation, Women and Girls of Color Fund, pose for a photo at an event held to launch Tomorrow's Bread at Milagros Coffee House in Alamosa on Friday, Oct. 21, 2022.

regional economy by using locally grown organic grains as their primary production ingredient.

"It's a good situation for everyone involved," she said. Anyone interested in more information or making a donation can visit the website tomorrowsbread.org.

Hope in the Valley signs contract to purchase Rite of Passage property

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Last week, the non-profit Hope in the Valley signed a contract with the Alamosa County Commissioners to purchase property to serve as the future site of a 30-bed residential treatment and recovery center. The 6,700 square foot building, locally known as the Rite of Passage, is located behind the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office on 17th Street.

According to Alamosa County Administrator Roni Wisdom, the property was sold for \$700,000 and the hope is "to close before the end of the year."

A Thursday afternoon conversation with Justin Luke Riley, partner and co-founder of Hope in the Valley, revealed that the plans for the facility go far and above the renovation of the property, including creation of a "community led treatment and recovery center plus."

That language is used deliberately by Riley, "not for marketing purposes" but because it is an accurate description of the non-profit's plans for the facility now and in the future, driven by a philosophy of "giving back" to the community and collaboration with community partners including local municipalities, non-profits, law enforcement, the district attorney's office, the court system, health care systems and veterans' organizations. Riley has garnered a national reputation for, among other things, having worked with what he said are hundreds of treatment centers and starting Young People in Recovery which is described by Forbes magazine in 2017 and other publications as "changing the narrative around addiction recovery and fueling a new, energetic movement across the nation."

However, Riley is quick to sidestep being the focus of conversation, instead directing attention to the deep commitment of his partners and fellow co-founders, Kim and Paul Reed, as well as the "incredible partnership" they have already experienced in working with the



File photo

Hope in the Valley signed a contract with the Alamosa County Commissioners to purchase the Rite of Passage property to serve as the future site of a 30-bed residential treatment and recovery center.

Alamosa County Commissioners and, specifically, Wisdom, toward creation of the facility they envision.

He also gives great credit to Jamie Reynolds — nurse, resident of the valley and Paul Reed's sister — who first alerted them to the property being available.

"We're very excited to be opening the first (center) of its kind — definitely in Alamosa but also the state," Riley said. "We hope to show the rest of the country how successful our model can be at multiple levels."

CAROL RIGGENBACH
House District 62

The **San Luis Valley must have** representation on the Agriculture, Livestock and Water Committee. **I'm the person** for that job, **I understand the unique needs** of the Valley.

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GET YOUR FLU SHOT

Rio Grande Public Health will be offering flu shot clinics

Del Norte Annex on October 20th from 3 - 6 p.m. at 965 6th St.

Sargent Schools on October 27th from 3 - 6 p.m.

Please Bring your Insurance Card

This clinic will provide both regular and high-dose flu shots. We accept several insurances including Medicare.

No appointment needed

For Information Call us at (719) 657-3352

San Luis Valley Scoreboard 2022 -2023

FOOTBALL

Hayden 56.....	Sargent 0
Centauri 41.....	Ignacio 8
Florence 42.....	Alamosa 20
Mancos 22	Sanford 20
Sangre de Cristo 65	Manzanola 26
Monte Vista 62.....	Center 19
Sierra Grande 62	Cotopaxi 49
Mountain Valley 78	Primero 25
Del Norte 40	Trinidad 14

Thanks to these businesses for supporting SLV sports!

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<https://www.facebook.com/ValleyPublishing>

Stone's Farm Supply, Inc.
719-754-3453
On the corner of 3rd & Torres • Center

Absolute Shine
Kale, Body & Soul
852-5700
859 Acequia Monte Vista

Alamosa UPS Customer Center will close Oct. 31

Facility will remain open to process and deliver shipments

By LUKE LYONS

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa UPS Customer Center located at 1825 State Ave. will close as of Oct. 31. The facility will remain open to process and deliver shipments, however pickup and drop services will be discontinued according to Becky Biocolis-Pace, media relations with UPS. There will be no layoffs. “We are not closing the Alamosa

facility,” Biciolis-Pace said. “However, we are closing the Customer Center at this location due to a change in how our customers use our services. Because of advancements in our online web options, customers can easily print labels at home and utilize UPS Access Points.

“There should be no impact to our customers as there are several options.”

Biciolis-Pace, echoing information on a sign near the center’s entrance, said that pre-packaged, pre-labeled shipments of an appropriate size may be placed into a nearby UPS drop box. There are drop boxes located at Main Copy Source and

1st Southwest Bank on Main Street as well as Loaf ’N Jugg on Highway 160 in East Alamosa.

Packages for pickup will be routed to the nearest UPS Access Point. Packages that require shipping labels or additional packing supplies can be dropped at nearby UPS full-service retail locations.

There is a UPS Authorized Service Provider at 1901 Highway 160 East in Monte Vista. There is a UPS store located at 135 Country Center in Pagosa Springs and an authorized shipping provider located at 1 Enterprise Dr. in Westcliffe.

Nearby UPS service locations can be found at [ups.com/dropoff](https://www.ups.com/dropoff).



Photo by Luke Lyons

The Alamosa UPS Customer Center located at 1825 State Ave. will close as of Oct. 31. Deliveries and shipments will still be processed there according to a UPS media relations spokesperson.

Rio Grande County OKs letter of support in railroad bidding

By LYNSIE FERRELL

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — Rio Grande County Board of Commissioners approved a letter of support during its meeting on Oct. 19 reaffirming their support for any bidder on the San Luis and Rio Grande Railroad that was willing to keep the line viable and running in the Valley with the stipulation that the county would forgo the back property taxes owned in order to incentivize the right bidder to come forward.

Rio Grande County Commissioner John Noffsler spoke on the subject during an interview stating that it was coming down to the final days and that something needed to be done to ensure the survival of the railroad in the Valley. “We are really at the point that we need to ask what we, as the San Luis Valley willing to do to make sure that this railroad stays here and remains functional. We at Rio Grande County will support any bidder that meets our concerns,” he said.

The concerns Noffsler is referring to include ones that would shut the line

down and force commercial users to seek possibly more costly alternative ways of transporting goods.

Right now, some of the agricultural community uses the SLRG Railroad to ship and receive materials at a lower cost than it would be if trucking were used. According to Noffsler, if the railroad were to stop shipping in the San Luis Valley, it would lead to over 24,000 additional shipping trucks on the highways to meet the needs of the agricultural community.

In addition to the agricultural impacts, current dealings with the Rio Grande National Forest logging projects may be impacted as well. Noffsler stated that the RGNF is currently looking at means to dispose of the dead trees being logged on the National Forest and fear shipping costs of those logs would go up if the railroad was no longer an option.

“When you really get down and look at the facts, it’s so clear how important the railroad is to the Valley,” Noffsler said.

The line has been in danger of shutting down since 2019 when

previous owner Ed Ellis filed for bankruptcy with several years of back property taxes owed to all six counties of the Valley and Huerfano County. In the years since the announcement, Rio Grande County has taken the lead on trying to get the taxes paid in full and to ensure the line survived.

Within that process, it has been decided that Rio Grande County and Huerfano County are willing to forgo the taxes to be paid in increments by the winning bidder as long as the bidder keeps the line running for at least 10 years.

“The agricultural community is rail dependent; both import and export. We also have to look at public interest which is the tourism side of things. We need a company that can be compatible for both industries because our economies depend on it. What is the Valley willing to do to keep this viable if a bidder doesn’t come through? It is hard to say what the future holds,” said Noffsler.

Sixth annual Rio Reels Film Festival set for Oct. 28

MONTE VISTA — The 6th annual Rio Reels Film Festival will take place at the SLV Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista beginning at 6 p.m. Oct. 28.

There will be a dinner provided by local donors and caterers followed by a collection of river-themed films.

A ticket earns attendees a chance to win one of many door prizes.

The show also will stream live on Qudio beginning at 7 p.m.

In addition, there will be a silent

auction available to anyone online beginning the evening of Oct. 25. Local food and art, outdoor gear and getaway experiences will be auctioned off as well as other items.

Tickets are \$25 to attend in person and \$15 to watch online.

Visit qudio.com/event/rioreels2022/register to purchase tickets.

For questions, email info@riograndeheadwaters.org.

Keeping God First in Your Life

Years ago, while I was praying one day for something I wanted, God spoke a life-changing truth to my heart. He said, “Joyce, seek My face and not My hand. If you seek My face, My hand will always be open.”

As I said, this was a life-changing moment for me. I began to realize that up to that point, it had been all about *me* and what *I* wanted. I began to see just how shallow I was...and that it was time for me to go deeper.

I suppose I was like most Christians at the beginning of their relationship with God. It is generally all about what we want Him to give us or do for us. For a while, this is fine...I believe this is where we all start. We come to God with our list of desires or problems and we want Him to just fix everything. But eventually the time comes for us to grow and mature.

Seek First

God told me to seek His face. *Seek* is a strong word. It means “to crave, pursue, to make sacrifices to get, to go after with all of your strength and all of your heart.” What I believe He was saying to me was to go after a relationship with Him as if it was *everything*.

Our relationship with God really is what matters most. But sometimes it may take a while for us to understand that. I remember coming to a point in my life when I had a lot of “things” but realized I still wasn’t very happy. After praying and asking God what was wrong, He spoke to my heart and said, “Joyce, you are too shallow—it’s time to go out into the deep.”

You see, God was more interested in what was going on inside of me than He was in my “things.” Romans 14:17 says, “For the kingdom of God is not a matter

of eating and drinking [what one likes], but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (AMP). God cares about every detail of our lives, but He is more concerned about our inner life—our soul (mind, will and emotions)—than our outer life. I believe that’s because He knows that when we are spiritually strong on the inside, we will be able to properly handle what happens on the outside.

As we focus more on Him than ourselves, we not only begin to experience more satisfaction and fulfillment, but our desires come in alignment with His plan and what’s best for our lives. Psalm 37:4 (NIV) confirms this: “Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

Grow Roots

Nature has a way of demonstrating deep truths of God’s Word. Isaiah 37:31 (AMP) says, “...Take root downward and bear fruit upward.” Large trees with thick, full branches have a massive underground root system that spreads both deep and wide. Without this support system, a tree could never weather a storm.

In the same way, we must develop deep *spiritual* roots before we can truly enjoy the big, full life God has intended for us. This means cultivating a relationship with the Lord, finding out what He says about us in His Word, and becoming rooted and grounded in His love.

It is vital to build a strong foundation in God; that means learning to seek Him first, rather than things. So many times, we go about it the opposite way and seek things first—a bigger this or a better that or more of the other. However, without that strong



Moving Up Higher with Joyce Meyer

foundation in God, these things won’t be very helpful to us. If we don’t first establish deep roots of faith in God, we will never be able to endure the storms of life that will certainly come.

Prioritize

Matthew 6:33 says, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (NIV). These are wonderful words to live by. I can tell you from experience that when you make God number one, He will fill your life with peace, joy and satisfaction...and then some!

I encourage you to make a decision today to seek God for who He is and make your relationship with Him your top priority. Dig deeper...I believe you’ll discover what you’ve really been looking for all along.

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s four-teaching resource **Keeping God First**. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

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

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



Court again rejects Village at Wolf Creek development proposal

CONTRIBUTED
WOLF CREEK — A Federal District Court on Thursday, Oct. 20, again rejected plans by the developers of the Village at Wolf Creek to gain access across National Forest lands for the project.

Senior Federal Judge Christine M. Arguello invalidated the Rio Grande National Forest's approval from 2019 that granted an access road across the National Forest in order to facilitate development of the real estate development proposed atop Wolf Creek Pass. The court's order was issued in response to a lawsuit filed by Rocky Mountain Wild, San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council, San Juan Citizens Alliance, and Wilderness Workshop.

"This is tremendously good news for anyone who values the remote character of Wolf Creek Pass," said Mark Pearson, Executive Director at San Juan Citizens Alliance. "We've never seen an honest evaluation of the environmental impacts of constructing a city of 8,000 people at over 10,000 feet atop one of snowiest locations in Colorado, probably because the impacts if revealed would be staggering."

For decades, Texas developer B.J. "Red" McCombs has pursued his vision for a city of 8,000 people at the top of Wolf Creek Pass. This development would be roughly the population of Aspen.

The Leavitt-McCombs Joint Venture obtained ownership of 300 acres of National Forest land via a land exchange

in 1986, one originally rejected by the Forest Service until political pressure overruled the common-sense denial. A seasonal national forest road provides access to the inholding from Highway 160 for reasonable use and enjoyment, however the developer's plans for 1,700 housing units and large-scale commercial development led them to pursue unlimited access.

Wolf Creek Pass, 20 miles from the nearest town, is a remote landscape with a ski area and little nighttime traffic.

Construction of the Village at Wolf Creek would impact the entire region, disrupting key movement corridors and habitat for threatened lynx, increasing traffic, and changing the character of the separately owned Wolf Creek Ski Area.

Community groups have waged unrelenting opposition to the development for 20 years, repeatedly scoring legal victories against the Forest Service, which continually approved various schemes to authorize the development.

Most recently, in 2019 the Forest Service approved an access road in closed-door meetings with the developer. In doing so, it relied on the exact same Environmental Impact Statement that was rejected by Senior Federal Judge Richard Matsch in a 2017 ruling that invalidated a land exchange previously proposed in 2015 between the Forest Service and the developers.

The Forest Service's reliance on the rejected 2015 Environmental Impact Statement for its 2019 road access decision was the basis for Thursday's

court decision.

"Thus, USFS frustrated the purpose of NEPA by continuing to rely upon an uninformed FEIS to issue the 2019 ROD," the court concluded.

"The ruling once again confirms the failure by the Forest Service to appropriately follow the National Environmental Policy Act and rigorously assess the true consequences of this inappropriate development," said Travis Stills, an attorney with Energy & Conservation Law representing the conservation groups. "The order also recognizes the internal debate among staff of the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service about how to lawfully implement their environmental mandates."

The history of development efforts by the Village at Wolf Creek span at least 20 years, dating to an environmental review process that began in 2002. The Forest Service's review has been marked by numerous lawsuits aimed at gaining transparency for the public about the project's impacts.

"We are still waiting for the Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other federal agencies to conduct an open, transparent and inclusive analysis of the environmental impacts associated with this enormous commercial development," said Matt Sandler, Legal Director with Rocky Mountain Wild. "The Court's ruling is a huge win for the wildlife and wildlands of Wolf Creek Pass."

Opponents view the idea of a city



Courtesy photo

A Federal District Court on Thursday, Oct. 20, again rejected plans by the developers of the Village at Wolf Creek to gain access across National Forest lands for the project.

atop Wolf Creek Pass as an absurdly bad idea, far from any public services and emergency responders, lacking an adequate water supply or electricity sources, severing important wildlife corridors, ignoring the consequences of vastly increased traffic, and discounting the real health impacts to thousands of visitors from sea-level trying to sleep above 10,000 feet.

"This is such a critical decision for the headwaters of the Rio Grande, the Wolf Creek area simply cannot handle anymore large scale development pressure," said Christine Canaly,

Director of San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council. "The river's water delivery obligations must focus on the needs of the basin. Perhaps climate reality and this vital legal decision will stimulate much needed sobriety to the Leavitt-McCombs Joint Venture team and we can finally come together to align goals that embrace the living landscape."

The groups pledged continued scrutiny of any further attempts to resuscitate the failed proposal, and continued insistence on the Forest Service's compliance with its legal obligations.

SLV Tourism Association elects new officials

Contributed
ALAMOSA — The San Luis Valley Tourism Association (SLVTA) is a nonprofit whose mission is "to preserve our environmental and cultural resources by unifying our marketing efforts to promote the Mystic San Luis Valley as a tourism destination and thereby developing responsible economic growth for the seven counties of the San Luis Valley."

SLVTA recently organized to elect new officials and focus on the redesign of a San Luis Valley recreation guide.

"At this time, we would like to thank Huerfano County, C&TT Railroad, Costilla County, Mineral County and the Fort Garland Revitalization Committees for their contributions towards this project," officials stated. "We look forward to building partnerships within in the SLV to promote our beautiful SLV and emphasizing on Caring for Colorado while visitors are on their journey."



Courtesy photo

San Luis Valley Tourism Association elects new officials. Pictured from left to right are Lynne Young, Treasurer, Katrina Danforth, Saguache County, Kale Mortensen, President, Carlton

Croft, Huerfano County, Ayesha Williams, Board Member Costilla County, Theo Bourdreau, Board Member Saguache County, Ami Hooper, Dandelion Creative Services, Ellen Dodds, Alamosa Welcome Center, Andrew Grossmann, Director Colorado Tourism Office and dog Becca, Alamosa Welcome Center.

Veterans Day Parade set for Monte Vista

By LYNDIE FERRELL
MONTE VISTA — For the first time in several years, Monte Vista will have a Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 12 at 10 a.m.

Though details for the event are still underway, Rio Grande County Commissioner Scott Deacon is thrilled to be a part of the planning process and is looking for additional help to get the event off the ground.

"I am really happy to be planning this event. I was never a veteran, but I think this is something our community needs. I am looking for some help with planning though, so anyone who has

ideas can reach out to me," said Deacon. "We just really want participants for the parade so we aren't doing entry forms but will have waivers for participants to sign."

Deacon was approached by a local veteran and asked if he would be willing to coordinate the event and Deacon immediately jumped on the opportunity.

"So far, we are hoping to have local

school bands from Monte Vista and Del Norte, a local car club, the tractor club and hopefully the Honor Guard and a military fly over, though all of this is still in the works. Any help anyone can offer would be greatly appreciated," said Deacon.

Deacon will also be reaching out to Homelake Veteran Center to see about working with them.

"I just think it is really important that we recognize and celebrate our local veterans. This is something we should do every year and hopefully will be able

to moving forward," he said. For more information or to help with the event, contact Deacon at 719-850-1180.

NOTICE OF BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Directors of the San Luis Valley Irrigation District for the ensuing year of 2023; that a copy of such proposed budget has been filed in the office of the San Luis Valley Irrigation District where same is open for public inspection; and that such proposed budget will be considered at a Regular Meeting of the San Luis Valley Irrigation District Board of Directors to be held at 296 Miles Street, Center, Colorado, on November 16th, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Any interested elector of the San Luis Valley Irrigation District may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the Budget.

No. 1652 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, October 20 and 27 and November 3, 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 jjgilbert@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.

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 jjgilbert@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.

Jeff Phillips
For Saguache County Commissioner

Bringing Balance to Saguache County

Paid for by the Committee to elect Jeff Phillips.

SLV REC offering 12 scholarships to Valley students

CONTRIBUTED
MONTEVISTA— San Luis Valley REC makes secondary education a priority when giving back to the Valley. With just over \$210,000 given in the past five years, REC annually awards up to 12 scholarships to local students.

The awards are primarily reserved for REC members, although a few of the scholarships are available to other Valley students.

The SLV REC Adams State University Four-Year Scholarship is renewable for up to a maximum of four years. The value of the scholarship equals the total of in-state tuition, some fees and a book allowance for the award year.

In addition to the four-year scholarship, REC awards the Martin Christensen Electric Lineworker Scholarship, which may be used at any accredited lineworker school. The value of the scholarship is currently \$5,500 and may be used to cover tuition costs, required textbooks or minimal basic tools for the program. Although first consideration will be given to graduating high school seniors, this scholarship is open to all individuals.

Other scholarships include the following:

The \$4,000 Robert Wolfe Scholarship was established for

students furthering their education in an agricultural or engineering field and may be used at any trade school, college or university.

The \$4,000 Mike Rierson Scholarship, new in 2023, can be used toward further education at any trade school, college or university.

REC also offers the SLVREC Past Director Scholarship and the SLVREC Past Retired GM Ray Villyard and CEO John Villyard Scholarship, both of which are valued at \$1,000 each.

In addition, six Tri-State G&T Scholarships are offered at \$500 each. Dependents of employees and directors of SLVREC are eligible



Courtesy photo

Anthony Lewis, a May 2022 Adams State graduate, was awarded the 2018 SLV REC ASU Four-Year Scholarship.

Vigil resigns as RG Bank Board of Directors chair

CONTRIBUTED
MONTE VISTA — Donn Vigil has resigned as Chair of the RG Bank Board of Directors, effective Oct. 7.

Vigil said he felt RG Bank was in a great position, so the time was right for the Bank. He will now also be able to fully retire and spend more time with his wife Mary, his grandkids and riding his motorcycle.

RG Bank President and CEO Shon Davis said, "Donn had a warmth to him. He was well known, well beyond RG Bank, with time served on Boards such as the Adams State University



Foundation Board and the Rio Grande Hospital Board. If you were with Vigil getting coffee or at an event, he had many people who wanted to come see him to visit and see their friend Donn."

In 1979, Vigil started his career at RG Bank as the bank's in-house real estate appraiser. Over time, he was trained in mortgage lending as a loan officer. Ultimately, Vigil spent the majority of his working career as Chief Lending Officer.

He earned his way to President-CEO of the bank and served in that capacity until his retirement in 2017. He was appointed to the BOD in 2012, serving the last several years as Chair of the BOD.

Davis said, "Vigil's presence, influence and warmth while working at and serving on the board of RG Bank will be missed, but certainly never forgotten."

RG Bank is headquartered in Monte Vista and has branches in Alamosa and Pagosa Springs. According to Davis, a new Chair of the Board of Directors will be selected at a future meeting.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Oct. 17 and Oct. 23, 2022.

Deputies patrolled Saguache eight times, responded to a missing person report from Moffat, assisted four citizens and two agencies, conducted three welfare checks, and gave one courtesy ride. They also handled a civil dispute, a mental subject, and a protection order violation. Staff arranged five ambulance rides, dealt with cases of harassment and fraud, responded to five alarms, and provided information to citizens.

In addition to monitoring 12 controlled burns, staff addressed three fires. Two cases of theft and a burglary required attention, and deputies responded to a drug violation near Del Norte, criminal mischief, a noise complaint, loose livestock, and an animal problem in Center. They also issued three speeding tickets and another citation for passing on the left against traffic.

ARRESTS

• A 58-year-old Saguache man was arrested and is in custody for failing to appear in court in Saguache and Alamosa Counties.

for one of these scholarships, as are members.

For full requirements and details, see the scholarship application online

at <https://slvrec.com/scholarships>

Anthony Lewis, 2018 four-year ASU scholarship winner, graduated in May 2022 with his bachelor's in

kinesiology: exercise science. He said, "thank you for giving me this generous scholarship; it definitely helped tremendously."

Paint Recycling Drop-off and Giveaway Event

Tuesday November 8, 2022
2-6 p.m.

Town of Saguache Community Building
525 7th St.
Saguache, CO

Registration Required:
<https://paint-saguache.eventbrite.com>

Households may bring most types of paint, stain, and varnish in any amount. Paint must be in sealed, original container with original manufacturer label. **We cannot accept aerosols, solvents, and other hazardous waste.**

Businesses must qualify as an exempt generator under federal and any analogous state hazardous waste generator rules to use the PaintCare program for oil-based paint but can still use the program for latex products. Please visit www.paintcare.org/VSQG for more information on exempt generator rules.

During the event, you must:

- Remain in your vehicle.
- Unlock your vehicle's trunk to allow event staff to remove the paint materials.

COVID-19 Update
Participants are requested to follow the current recommendations and requirements of the CDC, local, and state health officials to protect yourself and others from the spread of COVID-19.

SCAN THE CODE BELOW TO REGISTER FOR THE EVENT

Paint in good condition will be made available to the public for free.

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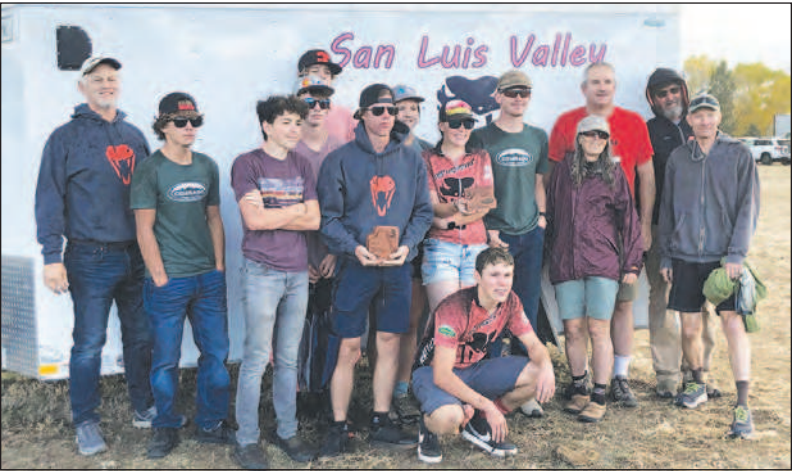
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Courtesy photo

The San Luis Valley Rattlers Mountain Biking Team finished third in their division at the Chalk Creek Stampede and placed third overall in the series.

SLV Rattlers third at Chalk Creek Stampede Race

CONTRIBUTED

The San Luis Valley Rattlers Mountain Biking Team concluded its 2022 regular season on Sunday, Oct. 9, by posting a third-place team finish in their division at the Chalk Creek Stampede in Nathrop.

The finish also placed the team in third place for the overall series, their best performance in the team's seven years of competition.

Individually, each rider posted remarkable results for the season with all but two racers qualifying for state competition on Oct. 22-23 in Glenwood Springs.

In order of their Nathrop appearance, the individual race and season results are as follows:

In the Junior Varsity Boys division, Tyler Roberts put up the fastest course time for the team at 57:45.94 and placed 20th in his second highest finish of the

year, earning a 23rd spot in the overall series.

Just seconds behind, team captain Caleb Henson peddled hard for his best finish of the season to earn 21st place in the race and 26th in the series.

First year racer Tim Malueg also battled for his best finish of the season at 37th place achieving 43rd in the overall series; an awesome accomplishment considering he started the season at the back of the 120-rider field, many in their third or fourth season of racing.

In the JV Girls division, posting the most points for the team, Valerie Goodland finished sixth at Nathrop earning her 6th place in the overall series; only 1 point behind the tied 4th and 5th place racers!

In the Sophomore Girls division, the tenacious Sydney Woodke logged a 14th place finish, improving her course **Please see RATTLEERS on Page 6**

MVSD Early Learning Center is filling a need

Ribbon cutting for Center held during Homecoming Week

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista School District held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new Early Learning Center on Thursday, Oct 6. MVSD Early Learning Center Director Stacey Plane is excited about the center opening fully opening to the public this month.

"This is certainly a realized dream for so many of us," Plane said. "I am super excited to be a part of it all."

Plane said the center was needed and the timing was right to get it opened. She sits on the Board of Directors for the Early Childhood Council.

"I have also been a part of different state and local organizations, and there has always been a need for this," Plane said. "We have some great home visitors, we really do, and we have our Head Start program, but there has always been a need for something more."

Visiting with Monte Vista School District Superintendent Scott Wiedeman and talking with some people in the Early Childhood Council, "we became aware of the timing. There are some grant programs out there to help fund some of the early childhood pieces, and



Photo by Marie Mccolm

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

we just all talked and really wanted to get together and do this for our community."

Plane said they started looking for a building in the fall of 2021.

"We had this admin center for the school district, and admin ended up moving into the Community Banks building here in Monte Vista," Plane said. "Shortly after the move, Scott let us know that they we have a building for you. We were super excited to hear that."

Plane said they started working closely with their local health department and their pre-school licensing team to see if the building

was suitable.

"We had them check over the building and walk around with us," Plane said. "They walked around and told us what requirements we would have to meet to make it a good building for what we wanted to do. What really excited us about the location, too, is that it's close to the Delta Center and close to the high school. We thought wow, we can tap into this, and it will work well. It's something we really struggle with in our Valley. So now there's a lab facility available so that early childhood students can volunteer **Please see MVSD on Page 2**

VTS provides help to local veterans

By DIANE DREKMANN

ALAMOSA — The Veterans Transportation Service location in Alamosa provides a crucial service in the San Luis Valley.

Through the Veterans Transportation Service any veteran can get a ride, for free, to any medical appointment whether to Alamosa, Pueblo, Colorado Springs, or Denver.

The Veterans Transportation Service get its vehicles by donations, grants, Alamosa County, and the Department of Disabled Veterans (DAV).

After eight months and help from Benito Gonzalez, adjutant of DAV, scheduling director Michael Lopez was able to get a new 2022 Ford Explorer, with three seats and wheelchair accessible.

Alamosa County has provided three vehicles, does the maintenance and pays for gas and insurance. The prob-

lem, Lopez explains, is "the county vehicles can only fill up at county gas pumps. The vehicles provided by the VA use a VA fuel card." The county vehicles are limited to only use in San Luis Valley. The cars using a VA fuel card have more flexibility and can be used for trips to Denver or Colorado Springs.

The heroes of the Veteran Transportation Service are the drivers. Anyone can apply to be a driver. Drivers often become confidantes and friends and form strong bonds with the people they help.

The Veterans Transportation Service is expanding. They now offer help to veterans in South Fork and Crestone, as well as servicing Alamosa, Conejos, and Costilla counties.

To become a driver, donate a vehicle, schedule a trip, call Lopez at 719-587-5181 ext. 1181.



Courtesy photo

Pictured is Michael Lopez, scheduling director of the Veteran Transportation Services in Alamosa.

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MVSD Continued from Page 1

and learn more about early childhood right here.”

Plane has been in Early Childhood Education for 26 years and with the Monte Vista School District since 2012. Plane is the principal of Marsh Elementary School and the new director for the MVSD Early Learning Center.

“There are so many people that need childcare out there, so we know this is going to help the community,” Plane said. “Our projection for the center is we will have eight infants, and we are licensed for anywhere between 12 and 15 toddlers. We do have a small gap between 36 months and our cut off for preschool

is you have to be 3 by June 1. We are looking at it like, but what if you have a 3-year-old that’s 3 by July. So, we are working really hard with the licensing on this. So, what I have done is I have added in a room, for the children from 36 months until they are old enough to start preschool.”

Weideman was at the ribbon cutting and said, “This is just amazing, but I was just the yes man. I said yes, and we as a team have done all of this. We as a team have made all of this possible. Stacey is so wonderful, our crew, the schools, the board, we are a team and we have done this together. I was just

the yes man, but I am really proud to be a part of it all.”

Plane thanked the Early Childhood Council, and the governing board that is over the childcare

center, and the Monte Vista School District Board of Education.

“They made all of this possible, and I really want to thank everyone for working with me, to bring this

all together. We finally did it. This is wonderful,” she said.

For more information on the MVSD Early Learning Center, contact the Monte Vista School District.



Photos by Marie Mccolm

The MVSD Early Learning Center is in the old administration building. The center is licensed for up to 15 toddlers.



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Creede looks to spruce up for the holidays

Seeking volunteers

By LYNSIE FERRELL

CREEDE — A group of local business owners and the City of Creede have decided that they want to make the town nestled into the high caldera cliffs of the La Garita and San Juan Mountains a festive destination. According to Shelly Dee, owner of the Creede Hotel, the goal is to light up Creede and make it a holiday destination for the San Luis Valley and beyond. These efforts began last year and since there was a decent turnout and several participants, both Dee and her fellow holiday committee members felt it was time to turn it up a notch. The holiday committee is seeking participants to help plan for the coming event which will feature contests, holiday markets and more. The city will be lighting up public areas and encouraging local businesses and residents to do the same. There will be cash prizes for participants in both the business and residential lighting contest categories and local youth will be the judges. The lighting displays need to be up by the

evening of Nov. 26. There will be a city-wide lighting event that evening from 4 to 6 p.m. after the annual Chocolate Festival.

In addition to the lighting contest, the committee would like to host a holiday market with vendors and local businesses setting up tents outside to offer their goods to shoppers. The plan is to block off Main Street from Wall Street to the county courthouse for three full days on Dec. 10, 17, and 23. There will also be caroling, warm beverages, sweet treats and more.

Markets will be held on the above dates from 1 to 5 p.m. so people who attend can see the Christmas lights later in the evenings. There will also be a parade on each of these days beginning with the theme of Toyland. The other parade themes include Decembers Market from around the world de-

signed by Creede School students and a church related theme that will be announced as details become available.

The committee is looking for volunteers and is set up into three focus groups which include Marketing, Parades, Christmas Market and Decorations and all need help. Anyone interested in signing up is asked to contact Dee at shelly.dee@mac.com.



Courtesy photos Creede is getting ready for the coming holiday season and a group of local business owners in partnership with the City of Creede are looking to turn the town into a winter wonderland.

SLV Health coat drive is underway

ALAMOSA — San Luis Valley Health invites everyone to join in donating coats to Weiss Dry Cleaners in Alamosa or drop them off at Conejos County Hospital in La Jara. All items will be distributed through local food banks to help keep the members of the San Luis Valley community warm. New or gently used coats, scarves, hats and gloves will be accepted through Nov. 21. Weiss Cleaners is donating their resources to this coat drive. For more information, contact Breanna Dunn at 719-587-1417.

Halloween event set for Oct. 28 in MV

MONTE VISTA — The Halloween Festival and Moonlight Madness Trunk-or-Treat is on Friday, Oct. 28, in Downtown Monte Vista. Every year participating businesses in Monte Vista give candy. This year there will be costume contests, activities and much more. The event will take place from 4 to 9 p.m. on Adams Street in downtown Monte Vista. Pick up your trick or treat map of the town at the Monte Vista Chamber. There is still time to register a vehicle for the trunk-or-treat. Participants in the trunk or treat will be notified of their location the week of the event. For more information, contact the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce.



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Kathy.James@cuanschutz.edu
(303) 724-8169
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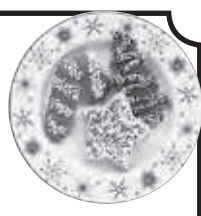
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Superintendent of Schools, Center School District 26JT, 550 S. Sylvester Avenue, Center, CO 81125. Email kjetola@center.k12.co.us or Kruggles@center.k12.co.us for more information. (10-26)

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

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Here's How It Works:

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

B	R	A	E	S		E	A	T		P	A	C	K		
E	A	G	A	N		P	A	L	S		A	B	L	E	
E	K	E	S		S	A	R	A	H		C	R	I	E	L
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E	L	K	S		U	F	O			E	S	T	O	P	

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SLV Climbing Alliance hosts second annual competition

By **PATRICK SHEA**

PENITENTE CANYON — The Second Annual True Penitence Climbing Festival drew climbers to Penitente Canyon Oct. 14–16 for challenging ascents in costumes, historical presentations, music, film, and food.

Sponsored by the San Luis Valley Climbers Alliance (SLVCA), the festival opened on Friday night with presentations and music nestled in the rocks near the trailhead.

Bob D’Antonio, a man who many consider to be the grandfather of climbing in Penitente Canyon, assembled a guidebook of the routes years ago. Nate Liles worked with Wolverine Publishing out of Newcastle to print an update this summer. Both Liles and D’Antonio skipped through slides and shared observations of changes over the years.

Emcee Wes O’Rourke and SLVCA President Angela Lee are the driving force behind the group and its board of directors. The couple runs Sol Mountain Farm and has actively promoted climbing access in the Valley. Both quite capable climbers, O’Rourke and Lee factor social equity with environmental stewardship as part of the alliance mission.

“We’re a nonprofit, Access Fund affiliated local climbing organization,” O’Rourke said. The SLVCA Vice-president also said, “We do stewardship work on the trails. We get kids out. We do events like this. We protect climbing access.”

Introducing D’Antonio, O’Rourke said, “Bob was one of the first people to set foot in the canyon as a climber in 1984. He has put up 2,000-plus first ascents, hundreds of those here in the San Luis Valley.”

Starting with free coffee served before the first ascents on Saturday, competitors tackled challenges for their chosen category. Since many of

the routes are rated 5.10 and above, the Recreational group had to start early and share rock time. Categories included Top Rope Hero, Recreational, Intermediate, Advanced, True Penitente, Elite, and Traditional.

Each climber filled out a scorecard and had a witness verify each “send,” a fall-free ascent of a route. In addition to receiving seven bonus points for wearing a costume, competitors accumulated points commensurate with each climb’s difficulty. Final scorecards due by 7 p.m. included a line for the total number of routes

conquered on the first try, followed by other lines for second and third attempts.

Winners in each category could choose a new rope or a new pair of shoes courtesy of event sponsors La Sportiva. Representatives gave free demonstrations throughout the competition. All award-winners received special trophies manufactured out of ancient hardware removed from the canyon rocks during route restoration.

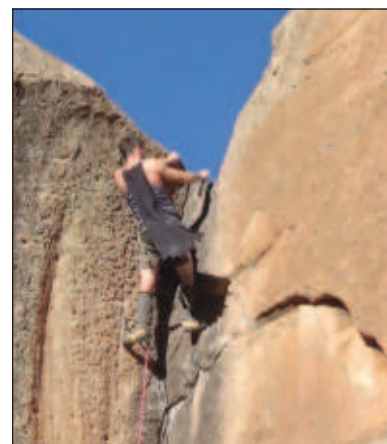
Elite category winner Boy Go won uncontested for the second year in a row. As he announced the victory,

O’Rourke noted how Boy Go needs a challenge next year, perhaps from some younger climbers in the crowd.

The night before the competition, everyone sang Happy Birthday for Cooper, a 12-year-old who took second place in the Intermediate division. The young talent fits the profile of a new generation for future versions of the True Penitence Climbing Festival.

Climbers like Batman Tyler received seven bonus points for wearing a costume.

Photo by Patrick Shea



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RATTLERS

Continued from Page 1

time from last year by over 22 minutes and earning a 14th place overall series finish.

In the Sophomore Boys division, Tyler Dokson finished 21st in Nathrop with a secure 15th place overall.

Summit Mashburn overcame a start chute crash to place 34th in an epic finish line pile up. Summit lands in 35th place overall.

The Freshmen Boys wrapped up the day with Chevy Kincannon placing 28th in his second-best race of the year, earning a 31st overall finish. Payton Daniel logged a 57th place finish for the race as his season ends in 44th place, just 4 positions short of qualifying for State.

Each racer experiences a gamut of emotions during the 12-mile races as they pit themselves against dozens of students, up to and sometimes beyond 100 racers, from across the state in their respective divisions. Passing and being passed, overcoming course challenges such as sand, mud, and loose rocks, and sprinting for the finish line to catch that rider in front or keep one behind are just a few of the elements these racers learn to navigate. Pouring their heart and soul onto the racecourse, riders often cross the finish line with little to no energy left. Teammates quickly gather around to slap backs, give high fives, offer congratulations, commiserate on crashes, relate epic encounters and generally bask in the glow of each other’s accomplishments.

The Rattlers participate in the Piedra division of the Colorado High School Cycling League. Many will compete in one last race on Oct. 22 and 23 as they face fierce competition from the largest and fastest field of up to 140 riders from all three other divisions at the State Championships in Glenwood Springs.

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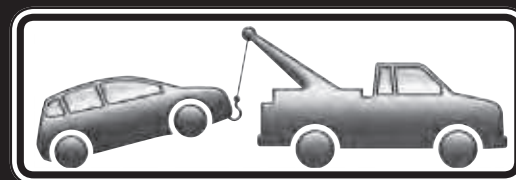
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Courtesy photo

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

South Fork Chili Fest heats up fall weather

SFFF prepares for holiday season

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

SOUTH FORK — Hundreds of chili enthusiasts gathered in the South Fork Community building on Thursday, Oct. 13, to taste some of the best chili and salsa around. The annual South Fork Chili Fest has been an area favorite for several years and though it slowed down during the COVID-19 pandemic, no one who attended Thursday night would have known.

The community center was once again packed from wall to wall with people. The lively chatter of conversation and laughter set the atmosphere as people lined up along booths creatively decorated with a western theme. Participants came from all over, including from Lake City, to compete in the chili competition.

There were professional chefs from locally owned restaurants, local and visiting organizations as well as residents participating and vying for the top spot in three categories. There was a prize for the Best Table Décor for the night and as people made their way from one table to the next, comments were made about how delicious the evening's concoctions were.

"Dusty and his crew outdid themselves. It was such a wonderful event," stated one taster.

There were 14 contestants that participated in the event. The first-place winner in the red chili category went to Terry Watson. Second place in red chili went to Doc's Outdoor Sports. First place in the green chili category went to Cheryl MacIntosh from Tiny Timbers Coffee and Bistro and second place for the green chili went to Ramon's Mexican Restaurant.

In the salsa category, first place went



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The South Fork Friends Foundation has announced that its annual Winter Fest will be held on Nov. 26 at the Rio Grande Club. Along with the annual vendor and craft fair, the town lights up for the holidays during the Yuletide celebrations — more details coming soon.

to Cheryl Wheeler with the Church of Christ and second place went to Barbara Cowman.

For the Best Table Décor, Mark Zecker from Hinsdale County Sheriff's Office won the top prize.

Up next, the South Fork Friends Foundation is gearing up for the coming holiday season and is in the process of planning another wonderful Winter Festival at the Rio Grande Club in South Fork. The event will feature several visiting and local vendors and will offer the perfect holiday venue for some unique shopping opportunities. The event is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition, the SFFF will also be lighting up South Fork during its annual Yuletide celebration. Details will be announced as they become available.

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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. 3 American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2018 Survey of Dental Fees, Copyright 2018, American Dental Association.

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Best of the Best in the San Luis Valley

Photo courtesy of Natalie Gentry

Valley Courier

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Winners announced in second annual 'Best of the SLV'

VALLEY— More than 1,000 people cast more than 10,000 votes in the second annual "Best of the San Luis Valley" contest sponsored by the Valley Courier and Valley Publishing's six weekly newspapers. Nominees and voters from across the SLV were represented.

Exclusive on-line voting began on Sept. 14 and concluded on Oct. 9. A new nomination stage preceded voting this year, collecting nearly 600 nominations from across the valley in 120 categories.

The winners by category will be shared online today as well as in the columns to follow, declaring the "Best of the Best." Several SLV businesses dominating voting by winning in more than one category.

Winners in four categories included Creede Repertory Theatre and Garcia Auto Sales and Service. CRT was voted tops in theatre, family entertainment, festival and place to take out of town guests. Garcia's won for auto repair, oil change, tire shop and place to buy a used car. Triple winners included San Luis Valley Federal Bank, Monte Vista Co-op, Lucky Bamboo, My Brothers Place and Windsor Hotel/1874 Food Truck.

Earning honors in two categories were City Market, Delmar CarpetOne, Kristi Mountain Sports and Big John's Furniture. Absolute Shine in Monte Vista collected the most votes of all nominees with 149. Here are the results:



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MV Coop

Arts & Entertainment

Best Art Gallery
Quiller Gallery

Best Attraction

Sand Dunes Recreation

Best Family Entertainment

Creede Repertory Theatre

Best Festival

Creede Repertory Theatre

Best Local Event

Alamosa Round-UP

Best Movie Theater/ Drive-in

Star Drive In Theatre

Best Museum

Creede Mining Museum

Best Musician

Low Key

Best Outdoor Event

Summerfest on the Rio

Best Place to Take Out of Town Guest

Creede Repertory Theatre

Best Mexican Restaurant

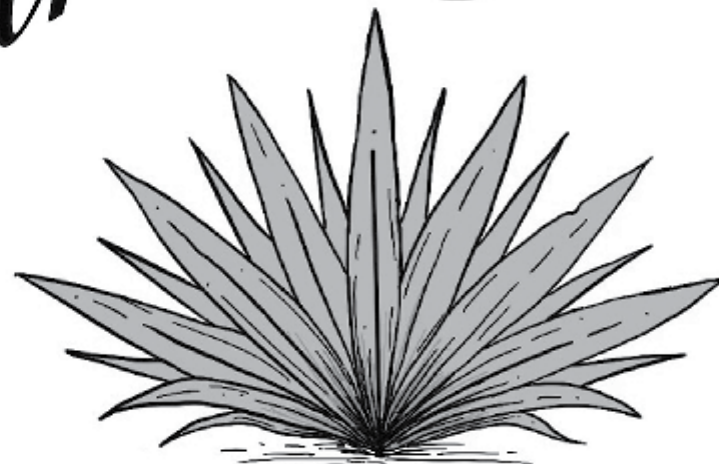
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2022



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Best Places for Kid's

Birthday Party

Sand Dunes Recreation

Best Staycation Location

Sand Dunes Recreation

Best Theatre

Creede Repertory Theatre

Eating & Dining**Best Asian Restaurant**

Lucky Bamboo

Best Bakery

Tumbleweed Bread

Best Barbecue Restaurant

Woody's Q Shack

Best Bartender (name & place)

Juliette Ambler, 1874

Tasting Room, Windsor
Hotel**Best Beer Selection**

Square Peg Brewerks

Best Breakfast

Campus Cafe

Best Brunch

Locavores

Best Catering

Gosar Natural Foods

Best Chinese Restaurant

Lucky Bamboo

Best Coffee House

Blessed Brews Coffee Shop

Best Food Truck

1874 Food Truck

Best Green ChileNino's Mexican Family
Restaurant**Best Hamburger**

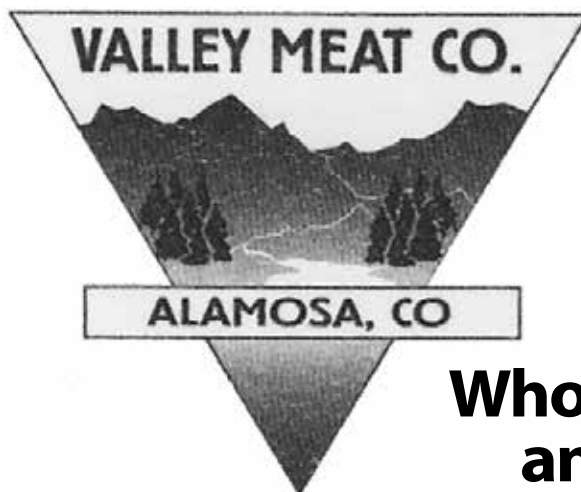
Rubi Slipper

Lucky Bamboo wins three categories

Courtesy photo

Opening on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2021, Lucky Bamboo's staff were greeted by a standing room only crowd and line outside in downtown Alamosa. Owners are Ivan and Judy Thong, former owners of the former May Wa restaurant.

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Best Hospital

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Garcia Auto wins best in four categories

Courtesy photo

Garcia Auto won four categories in the 2022 Best of the SLV contest: Auto Repair, Oil Changes, Tire Shop and Best Place to Buy a New/ Used Car. Pictured are Garcia Auto staff, Jonathan, Aaron, Erika, Elias, and Eslin. Not pictured: Paul Pena.

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CRT wins four awards

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Best auto body shop to Absolute Shine



File photo

The staff at Monte Vista's Absolute Shine are pictured after winning Best Auto Body Shop in the Best of the SLV; Phinel Garcia, Corey Carcia, Jodi Garcia, Cobi Garcia, Darrius Garcia, Donald Romero, Jose Sarinana, Samuel Sarinana, Gabino Fuentes, Martin Ambrosio and James David. Absolute Shine earned the most votes of any nominee with 149 votes.

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Co-op wins three awards



Courtesy photo

Monte Vista Co-op won three agricultural categories in the 2022 "Best of the SLV" contest; equipment and service, seed company and fertilizer and pesticide. There sprawling headquarters just outside town are shown.

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City Market managers pose with the store's outdoor pumpkin display as Halloween gets closer. Shown are, front from left, Maria Lucero, front end manager, Tania Filio, grocery manager, Destinee McBride, pick-up manager, Marita Prieto, pharmacy manager; back, Whitney Smith, bakery manager, Fred Garcia, produce manager, Paula Berry, general merchandise manager, Rachel Hart, store manager, and Corey DeHerrera, meat department manager.

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