

Shorts

Saguache County meeting cancellation notice

SAGUACHE — A portion of a meeting scheduled for Sept. 19 by the Saguache County Commissioners has been cancelled because the zoning change application under discussion was delivered back to Elaine T. Johnson and Steven M. McDowell for resubmission.

The previous application combined cell tower erection with a community service building that would include a kitchen, offices, conference rooms, and outdoor storage. It has been determined that the application must be resubmitted as two separate applications.

Alamosa Farmer's Market runs through Sept.

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Farmers' Market welcomes locals and visitors to downtown Alamosa, Saturdays at the corner of 6th and State for our 2022 Market season.

Vendors will be selling regional farm fresh food products, other foodstuffs, and hand-crafted goods this season. Now that September is upon us expect to see more root vegetables, roasted Pueblo green chiles, fresh Olathe corn, Palisade peaches, and New Mexico apples.

Live Music will be back again. Kids will have two options for their activities this season. They can take home a to-go bag or do the activity right onsite at the market this year.

The Market accepts debit and credit cards, SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks, WIC vouchers, and cash. For more information, see www.alamosafarmersmarket.org or the Farmers' Market Green tent on Saturdays.

Shepherd performing in Creede on Sept. 18

CREEDE — Darrell Shepherd, Americana solo artist, to play at Basham Park in Creede on Sept. 18 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Darrell Shepherd is an Americana singer-songwriter born and raised in Alaska. Currently residing in the mountains of Colorado, he wants nothing more than to write and perform songs that tell stories and make you want to sing along.

Shepherd also owns and operates the Shepherd Music Experience, a music school centered on the innate creative abilities that exist within all his students — children and adults alike.

For more information, contact Creede Arts Council at creedearts@outlook.com. To view the entire summer lineup, head to www.creedeartscouncil.com/music-in-the-park.

Sargent grad Rockey elected to State FFA office

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Sargent High School graduate Ashlyn Rockey was elected to serve as Future Farmers of America Colorado Secretary.

Rockey grew up on a potato farm just outside of Center. She attended Sargent High School and graduated in May.

"A week after graduating from high school, I ran to serve more than 8,000 members in Colorado FFA," Rockey said. "I was then elected as the Colorado State Secretary for FFA. It's very exciting, yes."

FFA is a youth association that prepares its members for leadership

and occupations in the science, business, and technology of agriculture.

Members are not limited by these occupations though, members are also future chemists, teachers, veterinarians, and other professionals in many diverse career fields.

FFA was founded in 1925, at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute by agriculture teachers Henry C. Groseclose, Edmund Magil, Harry Sanders, and Walter Newman. The organization was first known as Future Farmers of Virginia, the name was later changed to Future Farmers of America and has since

been changed to the National FFA Organization.

"I am really excited about being a big part of FFA," Rockey said. "We just moved to Denver, to the National Western Stock Show grounds, the CSU campus. We will be giving tours there, to help bridge the gap between agriculture and the consumer; so that's really exciting. We will also be traveling to all the FFA Chapters in the state of Colorado delivering leadership workshops and things like that."

Rockey said she was "skeptical" about joining FFA when she was in *Please see ROCKEY on Page 2A*



Ashlyn Rockey



Photo by Patrick Shea

When devastating winter winds destroyed the Spring Grow cannabis-cultivation operation in Saguache County, potential profits died for the company and county codes dictated a costly cleanup effort.

Code enforcement runs through government

By PATRICK SHEA

SAGUACHE COUNTY — From property owners associations to town boards and county commissioners, code enforcement is a common thread through Saguache County communities. Without a court presence and

clearly written codes that bare teeth, officials cannot enforce land use violations.

During a Moffat town board working meeting in August, Town Attorney Seth Walker explained how the costs incurred for hiring a judge can be offset by payments for

fining and handling violations that would otherwise go unattended. Mayor Cassandra Foxx and board members combed through the town's codes with red pens and made updates to provide clarity for enforcement.

Please see CODE on Page 6A

New restaurant opens doors in Center

By PATRICK SHEA

CENTER — The Corner Grill and Coffeehouse opened in Center on Sept. 12, offering another dining option in town with coffee specials, breakfast, and lunch on the corner of Highway 112 and Broadway Street.

Launched by Lisa and Kent Palmgren, the 31-seat restaurant is a reprise of Lisa's kitchen skills from the couple's cafe at Hooper Junction. In addition to specialty drinks and straight brews of San Juan Mountain Coffee, the Corner Grill and Coffeehouse features baked goods from the Worth the Drive Bakery south of Monte Vista.

Lisa's son Tyler Bennett and his wife Kristina round out the staff along with Carala Thatcher. Thatcher is engaged to Tyler's brother Dylan, who will return at the end of October to help at the restaurant following his military deployment in Africa.

Open Monday through Friday, the Corner Grill and Coffeehouse breakfast runs from 7 to 11 a.m. Tyler said they like to play "low-fi hip hop chill music" in the morning. Then they crank up 1990s alternative music for the louder lunch phase from 11 to 2 p.m.

Please see GRILL on Page 2A



Photo by Patrick Shea

Carala Thatcher, Kristina Bennett, Tyler Bennett, and Lisa Palmgren pose on their second day after opening the Corner Grill and Coffeehouse in Center on Sept. 13.

Dues might rise 30% for Baca Grande property owners

By PATRICK SHEA

BACAGRANDESUBDIVISION

— Reported incorrectly in the Sept. 8 issue of the Center Post-Dispatch, the Baca Grande Property Owners Association meeting on Oct. 15 will not address township. Instead, the annual meeting includes a final vote tally for the three candidates running unopposed.

During a Meet the Candidates gathering at the POA meeting hall on Sept. 8, the candidates fielded questions from property owners. LeRoy West and Alison McClure sat together in the room, and Claudia Wolfe appeared on-screen via ZOOM.

The current board includes President Diego Martinez, Vice President LeRoy West, Treasurer Sugandha Brooks, Member at Large Alison McClure, and departing Secretary Ed Sbarbaro.

Please see BACA on Page 2A

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SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Sept. 5 and Sept. 12, 2022.

Sheriff staff issued three traffic citations for speeding. They also made five stops, assisted a motorist, arrived after a crash, received one traffic complaint, and handled one REDDI Report (Report Every Drunk Driver Immediately).

Deputies also monitored seven controlled burns and a fire in Moffat. In addition to four search and rescue operations, staff helped arrange six ambulance rides, assisted seven citizens, and conducted three welfare checks.

ARRESTS

- A 30-year-old Monte Vista man

- who failed to appear was arrested.
- A 31-year-old Sargents man was arrested for prohibited use of weapons, possession of weapons by previous offenders, and reckless endangerment.
- A 21-year-old Moffat man was arrested for first-degree criminal trespass and third-degree burglary.
- A 44-year-old Buena Vista man was arrested for first-degree criminal trespass and third-degree burglary.
- A 27-year-old Montrose man was arrested on an assault charge (strangulation) and child abuse. Bail was set for \$10,000.
- A 45-year-old Center man arrested for driving under the influence was moved to Rio Grande County Jail to serve 120 days.

OBITUARIES

Mary Lou Millsap

Longtime San Luis Valley resident Mary Lou Millsap, 89, died Sept. 7, 2022, at the Evergreen Nursing Home in Alamosa.

Mary Lou was born on April 24, 1933, in Fort Morgan, Colo., the daughter of Roscoe Leroy Cowen and Bessie Thelma (Adams) Cowen. She married Victor John Millsap on Dec. 18, 1955, at the First United Methodist Church in Alamosa. He preceded her in death in 1963.

Mary Lou worked for the Department of Social Services in both Alamosa County and Rio Grande counties for a total of 35 years combined. During this time, she also worked as a bartender for the B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge in the evenings. In her early years, she liked to bowl and enjoyed bowling in league. She also enjoyed reading. One of Mary Lou's favorite things to do was to go

for drives, and she especially liked driving while it was raining.

She is survived by her children Dale Millsap, Vicki (Greg) Pace of Monte Vista, Colo., and Leroy Millsap of Alamosa, Colo.; her grandchildren Amy, Lissa, Charity, Joshua (Sandy), and Matthew (Michaela); her great-grandchildren Calista, Emily, Rayna, Lee, Dakota, Landon, and Lexi; her brother-in-law Marvin Millsap of Paducah, Kentucky; as well as numerous extended family and friends.

Mary Lou was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and her sister Betty Ferrell.

Cremation was chosen and a Graveside Service will be held 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022, at the San Luis Valley Cemetery.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes and words of



comfort for Mary Lou's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

Vickie Lynn Myers

Long-time Center resident Vickie Lynn Myers, 67, passed away on Sept. 10, 2022. She was born in West Virginia on Jan. 23, 1955, to Jack and Billie Jean (Carter) Shrewsbury.

Vickie married Gerald Walker Myers in Aurora, Colo., on May 28, 1977. Vickie was a member of the Master Farm Homemakers, United Methodist Women, Martha Circle, the Town and Country Club a 4-H volunteer and the Minnie L. Harding Education Loan Fund Committee.

Vickie had a bachelor's degree in Home Economics, was a substitute teacher and volunteered to teach Bible School. She enjoyed traveling with her husband Gerald, spent many hours in her sewing room and above all, loved spending time with her family. She had the highest standards for being a mom and grandma to her family.

She is survived by her husband Gerald Myers of Center, her children

Cory (Brandy) Myers of Center and Brad (Brittany) Myers of Bryan, Texas, her grandchildren, Coulter, Corbin, Colsen and Katelynn, her sister Nancy (Kit) Greenbaum, her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Caren and Dave Graham and Cheryl and Duane Fransen, her uncle Donald Shrewsbury of Cullman, Ala., and her nieces and nephews, Randy (Brandi) Greenbaum, Kayla (Kent) Herrman, Kelly (Travis) Polzin, Ryan (Casey) Graham, Dale (Keri) Fransen and Matthew Fransen as well as other extended family.

Vickie was preceded in death by her parents and her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Don and Shirley Myers.

Cremation was selected and a memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 19, at the Center United Methodist Church. Contributions are suggested to Beaver Creek or to the Center United



Methodist Church and may be made in care of the funeral home office.

To express condolences, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com.

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

BACA

Continued from Page 1A

The board's monthly meeting will take place at the POA Hall at 10 a.m. on Sept. 15. Like the last POA board meeting, money management will likely be the top issue (considering an annual dues increase of 30 percent). With more than 90 percent of revenue coming from property owner dues, the POA budget lacks flexibility. The board scheduled an "Informational Exchange" meeting for Sept. 20 at 6 p.m. so board members and property owners can discuss the 2023 budget.

Other advisory boards for the Baca Grande POA include the Environmental and Architectural Committee (EAC) and the Violations Appeals Panel. These volunteer groups are composed of property owners who are in good standing.

Designed for adjudicating covenant compliance violations, the EAC includes four members, and the VAP features three different people. The monthly EAC meeting for Sept. 14 included five issues to address, one of which is on the VAP radar.

ROCKEY

Continued from Page 1A

high school. "Funny story though, I actually was skeptical about joining FFA in high school, but mom and dad thought it was a really good thing for me," Rocky said. "I decided to try it, and I fell in love with it. I really feel like I have found my home and place in FFA. I decided that I love it, and I really wanted to give back to FFA, and this is my way of giving back, by serving my organization for an entire year."

Rockey explained that she and nine other teammates from across Colorado have moved to Denver and will be living together for a year. Rocky said the purpose of them living together will be to develop content and create workshops, which will be introduced to current youth members. The hope is that the content and workshops will make a difference in the youth's lives and better prepare them for the future.

"It's amazing that we all get to live together," Rocky said. "This actually helps so much in the

development of content and other things that we will use to help the organization. In previous years, I would have to travel to Denver or wherever else but now living together we get to just develop really cool content, and we get to grow together as a team, so we can hopefully impact Colorado FFA in a really amazing way."

Rocky said that she would recommend FFA to teens.

"It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Rocky said. "My favorite part of FFA is making amazing and important connections, that will hopefully last a lifetime. If you don't want to run for state office, there is always something for you in FFA. FFA allows you to find a home within high school. Your FFA family will forever be your family. I just encourage you to try it out, even if you don't want to be involved in agriculture. It really helps you develop those skills, so you can go into the world feeling very prepared."

GRILL

Continued from Page 1A

The restaurant will stay open until 4:30 p.m. to serve coffee and ice cream. With Center Consolidated Schools a few steps away from the coffeehouse, the afternoon hours provide a haven for students and staff after school.

Tyler and his mother Lisa discussed delivery options for the future, perhaps to accommodate COVID-outbreak conditions. A new federal law applies taxes to deliveries, and as Tyler explained, their limited staff would struggle to maintain dine-in service and deliveries. Customers can choose takeout or sit-down, and

they can order online via Toasttab.com.

The lunch crowd filled the dining area the day the Corner Grill and Coffeehouse opened, followed by a steady stream of breakfast customers and another full-house lunch on Tuesday.

Every week, Taco Tuesdays will feature three varieties — smoked brisket, chicken bacon ranch, and mango shrimp. As its name implies, Chicken Fried Fridays could become a comfort food favorite serving hand-breaded fried chicken with mashed potatoes, corn, and a hot roll.



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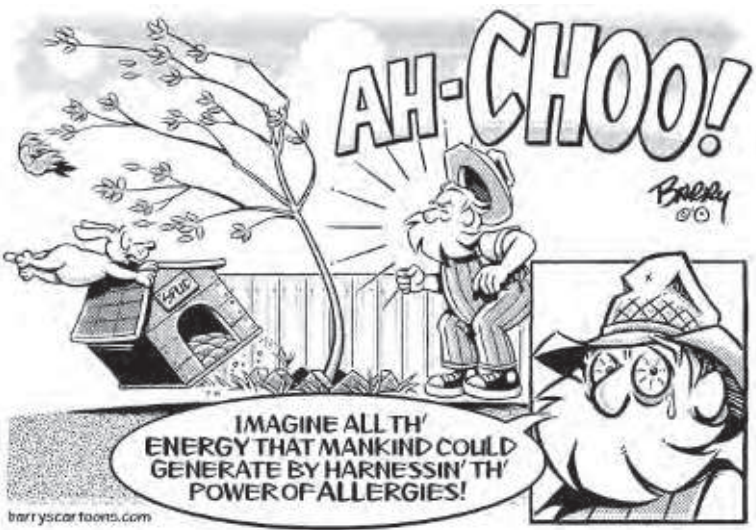
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OPINION & EDITORIAL



Halloween then Christmas

Early in August, Miss Trixie and I were at a local shopping venue and Ol' Dutch noticed that they had some Halloween decorations already out. I am sure you all can remember when they used to start in with that marketing madness about the first of October, but it seems that every store has begun digging out the orange stuff earlier and earlier hoping to corner the market before their competitors can do so.

And I thought to myself that most certainly it's early for pumpkin madness but soon after that I began to see Christmas items for sale in stores around the area also. I read somewhere that retailers are trying to get these seasonal things out for sale sooner than later because people have money now and they may not have it around Christmas time due to inflation.

When you think about the word inflation, we all generally think about airing up our tires. And it's the same with an economy as it keeps going up with nothing but air to support it. We all know that things have never been more expensive and it's almost every day that the everyday items we buy increase in price. If you have a car and drive it at all I don't have to tell you how the price of gas has gone up and up and up. It's ridiculous and I do believe it's all a planned event. But regardless of your opinion on the cost of living increases we have seen, it's common knowledge that people are having to change the way they shop and what they buy.

At the Big Box store I saw a cardboard pumpkin for carving. The directions said all the fun of carving without the mess and cheaper too. The display for said fake punkins showed kids whacking away at this hollow paper-based sphere with fake knives which looked ridiculous. It's almost un-American to suggest that children should be deprived of the experience of putting their hands down inside a slimy pumpkin and gutting it like last year's deer. How else can they learn to process a carcass unless they start with



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

slimy orange stringy piles of seeds? And I hear that many a brain surgeon got their start in just such a situation, and we do not want to deprive the world of such talent found early on around Halloween time in their lives. But we are strange people always looking for the easy way out and I can see that these new cardboard contraptions will be popular with mothers since it will mean less mess to clean up afterwards. That is unless you count the blood from said child's awkward attempt to slice the hard carboardish slick surface. And then savings on this new gadget will be offset by a trip to the local emergency room for five stitches in little Johnny's hand.

But all in all, it's a good time of year to look forward to with the little gremlins soon to be seen dodging cars and trucks in an attempt to wrangle \$3 worth of candy into their bags. And if the exposure to the E.R. does not point your child toward a career in the medical field rest assured the annual begging for candy from door to door will set them up for a lifetime of selling vacuum cleaners to lonely housewives stuck at home.

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.

YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

Fall is in the sky

Fall is in the air! The aspens are starting to change color, and the days are getting shorter. September to November are the best times to view the night sky because it gets dark earlier, yet the temperatures are relatively mild. Since the full moon was on the 10th, and the last quarter moon is on the 17th, the sky is getting better to look at.

The changing season can be seen predawn in the southeast sky as the constellation Orion, the hunter, and the star Sirius become visible. We won't be able to see them in the evening sky for another month or two when Earth's orbit changes its position. So, for now you'll have to get up early!

Orion is named after the hero of Greek mythology who was killed

by Scorpius, the scorpion. The gods felt sorry for Orion, so they put him and his dogs in the sky, along with the animals they hunted.

Scorpius was placed on the opposite side of the sky so Orion would never be hurt by it again. This position prevents them from appearing in the sky at the same time. So right now, Scorpius appears in the evening and Orion in the morning. You'll remember that Scorpius appears just to the right of the Teapot in the eastern evening sky.

I love Orion! This beautiful constellation is easily identifiable by the bright stars that make up his belt. His sword contains the famous Orion Nebula which is bright enough to be viewed with the naked eye. Without binoculars it just appears as a fuzzy blob.

What is a nebula? It's a cloud



of interstellar dust or gas that is illuminated by the stars within it. Nebulae are often colorful and named for the shapes they resemble. The Orion nebula has a greenish glow. Also in Orion is the bright orange star, Betelgeuse. It's an M-class red supergiant, which means it's massive with great luminosity.

Sirius, also known as the Dog Star, is part of the constellation, Canis Major. It's one of Orion's hunting dogs and sits just below and to the left of him in the sky. So, get up in the morning before it gets light and look in the South for this constellation.

LETTER

Superhero, at my service

Editor,

Liza Marron is my kind of superhero; not the comic book-action movie kind, who can fly, or bend steel, but with equally unusual powers. More practical than the ability to dodge bullets: consensus-building, budget-managing, and transforming endless hours of meetings into progressive action.

For weeks now, I have wanted to write something in support of Marron's candidacy for Saguache County Commissioner. At first, the prospect sent me into the Abyss of Political Despair, wondering how to communicate in an arena where people are divided about what is real, and what is fiction. Eventually, I surrendered that problem to the final truth-teller: Time.

In the here-and-now reality of San Luis Valley, I ask fellow voters to consider Marron's background. She has served in many established job

roles: ranch hand; social worker; foster mom; mom; president of the School Board. These relate-able titles show us something about her work ethic and value system.

Perhaps more impressive is Marron's track record as a free-thinking problem-solver. She has initiated or partnered with others to establish multiple non-profit organizations and businesses which fill needs specific to San Luis Valley.

If you have ever ordered (organic) produce from the Valley Roots Food Hub, (Fresh Box program), you have benefited from her work. If you have enjoyed a meal from "MOKI," (the Mobile Kitchen) food truck, this is part of the "Local Foods, Local Places" initiative that she helped to develop. If you know someone who works in a small non-profit in the Saguache County, they probably depend on their sponsor, ScSEED, (the Saguache County Sustainable Environment and

Economic Development) to manage the administration required to operate as a non-profit. (You might guess who runs ScSeed.)

There's more to Marron's background, of course. I've heard about a mere fraction of her work, and mostly not from her. She listens more than she talks. She refuses to brag.

Real superheroes, (at least, the Political kind), do not use hate to knock out those who disagree with them. Real superheroes take the time to understand complex issues, and the concerns of those affected by them. Heros listen. Deliberate. Collaborate. Communicate. Delegate. They focus on both the process and the outcome. I want a superhero representing my interests on a county level. If I were to conjure up a character that embodies the qualities of an ideal County Commissioner, she would be Marron.

*Tricia Toney
Crestone*

LETTERS POLICY

Letters are welcome and encouraged. They should be fewer than 300 words, unless arranged beforehand with the editor, and they are subject to editing for length and clarity.

All letters must be signed by the author and include a phone number and address where the author can be reached (these are not for publication). Letters forwarded from other organizations or sent to staff and not for print must be designated as such. Letters over 300 words and without contact information will

be returned to the sender or discarded.

We will accept one letter per person, per subject, per four issues. We reserve the right to reject letters for reasons we believe are appropriate. Please send letters to Letter to the Editor c/o Valley Publishing, PO Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or e-mail to bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com (Attention: Letter to the Editor). Deadline for letters is 5 p.m. Friday.

Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.

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Kent Rominger Airport to receive Jet A fuel tanks

BY LYNSIE FERRELL
RIO GRANDE COUNTY — For the past several months, Rio Grande County Commissioners, in partnership with Kent Rominger Airport Manager Earl Robinson, and the airport advisory board, have been working to install Jet A fuel tanks at the airport and the project will be nearing completion before the end of October.

According to Robinson, who gave an update to the board on Wednesday, Sept. 7, the summer has been busy, business is going well, and the new leasing program for some of the empty hangars has been successful.

“August has been a very good month as you’ve seen. Our lease program that was approved has been very successful. Out of the eight hangars that could be leased, seven have been leased. I am developing a want list for the remaining hangars that are north of the taxiway, so as far as the lease program goes, it was very timely,” said Robinson.

Robinson spoke about the demand for hangar space at the airport and how that demand showed the need for growth which is currently underway.

In the past two years, Robinson has been working with the Colorado Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division to secure three grants that will help with expansion and maintenance of the runways and the airport in general.

“The aeronautics division has expressed how much they really like this airport and they have shown it every year with generosity,” said Robinson.

In the next year, the airport will be expanding with a 450-foot taxiway, asphalt overlay on the 2010 runway and aid with the installation of jet fuel tanks that are scheduled to arrive by October.

“It’s amazing to be a part of this. The airport is a great complement to the Valley and neighboring airports. So much happens here that people just don’t see, and we want the community to know that we are working to make things even better,” said Robinson.

In February of this year, and after collecting data that showed high demand for Jet A fuel at the airport, Rio Grande County Commissioners approved funding to install a new turnkey fuel system at the airport.

“Once funding was approved, we put out a bid for proposals and chose a company out of Portland, Ore., that has made the fuel system for us. It is the exact twin to the fuel system used at the Alamosa airport and basically, it’s

like a new vacuum, all I have to do is plug it in,” laughed Robinson.

The massive 50,000-pound system will be delivered via truck in October and with the fuel comes the planes.

The airport is also home to Eagle Air, the local medical and emergency flight program. According to Robinson, 300 flights per year come and go out of the Kent Rominger Airport either taking patients to or from medical facilities or bringing in medical professionals that work to save the lives of San Luis Valley residents and guests.

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

Robinson and the airport advisory board in partnership with the county have important things planned for the future of the airport and once the tanks are installed, there are plans to invite the public to the facility to see some of the work that is being done.

“The airport advisory board is made up of very knowledgeable and diverse members and I wouldn’t be able to do what I do without their help,” said Robinson. “By this time next year, we could have over 50 resident planes housed at the airport, and it will be a sight to be seen.”



Courtesy photo

The Kent Rominger Airport is working to have Jet A fuel tanks installed by October and have been expanding current hangar facilities on the property this summer.

Great Sand Dunes announces closures due to visitor center remodel project

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

MOSCA — Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve began a visitor center remodeling project in early August to renovate the public restrooms, the lobby, and interior exhibit space in preparation for new exhibits to be installed in early 2023. As the park prepares for the next phase of the project, the visitor center will have closures during the week of Sept. 19 and 26.

Starting Monday, Sept. 19 to Wednesday, Sept. 21, the visitor center parking lot, and visitor center will be closed. Visitors will not be able to access this area to allow the delivery and construction of the temporary trailer and for staff to prepare to move into the temporary trailer.

The entrance station will provide park literature and the park passport stamp. Flush toilets and water fill-up stations are available at the dunes parking lot. Access to the Sand Sheet Loop interpretive trail can be accessed by hiking a ½ mile from the Mosca Creek Picnic Area. Normal operations will resume inside the visitor center on

Thursday morning at 9 a.m.

The following week from Monday, Sept. 26 to Wednesday, Sept. 28, the visitor center will be closed but the lobby and visitor center parking lot will be open. This closure will allow park rangers and Western National Parks Association employees the ability to physically move items into the temporary space. The lobby will have the passport stamp and park literature.

Visitors are also able to access the Sand Sheet Loop interpretive trail and portable toilets. The visitor center restrooms remain closed but flush toilets and water fill-up stations are available at the dunes parking lot. Parking will be limited to make room for the temporary trailer and visitors are asked to mind the speed limit when traveling through the parking lot.

Starting on Thursday, Sept. 29, park rangers and Western National Parks Association employees anticipate operating out of the temporary trailer. The temporary visitor center hours are 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Visitors can purchase limited merchandise from the Western National

Parks Association store, pick up park maps and visitor guides, stamp their passport book, or view a few temporary exhibits on display. The temporary visitor center will also provide a sneak peak of the upcoming exhibits that will be installed in 2023. The visitor center will open the newly remodeled restrooms in early October.

Staff will continue to monitor phones during these closures to provide updates to visitors and answer trip planning questions. These dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances, but park rangers will continue to update visitors as soon as possible.

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FRONTIER AUCTIONS

San Luis Valley Scoreboard 2022 -2023

FOOTBALL

Kim/Branson 28
**Sierra Grande 22**
Simla 29**Sanford 8**
Monte Vista 18 **Gunnison 10**
Classical Academy 42 **Alamosa 14**
Cotopaxi 67 ..**Sangre de Cristo 12**
Center 28**Peyton 20**
Cedaredge 20**Del Norte 0**
Buena Vista 24 **Centauri 18**
Hoehne 46 **Sargent 0**
La Veta 76**Mountain Valley 30**

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Keep It Colorado honors Conservation Heroes, photographers Sept. 1

Celebration includes people, groups from San Luis Valley

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

GOLDEN — The nonprofit conservation coalition Keep It Colorado celebrated nine “Conservation Heroes” and 11 photographers at its inaugural Fall Reception on Sept. 1 at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden. About 80 guests attended the event, which featured an awards ceremony, a gallery exhibit and a cocktail reception.

The event was designed to celebrate those who contribute to conservation and those who benefit from protecting Colorado’s unique qualities — such as the beauty of the natural landscapes, the abundant wildlife, the ranching and farming way of life, fresh local food, cultural and historical heritage, and the endless outdoor recreation opportunities.

The heroes for conservation were selected by a committee based on a competitive nomination process. They were each honored for their remarkable contributions to land, water or wildlife conservation in Colorado and included:

- Advocacy Hero: Rio de la Vista, Former Director, Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center
- Community Partner Hero: San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition
- Land Protector Hero: Steve Wooten, Owner and Operator, Beatty Canyon Ranch.
- Land Trust Innovator Hero: Travis Custer, Executive Director, Montezuma Land Conservancy
- Volunteer Hero: Dawson Metcalf, Volunteer Extraordinaire on the Northern Front Range
- Legislative Champion: Senator Faith Winter
- Legislative Champion: Senator Cleave Simpson
- Lifetime Achievement Champion: Patti Hostetler, Executive Director, Douglas Land Conservancy
- Outstanding Public Official: Aaron Welch, Director, Colorado Division of Conservation

In addition to being recognized for their accomplishments, each hero received a ceramic bud vase titled “Bud Vase with an Attitude,” made by Colorado artist Macy Dorf. Much of Dorf’s more modern works are inspired by the geology and mythology of the canyon lands of the southwest.

The Fall Reception also recognized the works of 11 photographers, who had submitted photos illustrating their personal connection to Colorado’s land, water or wildlife, along with an essay, poem or caption to reveal more about that connection. The goal was to highlight the diversity and beauty of landscapes across the state and celebrate the unique relationships people have with Colorado’s places and spaces. Amateur and professional photographers selected from among four categories: “Born and Raised,” “Fell in Love — and Stayed,” “Indigenous Ties,” and “Workin’ It.”

Award winners’ photos and essays will be displayed at the American Mountaineering Center throughout the month of September. All photos and essays are displayed in an online gallery on Keep It Colorado’s website.

Top Picks photographers were:

- Sarah Malerich, whose photo titled “You Can See Forever” was taken near Pawnee Buttes in the Pawnee National Grasslands. Category: Born and Raised.
- Lynn Shore, whose photo titled “The Grand River” was taken on the Colorado River between Silt and Rifle. Category: Born and Raised.
- Jason Swann, whose photo titled “Stepping into the Sunrise” was taken at Long Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park. Category: Fell in Love — and Stayed.
- Dan Downing, whose photo titled “Spring Wind, Mt. Antero” was taken in Chaffee County. Category: Fell in Love — and Stayed.
- Montoya Whiteman, whose photo “3+1” was taken at Rocky Mountain Arsenal’s National Wildlife Refuge. Category: Indigenous Ties.
- Rio de la Vista, whose photo “Keeping the Wet” was taken at the Colville family’s Corset Ranch on the Rio Grande in Rio Grande County. Category: Workin’ It.
- Olander Farms and photographer Emily Sierra, whose photo “Barley Walk” was taken



Keep It Colorado celebrated nine “Conservation Heroes” and 11 photographers at its inaugural Fall Reception on Sept. 1 at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden.

at Olander Farms on the northern Front Range. Category: Workin’ It.

“Staff Picks” awards went to:

- Todd Warnke, whose photo “Colors, Mother Earth and Father Sky” was taken at Paint Mine Interpretive Park near Calhan. Category: Fell in Love — and Stayed.
 - Patrick Gardner, whose photo “McElmo Community Library” was taken at McElmo Canyon. Category: Fell in Love — and Stayed.
 - Montoya Whiteman, whose photo “Come Into My Lair” was taken at Rocky Mountain Arsenal’s National Wildlife Refuge. Category: Indigenous Ties.
 - Sean McNeil, whose photo “Place of Spirits” was taken at Vail Pass. Category: Born and Raised.
 - Bari Gisin, whose photo “Moving Sky II” was taken between Erie and Longmont. Category: Fell in Love — and Stayed.
- The seven “Top Picks” photographers each

received a cash gift in addition to \$100 that Keep It Colorado donated to a land trust of their choosing; selected land trusts included Central Colorado Conservancy, Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust, Colorado Open Lands, Ducks Unlimited, La Plata Open Space Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and Western Rivers Conservancy.

“Conservation doesn’t just happen by itself. All the qualities that make Colorado special are possible because of the hard work of people and organizations helping it stay that way through conservation, both today and in the future,” said Linda Lidov, director of membership and communications for Keep It Colorado. “Conservation means something different for everyone, and we believe our awards demonstrate and celebrate those differences. We’re proud of the shared connection Coloradans have for taking care of and enjoying the land.”

AVSAR rescue team recovers body from Blanca Peak

STAFF REPORT

HUERFANO COUNTY — One man is dead after falling during a hike near Blanca Peak in Huerfano County. Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue were called to an area just past the Alamosa County line in Huerfano County on Wednesday, Sept. 7, after receiving a distress call from Justin Seagren who had reportedly fallen while descending from Blanca Peak.

ASVAR team members were flown in by Flight for Life with technical gear near one of the Blue Lakes. After several passes in the helicopter, Seagren’s body was spotted but there were no signs of

life or movement. After a technical plan was created, it was decided that a highly skilled technical team would be needed to recover Seagren’s body. Canon City Helitack arrived on the scene to help assist with Seagren’s extraction. Two team members rappelled down to the subject’s location, packaged the body and then hauled the subject around 300 feet to the Ridgeline between the summit of Blanca at around 14,000 feet. Once the subject was hauled to the Ridgeline, Canon City Helitack flew in with a line attached to the bottom of the helicopter and completed the extraction.

Center Colorado



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CODE Continued from Page 1A

During the Board of County Commissioners working meeting at the Saguache Courthouse on Sept. 13, Code Enforcement Officers Doug Chacon and Don McDonald detailed dozens of violations they have attacked.

"Since Don started," Chacon said, "we've gotten a lot done." McDonald covered new ground by researching property ownership to

provide additional contact addresses for sending notifications and cease-and-desist orders. When a certified letter is returned undeliverable and the property owners do not reside onsite, it takes detective work to find alternate addresses.

As County Administrator Wendi Maez said, "many people move and don't notify us."

McDonald discovered a North Carolina address for a principal owner of two properties under code violation investigation. Serving the same letter to two addresses increases the chance of receiving a reply and showing good faith in contacting owners.

In addition to clearly written codes, communicating violations to owners with hand-delivered or certified letters is key to enforcement.

If the property owner shows progress cleaning up blight or addressing other code violations, the process continues. If they have been given a chance to work out a payment plan, the county will work with them as well.

But if an owner disregards the notices, they will receive cease-and-desist orders. In the legal realm, further failure leads to eviction — officially called "forcible entry and detention."

Even when circumstances are difficult and owners comply, codes require enforcement. As Spring Grow Project Manager Joe Cenna described it, "a tornado came through" last winter and destroyed his company's cannabis-growing operation on County Road T.

The mangled structures that remained on-site were beyond repair. Although some equipment still had sale value, the infrastructure rubbish piled high. For months, crews have been clearing away material. Plenty of it remains despite strong winds that blow lighter items onto neighboring properties.

The first Land Use Codes for Saguache County date back to April 4, 1988. Now 24 updates later, the most



Photo by Patrick Shea

recent version from May 19, 2020, is 288 pages long. The list of violations and extensions is also long.

According to McDonald, "I have been researching cases, one since 2011."

In many cases, McDonald said, land sales have been legal, but the deed has not been transferred. Similarly, he has spoken with owners who bought plots sight unseen, only to learn that they also inherited code violations that require costly cleanups.

As commissioner Lynne Thompson noted, "Buyer beware."

McDonald also noted how they need to verify with property owners if people on their land are allowed to be there. Absentee owners may not be aware of squatters on their land, yet they are still responsible for code violations on the property.

Land Use Administrator Amber Wilson and County Attorney Brad Crowell discussed budgeting for potential court costs. After confirming code wording and the process for notifying offenders, priority cases will require time and money.

As commissioner Tom McCracken noted, targeting violators surrounded by other violators may trigger more responses before going to court. It will show that the county is serious.

On Sept. 12, Center Town Administrator Brian Lujan attended the Regional Resiliency Roadmap group meeting in Monte Vista. Town administrators from La Jara, Saguache, and Del Norte joined Lujan in the discussion. After forming the group a year ago, the group met with consultants to discuss the future of code enforcement for land use issues according to each municipality.

In the Baca Grande subdivision, the Property Owners Association includes two volunteer boards for covenant violations. The Environmental and Architectural Committee handles violations, and the Violations Appeals Panel continues discussions based on appeals.

Suspect fires on law enforcement in Costilla County

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Deputies with the Costilla County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) were dispatched to a residence on Governor Road approximately five miles south of Fort Garland on Friday afternoon, Sept. 9, related to a report of an individual shooting at his neighbor.

Upon arriving on the scene, a suspect identified as Christopher Ocasio began acting in a threatening manner. When another deputy arrived, Ocasio began shooting at the deputies.

At that time, CCSO deputies retreated for cover while Ocasio continued to fire his weapon in their direction. Additional officers arrived on the scene, and the deputies were able to move to a safe point without injury.

According to a post on the CCSO Facebook page, the situation became a standoff between the suspect and the additional officers.

The Alamosa Police Department SWAT team responded to a call for assistance as did SWAT teams from the Salida Police Department, Conejos County Sheriff's Office and Chaffee County Sheriff's Department SWAT.

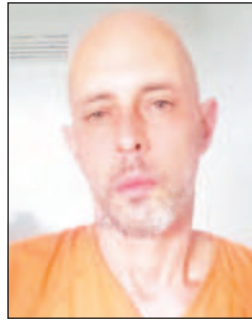
After a three-hour standoff, Ocasio was taken into custody and transported to the Costilla County Jail where he is being held on numerous counts of suspicion of attempted murder, felony menacing and reckless endangerment.

Bond was originally set at \$150,000. However, due to the timing of the incident, a visiting judge presided over the advisement on Saturday and bond was reduced to \$50,000.

Ocasio continues to be held in Costilla County Jail on the reduced bond.

Costilla County Sheriff Danny Sanchez said he was grateful for the agencies involved who helped end the incident without injury.

"With the help of these agencies, a volatile situation was brought to a safe ending where nobody was hurt or killed and the suspect safely taken into custody," Sanchez said.



Christopher Ocasio

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Child (6-12)	\$393 / \$490		
Tot (5 & under)	\$55 / \$68		

SUPERSAVER PASSES		-44 Blackout Dates-	
	Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate		
Adult	\$749 / \$936		
Senior (65 & older)	\$329 / \$411		
Student (13-18 in school)	\$578 / \$722		
Child (6-12)	\$296 / \$368		
Tot (5 & under)	\$42 / \$52		

SUPERSAVER BLACKOUT DATES
Nov. 25-26; Dec. 10-11, 17-31; Jan. 1, 7-8, 14-15, 21, 28;
Feb. 4, 11, 18-19, 25-26; Mar. 4-8, 11-17

PEAK ADVANTAGE FAMILY PASSES		SUPERSAVER FAMILY PASSES	
	Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate		Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate
1st in Family	\$998/\$1,247	1st in Family	\$749/\$936
2nd in Family	\$770/\$962	2nd in Family	\$578/\$722
3rd in Family	\$438/\$547	3rd in Family	\$329/\$411
4th in Family	\$360/\$449	4th in Family	\$271/\$338
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The love message is the power of the Gospel. It's so simple: Love God and love your neighbor as you love yourself. We often think we need someone to love us, but what we really need is someone to love. The world is desperate for real love, so it isn't hard to find someone who needs to be loved. We live in a society that drives people to selfishness. So much of the advertising we see and hear influences us to want more and more and to never be satisfied with what we have. But the more selfish and self-centered we are, the less power we have to do good and help others.

The good news is we have what we need in Christ to overcome a selfish "What about me?!" mindset and lifestyle. We have the power of God's love! It's the answer to every dilemma and problem in our society today. And as Christians, our goal is to represent Christ in the world and show His love.

What True Love Truly Is
Love is not just a feeling, or a theory, or a nice word. It's action—it's the way you treat people... what you do for others. Love will always cost you something: time, energy, effort, money, giving up your pride, doing what's right when you don't feel like it, keeping a good attitude when you don't get your way.

Loving the way God loves means you love when there's nothing in it for you; it's all about giving out and not expecting anything in return. We're called to outreach, not in-reach. Real love is about dying to self and living to love others.

Before you can love others, you have to experience God's love in your own life, because you can't give away something you don't have. Then you have to be willing to ask God to teach you to love the way He loves. When you do this, God will enable you to reach out and help someone else. I know this works because I've lived it.

My Journey to Finding True Love
I used to be selfish, self-centered, always thinking about how I could get my way. And I was miserable. See, I loved God and wanted to love people, but no matter how hard I tried to be sweet and nice to everybody, all of my trying was getting me nowhere. I was cranky, hard to get along with and impatient. God showed me the problem was that I didn't like myself because of the shame of my past. I grew up in an abusive home, and I felt guilty, condemned and ashamed because of it. I had to accept God's love for me before I could love anyone else.

So I decided to study God's love in the Word, pray for God to change my heart, and confess what His Word says about His love for me. Every day I would say out loud, "God loves me," and I would say it over and over to purposely keep this truth in my heart throughout the day. After a year of doing this, I finally got a revelation about God's love for me.

Now I am able to trust God's love for me and love others the way Jesus taught us to love. I don't do it perfectly all the time, but I've come a long way and am making progress every day.



My prayer is, "God, show me how I can help others. Make me a blessing everywhere I go. I want to live to love You and others."

Every day I look for ways to add value to people I come in contact with. I can honestly say that learning how to love others with God's love has made me the happiest I've ever been! The truth is you can't be selfish and also be happy or have peace.

Make it your goal each day to pursue God's love and then give it away. First Corinthians 14:1 (AMPC) says to "eagerly pursue and seek to acquire [this] love [make it your aim, your great quest]." So go after it with all your might, and ask God to make you a blessing everywhere you go! You can do something to help someone. You can live to love, just like Jesus.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching resource *Live 2 Love*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

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

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

Rio Grande Headwaters Hoedown set for Oct. 1

By LYNDIE FERRELL

ALAMOSA — The Rio Grande Headwater Land Trust recently announced it will be hosting its 12th annual Headwaters Hoedown on Oct. 1 at the Colorado Farm Brewery from noon to 5 p.m.

This event is an opportunity to learn about the Rio Grande Headwater Land Trust and what they do to serve the greater San Luis Valley through its riparian and conservation efforts.

For the past 23 years, the Rio Grande Headwater Land Trust or RiGHT has served as the San Luis Valley's only land trust that serves all six counties and is committed to projects all over the region.

"As the community's land trust, RiGHT is committed to working with private landowners, public agencies, and other conservation organizations to preserve the natural beauty and wildlife habitat of the area and to promote a sustainable agricultural way of life. Our goals are to protect and support working ranches and farms, water resources, wildlife habitat, and scenic landscapes while inspiring a culture of conservation in the San Luis Valley," officials stated.

According to newly hired RiGHT Executive Director Andy Brown, they are excited to share all their accomplishments with the community during this event and will be highlighting their success in conserving the Fox Creek area.

"We are really looking forward to having the community join us for a day of fun. We held our annual Hoedown last year, but I think this year is going

to be even better. The community is just ready to get out and have a good time and that's what we plan to do," said Brown.

According to his bio, Brown joined the RiGHT team this May and comes to the San Luis Valley from western North Carolina where he has a home and family in Asheville and a small farm on Roan Mountain that produces Christmas trees, blueberries and heirloom apples. A deep love for the Rio Grande basin and the desert southwest has drawn him to join forces with the board and staff of RiGHT and its many collaborative partners to help protect and enhance the natural and cultural qualities of the San Luis Valley.

Brown holds an undergraduate degree in Cultural Anthropology and a master's of Public Administration degree with a concentration in Environmental Policy and Planning. Previously, he served as Trout Unlimited's Coldwater Conservation Manager for the four-state southern Appalachian region.

Prior to TU, he created and directed a for-profit environmental consulting firm for 14 years called Equinox with a mission to facilitate conservation and sustainable development. Throughout his 25-year professional career, he has volunteered on the boards of a land trust and an environmental advocacy group and coached his daughters' basketball teams. He is also a stonemason and has great appreciation for the construction trades and people who work in them.

The Fox Creek conservation project

has been in the works for some time and through working with the family, the RiGHT organization was able to secure a conservation easement.

"We worked with a local family, a group of sisters that owned the land and we were able to get a conservation easement in lieu of selling the land. This was a wonderful accomplishment and will ensure the land and water is protected which helps us sustain it for the future," continued Brown.

The organization has seven conservation projects throughout the San Luis Valley in the works, with the hope of having them finished by the end of the year.

In addition to the conservation work that RiGHT does, they also help local landowners with repair of riparian zones. One project they recently completed was with the Valdez family who own land with wetlands near Capulin, by La Jara at the north end of the Alamosa River.

Riparian zones, or areas are locations where the river meets the land and is one of the many biomes of the planet. They are essential to the function of ecosystems within those areas.

At the Hoedown there will be local beer from the Colorado Farm Brewery, Gosar Sausage and other local food vendors, a corn hole tournament and live music from Wood Belly, a Colorado bluegrass band. Tickets are available online at www.riograndelandtrust.org and come in two levels this year. VIP passes come with a hat, event pint glass, two free beers and more.

House District 62 candidate forum is Sept. 26

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The League of Women Voters of the San Luis Valley and Pueblo are holding a virtual Colorado House District 62 candidate forum featuring Democrat Matthew Martinez and Republican Carol Rigenbach on Monday, Sept. 26, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This virtual event will be live streamed on League of Women Voters of Colorado and at <https://bit.ly/HD62CandidateForumLWVSLV>. Contact Wanda Hawman at 505-506-6077, for more information.

PUBLIC NOTICES

District Court, Saguache County, Colorado Court Address: 501 4th Street/PO Box 197 Saguache, CO 81149		COURT USE ONLY Case Number: 2022CV030018
Plaintiffs: Michael H. Trujillo and Linda D. Trujillo v. Defendant(s): Sam Smith, Frank A. Lewis and Maryanna Gilmore. Lewis, the County of Saguache, all heirs, creditors and all unknown persons who claim any interest in the subject matter of this action.		
Michael H. Trujillo, P.C. PO Box 862 Monte Vista, Colorado 81144 Phone Number: (719)852-5993 E-mail: michaelhtrujillo@yahoo.com	Atty. Reg. #5946	

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT(S):

You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 30 days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within 30 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.

This is an action: COMPLAINT TO QUIET TITLE PURSUANT TO RULE 105
LOTS 18 AND 19, BLOCK 24, SIMS AND BENJAMINS SUBDIVISION, TOWN OF CENTER, COUNTY OF SAGUACHE, STATE OF COLORADO

Dated: August 15, 2022
Published in the Center Post-Dispatch
First Publication: August 25, 2022
Last Publication: September 22, 2022

Michael H. Trujillo
Michael H. Trujillo, P.C. #5946

(This summons is issued pursuant to Rule 4(g), Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure. This form should not be used where personal service is desired.)

(TO THE CLERK: When this summons is issued by the clerk of the court, the signature block for the clerk or deputy should be provided by stamp, or typewriter, in the space to the left of the attorney's name.)

*Rule 12(a), C.R.C.P., allows 30 days for answer or response where service of process is by publication. However, under various statutes, a different response time is set forth; e.g., §38-6-104, C.R.S. (eminent domain); §38-36-121, C.R.S. (Torrens registration).

No. 1645 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, August 25 and September 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2022.



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MKT-P0253

Fall color map available at South Fork Visitor Center

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

SOUTH FORK — With the changing of the seasons happening all over the San Luis Valley, the coming weeks will be the perfect time to head out and see Colorado's famous the fall colors.

South Fork is the perfect destination for people seeking a fall adventure, and the South Fork Visitor Center is the place to go to learn where some of the best location drives are to see the splendor of autumn.

The South Fork Visitor Center is offering free fall drive maps that will take travelers through some potentially gorgeous areas that offer people the opportunity to get out and take pictures, take a short hike or meander through aspen groves.

• Platoro Lake is a high mountain lake nestled in the San Juan Mountains just a short walk from the main trailhead. Take Park Creek Road (Forest Service Road 380) toward Summitville. Take the turn to Ellwood Pass which will take you into Platoro. On the way down the pass, you will drive through canopies of aspen and have incredible views in all directions. There is a Lodge in Platoro that serves delicious burgers, among other things. The trip is around 40 miles one way and should take around two hours.

• Travelers can also head toward the historic town of Lake City to experience the Silver Thread Historic Scenic Byway. Take the Silver Thread Highway (149) from South Fork to Lake City for spectacular views of mountains and a patchwork of color. Be sure to stop at North Clear Creek Falls.

• Pool Table and Wheeler



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Fall is on the horizon for the San Luis Valley and the trees in the San Juan Mountains surrounding South Fork and Creede are beginning to change. Maps to help people make the most of their viewing opportunities are available at the South Fork Visitor Center.

Geologic Area is a beautiful drive in the La Garita Mountains just before Creede. Take the Silver Thread Highway (149) toward Creede. Just past Cottonwood Cove, there will be a sign that says, "Pool Table". It is Forest Service Road 600 and is 14 miles. Travelers may drive a two-wheel drive vehicle to Hanson's Mill then take the hiking trail up 6.5 miles to the geologic area. After the mill you will need a four-wheel drive vehicle. Drive on top of the mesa to be surrounded by golden Aspen.

• Beaver Creek Road is a short distance from South Fork and a great place to view fall colors. Take Highway 160 west 3 miles to Beaver Creek Reservoir Road. This is Forest Service Road 360. The first 5-7 miles are through Aspen

Forest. You will pass through the pines then the spruce and fir for great views of the surrounding mountains.

• Willow Creek and Del Norte Peak is 17 miles south of South Fork near the town of Del Norte. Head two miles east of town on Highway 160 to Gerrard Road. This road is Forest Service Road 350 also known as Willow Creek Road. You may follow it south up to the junction of road 345 where you will turn back to the northeast then meander back to the northwest around Del Norte Peak for beautiful views of the mountain.

To get a map of the fall drives described above, visit the South Fork Visitor Center located at the intersection of Highway 149 and 160 in South Fork.

Sargent Farmers Homecoming 2022

September 12-17
Theme **NEON**

Monday, Sept. 12 — USA Day Dress Up Day; Powderpuff Football at 6:30 p.m. (girls participate, boys coach for each class)

Tuesday, Sept. 13 — Soccer Mom vs. BBQ Dad Dress Up Day; Powderpuff Volleyball at 6:30 p.m. (boys participate, girls coach for each class)

Wednesday, Sept. 14 — Adam Sandler Dress Up Day; Community Dinner from 6-7:30 p.m. (hosted by Junior Class), Bonfire at dark and Bonfire Dance (Outside)

Thursday, Sept. 15 — Farmer Spirit Dress Up Day — Pep Assembly at 3:15 p.m. and Volleyball Game at 5 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 16 — Football Game at 7 p.m. — Coronation to follow

Saturday, Sept. 17 — Homecoming Dance (high school students only) 8-10 p.m. at Bus Garage

Powderpuff games will go as follows:

- Seniors vs Freshman
- Juniors vs Sophomores
- Winners vs winners
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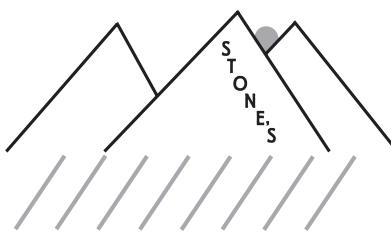
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When: September 26, 2022, from 9am - 12 pm

Where: Rio Grande Hospital Conference Room

Who: Everyone is invited

Cost: Free & Includes Snacks

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To Sign Up: Call Ellen Lane @ 719-657-4120 or email ellenl@riograndehospital.net

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Photo by Diane Drekmann

San Luis Valley native Rick Vigil is sharing the history of the area through a series of videos.

Local man sharing history in video series

BY DIANE DREKMANN

ANTONITO — From San Luis to Antonito and towns in between, there are organizations and individuals fighting to preserve the history of the San Luis Valley. One such individual is Rick Vigil. He and his wife Andrea, both from Antonito, have been sharing the history of the people, towns and churches of the San Luis Valley for more than 20 years through their company, Down to Earth Media.

They have a series of DVDs documenting the history of the area. They also give presentations in schools and churches.

Rick feels the best way to learn history is through the people who lived it. Sharing one's story creates a powerful connection between families and communities. He feels everyone has "a story to tell."

Father Sergio Robles was a staunch supporter and instrumental in helping Rick document history because he knew "if we lose our traditions,

we lose our identity."

One DVD tells the history of Our Lady of the Guadalupe Church in Conejos, considered the oldest church in Colorado.

The history of the Valley is deeply rooted in the Catholic faith, which has continued to sustain people to this day.

Rick's own history is rooted in faith and music. Rick's father owned the popular dance hall The Golden Nugget, in Antonito. He was also a member of the band, Los Vigilantes.

One DVD tells of Father Alonzo Muniz from Capulin who a musician, veteran of World War II, and later priest was. He gives testimony of growing up in the Valley. It was dedicated to Rick's father. Another DVD is dedicated to his mother, a woman of strong Catholic faith.

Although currently living in Golden, Rick comes often to Antonito to see his family. For more information, on Vigil visit online downtoearthmedia.org.

Subway Sean walks across Valley

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — Subway Sean walked through Monte Vista on Friday, Sept. 1, one of many towns on his 3,044-mile trek from Massachusetts to California. Of course, as his name implies, he stopped at the Subway in Monte Vista for a bite to eat, and he knew there was another in Del Norte just up the highway if he wanted a snack.

Please see SEAN on Page 3

Subway Sean is walking from Massachusetts to California to raise money and awareness for Big City Mountaineers, a Denver-based national nonprofit that provides camping and backpacking trips for disadvantaged youth.

Photo by Brian Williams



SdCNHA hosting Alliance of National Heritage Areas 2022 Fall Conference

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

ALAMOSA — Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA) will be hosting the Alliance of National Heritage Areas 2022 Fall Conference Oct. 10-14.

National Heritage Areas are a program within the National Park Service, and are places where historic, cultural, and natural resources combine to form cohesive, nationally important landscapes. Unlike national parks, National Heritage Areas are large lived-in landscapes. Consequently, National Heritage Area entities collaborate with communities to determine how to make heritage relevant to local interests and needs.

In 1984, the first National Heritage Area, Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Area, was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. In his dedication speech, Reagan referred to National Heritage Areas "a new kind of national park" that married heritage conservation, recreation, and economic development. As of 2022, there are 55 National Heritage Areas designated nationwide.

"The Alliance of National Heritage Areas works collectively to protect and promote the people and places that tell America's stories. We are a membership organization of congressionally designated National Heritage Areas and partner-affiliated organizations promoting the professionalism and benefits of the program through education and advocacy. Together, we facilitate and celebrate partnerships that improve our effectiveness and impact," organizers stated.

In October, 55 National Heritage Areas from across the country are invited to visit and tour the Sangre



Photos courtesy of SdCNHA

de Cristo National Heritage Area which encompasses 3,000 square miles consisting of Alamosa County, Conejos County, and Costilla County.

With 11,000 years of documented human habitation, the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area is a crossroads of the centuries. Here a unique blend of Native American, Hispano and Anglo settlement is reflected in the diversity of the people, art and traditions.

The geographic isolation of the high desert valley and the peoples' enduring ties to the land have given rise to a rich cultural heritage and ensured its preservation.

The area's fertile cultural landscape is complemented by remarkable natural resources, including

the mighty Rio Grande, majestic Rocky Mountain peaks, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge, Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, Baca National Wildlife Refuge, and the high mountain desert, all of which lend the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area an unparalleled beauty that offers a sense of retreat and a powerful source of inspiration for visitors.

SdCNHA is inviting partners and local businesses to donate products, stickers, and brochures for gift bags for our visitors, allowing them to take home a little of bit of the San Luis Valley. Or, if your business would like the opportunity to be a sponsor of the conference, contact Alina Marquez at 719-580-8044.

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HARVEST



Harvest wraps up in this hay meadow north east of Monte Vista.

Courtesy photo




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Understanding smart farm automation

Modern agriculture looks little like the early days of farming. All aspects of farming have been modified by the access farmers now have to technologies to meet the demands of their work and the pressure a growing population places on farmers to produce quality food. Farm automation, precision farming and smart farming are strategies utilized by today's farmers. These technologies have become important ways for farmers to optimize the production of food and improve its quality. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, agricultural production must increase by 70 percent in order to meet global food demand by 2050, by which time the population could be 9.7 billion persons. Smart farming can make raising livestock more accurate and controlled. While farm automation is a broad term, precision smart farming zeroes in on exact measurements between variations in land conditions and livestock, according to Techie Loops, a technology information website. Examples of farming automation technology include:

- autonomous vehicles and machines

- drones
 - robotics
 - GPS guidance
 - micro-forecasting and weather forecasting
 - soil sampling
 - yield mapping
 - use of artificial intelligence
 - geomatics
 - statistical processes, and more.
- Farmers can employ these technologies to save time and also manage labor shortages. Robot-assisted irrigation systems, for example, can maximize efficiency of water distribution where it is needed the most. Weeding robots can use artificial intelligence and computer vision to target field areas and reduce use of pesticides. Driverless tractors can make labor cheaper for farmers by plotting the machine's route and letting it run the course automatically. Harvest robots also exist to grab crops gently (some with vacuum technology) and reduce reliance on field workers. Some harvesters can determine ripeness of fruit via AI technology, according to Eastern Peak, a provider of custom hardware and software solutions for businesses.
- Technology is changing farming


in many ways. Innovations in automation can make operations more efficient and less costly.

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Colorado Encyclopedia seeks public's help

The Colorado Encyclopedia (CE) is producing a virtual tour about the history and legacy of La Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos (S.P.M.D.T.U.)'s Concilio Superior.



With the help of S.P.M.D.T.U. members CE has found numerous archival images of La Sociedad. So far, however, they have been unable to find photographs of the following events that took place at the Concilio Superior: boxing matches, basketball games, roller skating, dances.

If you have any photographs of these events or posters advertising such events, or know where CE could find them, contact virtual tour creative director Erika O'Connor by email: erikaoconor@gmail.com or phone 310-425-2313.

SEAN Continued from Page 1

Sean Clancy arrived in Alamosa on Wednesday, took Thursday off, and was back on the road Friday, planning to stop for the night just outside of Monte Vista. He averages walking 26 miles per day.

Clancy, 26, is using the walk to raise money and awareness for Big City Mountaineers, a Denver-based national nonprofit that provides camping and backpacking trips for disadvantaged youth.

And, he gave himself an extra challenge. He can only eat products sold at the fast-food chain Subway.

"I was looking into the trip, and I found out there's 47 other people that have done this trip before, so I wanted to find my own twist so when I finished, I could say I'm the only one that's done this type of trip," he said. "I did a little research into what food I could survive on, and I landed on Subway."

He began walking on May 1 and plans to finish the walk on the pier in Santa Monica, sometime in October.

Clancy began training for the trip in September of 2021. He dubbed himself "Subway Sean" and built up a social media following by livestreaming his training sessions on the online video platform Twitch. He continues to livestream while on his journey across America.

He started the walk using a small backpack and a baby stroller. Two months into his walk, The Subway

Corporation gave him a customized stroller and an electronic Subway gift card for as many subs as he wanted. The stroller has dual solar panels, a sandwich cooler, and other features.

In addition to the stroller, a \$10,000 donation was made by Subway to support Clancy's campaign to raise money for Big City Mountaineers. He has received \$3,000 in additional donations to date.

"When we learned about Sean's journey across America and his love for Subway sandwiches, we wanted to make his journey even better! Sean can fuel up with craveable sandwiches on us to make his food stops seamless as he journeys towards the West Coast," said a Subway Spokesperson. "3,000 miles is a long way to travel, and we recognize his equipment will start to feel the wear and tear of the road. That's why we'll be providing Sean with brand new equipment halfway along his journey."

There have been more changes for Clancy since starting the journey 125 days ago. He is letting his hair grow out and stopped shaving so he can get that "Forrest Gump" look. He has also dropped a few pounds — more than 50, Clancy admits.

"When I started, I weighed 215," Clancy said. "I think I'm at about 155 to 160 now."

His livestream can be watched at subwaysean on the Twitch platform.

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FRIDAY
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04 Lost & Found

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05 Notices

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The Crestone Charter School has immediate openings for office assistant, IT manager, facilities / transportation coordinator, licensed counselor or social worker, and custodian for the 2022/23 school year. Please explore crestone-charter-school.org/employment to work at an

awesome NE SLV school. Wages: \$15-19/hr and salary \$35-50K with generous benefits, flexible hours, great environment, and growth opportunities. Explore your future with us! (10/05)

Mineral County is currently accepting proposals for Design-Build services to replace the HVAC Components in the Mineral County Medical Clinic and Ambulance Building. The medical clinic houses three different provider practices and is approximately 6,660 sq ft, and the ambulance facility provides parking for 3 ambulances, some Search and Rescue vehicles, storage for

both organization and training space for both organizations. The buildings is currently heated using a forced air system fueled by Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Units placed in mechanical rooms in an attic space (main floor closet in the case of the ambulance facility) and cooled by air conditioning units that reside outside the building. Proposals due EOB 10/31/22. Full RFP and related attachments are available on the Mineral County website, mineralcountycolorado.com. (9/21)

Rio Grande County is seeking Dispatch/Detention Officers. High School Diploma or GED, or

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ing testing for marijuana. Inmate interaction required. \$16.84-17.42 per hour depending on associated experience and education. Pick up and submit applications to Human Resources 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Applications also available online at www.riograndecounty.org. Full County Benefits. (9/28)

Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for a Road Deputies. Must be 21 years of age, pass a background check and drug test including marijuana screening, have good driving record, Colorado P.O.S.T. certification, and High School diploma or GED. Pick up/submit applications to Rio Grande County Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Applications and job description also available online at www.riograndecounty.org. \$20.55-\$21.28 per hour depending on associated experience and education. Full County benefits.(9/28)

Rio Grande County Department of Social Services is accepting applications for a Child Protection Caseworker. Full time position with County benefits. Pre-employment drug screening, including testing for marijuana, will be required. \$21.99 -\$22.78 DOE. Full job description and application available at www.riograndecounty.org or at Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Until Filled (9/21)

Wolf Creek Ski Area is in need of an Accounting Assistant/Accounting Clerk. Duties include clerical tasks, processing reports, recording transactions and typical Accounts Payable and Payroll duties. Experience with Microsoft Office products is required. Attention to detail and organizational skills are important. **Those with bookkeeping, human resources, or administrative assistance experience are encouraged to apply.** Compensation is hourly and negotiable based on skill set. Reliable transportation and ability to commute to/from Wolf Creek Ski Area throughout the Winter is required. **Year-round position with longer hours during the ski season, and a shorter workweek in the off-season.** Would report to Accounting Supervisor as well

as CEO/President. Please email resume to AP@WOLFCREEK-SKI.COM or call 970-264-5487. (9/28)

Wolf Creek Ski Area is accepting applications for all departments: accounting (assistant), lifts, ski school, food and beverage, base operations, rental, retail, ticket office, ski patrol, vehicle maintenance, snow removal, snow reporting and a freelance photographer. To download an application and see job descriptions please visit the employment page of WolfCreekSki.com. Send resumes and applications to wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com or P.O. Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. All jobs are winter seasonal (November - April) with competitive wages. (9/29)

RG BANK is now accepting applications for the position of FULL TIME TELLER. The job is primarily in Monte Vista, but work in Alamosa is also required at times. Interested parties can see more and download an application at: <https://rgbank.bank/contact-us/#employment> (9/28)

Construction Laborers, Temporary employment. Must be comfortable with heights. Call Dave 719-493-7630.(10/05)

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

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

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

	G	P	O		P	E	T	E	B	B					
	L	O	S		A	P	O		D	A	R				
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				C	O	O		E	N	D		T	A	B	
				A	N	N		D	E	E		E	N	E	

Business Showcase

A new shipment of enamelware has arrived. Surprise! Even some discontinued items came.

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This Week's Feature



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'Perfect Love' is Women's Conference Theme

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

ALAMOSA — "Perfect Love" is theme of the 33rd Annual Southern Colorado Women's Conference scheduled for Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at Calvary Bible Chapel, 7160 Brush Lane. The featured speaker will be international speaker and best-selling author Janet Perez-Settles (formerly Eckles) from Orlando, Fla. The theme text for this year's conference is I John 4:18 : "Perfect Love Casts Out Fear."

Perez-Settles was born in Bolivia and came to the United States when she was 12. She has been called "a powerhouse of motivation" as she empowers 1,000's to rise above any setbacks.

Her key-note messages are drawn from her four inspirational books, including her Amazon best-selling No. 1 "Simply Salsa" where she teaches the simplicity of finding joy even in the midst of chaos.

Her insights were published in the Los Angeles Times and New York Daily News. Her writings appear in 32 "Chicken Soup for the Soul" best-selling titles, Guidepost Magazine and dozens of anthologies and hundreds of magazine articles. Her profound experiences continue to capture the media.

In addition to being featured on the cover of Hispanic Woman magazine, she was interviewed on Fox 35 News, affiliate "Despierta America", 700 Club, Focus on the Family and on dozens of radio and TV networks. Her most valued reward is God's grace. It is His grace that brings her before audiences like you so you can witness proof of God's victorious triumph in the darkest times.

The music will be by singer-songwriter Denise Chaney, who was raised in Monte Vista, where

she met and married her husband, Jarrett. Her parents are Jerry and Betty Cochran. Denise and Jarrett now reside in Pagosa Springs with their son Jackson.

She studied Interior Design and Music at Olivet Nazarene University in Illinois and came back to the San Juan Mountains after graduation. You will truly be blessed by her music.

You can learn more about her work at DeniseChaneyMusic.com.

The conference will include one session Friday night, 7 to 9 p.m. and two sessions on Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., including a continental breakfast and lunch.

Reservations are essential by Monday, Sept. 26. For ticket information, call Kay Jones at 719-480-2352.

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Photos of San Antonio Feast Day sought

The Colorado Encyclopedia is producing a virtual tour about the history of the Las Sauces/Las Sauces community and the San Antonio de Padua Church.

If you have photos of San Antonio Feast Day celebrations in Las Sauces or of people at the dance halls that used to exist in town, contact virtual tour creative director Erika O'Connor by email: erikaoconor@gmail.com or phone 310-425-2313.

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Monte Vista Honors Society to host a community movie fun night

MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista High School National Honors Society chapter is having a community movie-fun night on Sept. 16.

The movie and games will be at the Monte Vista High School football field. It begins at 6 p.m. with games, and prizes, and the movie will start at 8 p.m. Concessions will be available at the event.

The cost is \$3 for kids, \$8 for adults, and \$6 for seniors citizens. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The movie is still being decided upon. They are choosing from four movies — "Luca," "Sing 2," "Spiderman," or Disney's "Lightyear."

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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2,023 Sq. Ft. Mountain Oasis Home with Charm and Elegance in La Lomita at South Fork Ranches. This 3-bedroom 2 bath home with attached 6/5 Sq. Ft. 2 car garage is magical! Home is adjacent to BML Land & National Forest with amazing mountain views of Del Norte Peak, Beaver Mountain and Aqua Ramon from the front porch and additional large wrap around rear deck with concrete pad and hook up ready for your own personal hot tub. Open floor plan with kitchen, dining and living area beautifully hand troweled on walls with cathedral ceilings, wood floor, large bay windows, wood burning stove, propane rock fireplace, radiant floor heating and propane on demand water system. This home has three heat sources to keep you warm and comfortable all winter long. Master bedroom has large his & her master walk-in closets and patio door leading out to the back deck. Perfect place to enjoy your hot morning cup of coffee. The master bath has a beautiful large walk-in title shower and dual sinks. There are two additional nice size guest bedrooms for your company to stay and enjoy. The kitchen overlooks the living area with large eat in counter and plenty of counter space and lots of built-in cabinets. There is a butler pantry for extra storage that features a beautiful, frosted glass door. This is an outstanding property with abundant wildlife surrounded by national forest and BML land and close to the mighty Rio Grande River, Wolf Creek Ski area and the Rio Grande Golf Resort. There is numerous hiking, four wheeling, mountain biking trails in the area for you to have fun and explore! Don't miss this opportunity! Start your adventure! call/text me and schedule your personal showing today. Price \$669,500 MLS #796518

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SOLD

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SOLD



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