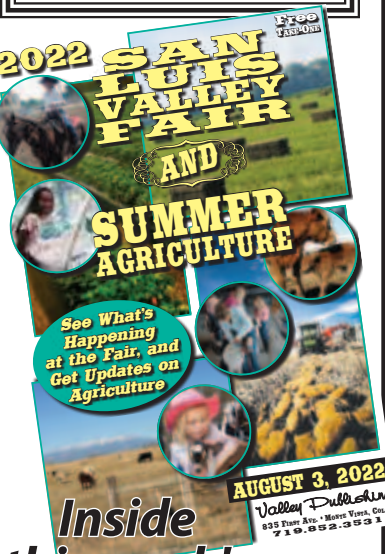


## Shorts



Inside this week's Center Post Dispatch

## SLV Fair is coming to town

**BY MARIE MCCOLM**  
**MONTE VISTA** — It is that time of year again, the San Luis Valley Fair is coming to town, Aug. 6-13, at the Ski-Hi Complex. Each year children from all over the Valley work on homemade items, raising livestock and produce, training their animals for shows, and baking homemade goodies, for the chance to display these items and to compete and enjoy everything that the San Luis Valley Fair has to offer.

The San Luis Valley Fair has many exciting events this year including a dog show, beef and swine shows, a fashion show, and as always, the fair will hold its Junior Livestock Auction, followed with a street dance and a buyer's dinner.

The San Luis Valley Fair also has food, retail, and informational vendors.

New to the fair this year will be a Ranch Rodeo. The Rodeo will be held on Saturday, Aug. 6.

There will also be a Hypnotist-Comedian at the fair. There will also be bouncy houses for the kids on site, as well as a giant connect 4, games, a human pinata, a creative cook's class, and much more.

The San Luis Valley fair is geared toward helping youth learn life skills, by engaging children in projects that help them gain confidence and independence.

The schedule for the first two days of the fair is as follows:

**Saturday, Aug. 6**  
8 a.m.-Noon — Set up  
10-11 a.m. — Mandatory Livestock Exhibitors' Meeting

*Please see FAIR on Page 2A*

## Villa Grove community debriefed on music festival



**BY PATRICK SHEA**  
**VILLA GROVE** — More than 115 people attended a community meeting at the Villa Grove Fire Department on Aug. 2 to learn details about the Seven Peaks Festival scheduled in town for Labor Day Weekend. The audience directed questions to Saguache

**Speaking as the Incident Commander for the Seven Peaks Festival in Villa Grove over Labor Day Weekend, Saguache County Sheriff Dan Warwick described cooperation with Colorado State Patrol and other key agencies.**

Photo by Patrick Shea

County Commissioners, Colorado State Patrol, a Live Nation representative, and the Incident Commander, Saguache County Sheriff Dan Warwick.

According to one business owner in the audience, "We should have had this meeting three months ago."

Although different agencies have been meeting regularly to discuss details, residents didn't know. So, another business owner, Kelly Marshall, organized the meeting at the fire station and assembled questions. Audience members posed more as the night evolved.

*Please see FESTIVAL on Page 6A*

## Hollyhock Festival draws visitors to Saguache

**BY PATRICK SHEA**  
**SAGUACHE** — Vendors set up early on the Saguache Courthouse lawn to kick off the Saguache Arts Walk and Hollyhock Festival on July 30.

Across the street outside the Saguache Hotel, members of the Saguache Chamber of Commerce set up tables for distributing hollyhock seeds and pots with starter plants.

Saguache Hotel owner Andy Hackbarth set up his sound system for playing recorded music, making announcements, and singing and playing guitar himself for the day.

Printed on thick paper, this year's festival map marked all the gardens (hollyhock and non-hollyhock), fairy houses, Saguache

*See HOLLYHOCK on Page 5A*



Photos by Patrick Shea

**Sarah Krantz won first place in the arts contest at the Saguache Arts Walk and Hollyhock Festival on July 30 (\$100 in cash).**



**Busy renovating the Saguache Hotel, Andy Hackbarth set up a sound system outside the building, performed songs throughout the day, and handed the microphone to Carita Ginn from the Saguache Chamber of Commerce for the awards ceremony at the end of the Saguache Arts Walk and Hollyhock Festival on July 30.**

## Colorado TABOR refunds begin in August

**BY MARIE MCCOLM**  
**MONTE VISTA** — Phones in two local tax offices have been ringing off the hook as news of another stimulus has been circulating.

Many residents of Monte Vista have called and asked if a new stimulus payment will be coming to them from the State of Colorado. There is a check coming to residents from the State of Colorado, but the check that is coming is not another stimulus check, but a rebate check that is being given to all

Colorado residents who filed a state income tax return this year.

The rebate also known as Colorado Cash Back, is made possible by Colorado Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR). This limits government spending based on inflation and growth in population, and delegates that the government must refund excess revenue that they have acquired, back to the taxpayers in the state.

In May, Governor Jared Polis made

it possible for Colorado residents to obtain this rebate this year, rather than waiting until next spring for their rebates.

Beginning in August, the State of Colorado will begin mailing these rebate checks out to eligible Colorado residents. Originally, the amount of the TABOR rebate was \$400 but the amount was increased due to more funds being available, each eligible Colorado resident will now receive a rebate of \$750 for single filers, and

\$1,500 for joint filers.

To be eligible to receive a TABOR rebate check the person must be at least 18 years of age as of Dec. 31, 2021; must also have been a full year Colorado resident for 2021; you must also have filed a Colorado state income tax return for tax year 2021 no later than June 30. Exceptions for filing with the State of Colorado will be made to Colorado residents who have extensions in place. If extensions

*Please see TABOR on Page 6A*

## Center Police Department proposes 'Race the Cop' solution

**BY PATRICK SHEA**  
**CENTER** — Interim Center Police Department Chief Aaron Fresquez met with Saguache County Commissioners on Aug. 2 to receive permission to host a drag-racing event this year.

Chief Fresquez explained how this is part of a strategy to reduce street racing on town and county roads around Center. The commissioners approved the concept with conditions.

Using Leach Airport is an ideal solution, but the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has not given final confirmation. In fact, the airport manager has had to chase racers off the runways already. The other option

is Saguache County Road B between 49.5 and 50 but racing side-by-side on the narrow road with steep ditch drop-offs is risky.

As Fresquez explained, "The idea for this event is to allow for something more controlled so we can tell the youth — there's really nothing in Valley for youth to do — if you guys do this outside this event, we can't do a controlled event again. You're going to get cited. You'll go to jail."

Fresquez said participants would pay a fee — less than \$10 but yet to be determined. They would need to show proof of insurance before race day, and they need to sign a waiver.

*Please see SOLUTION on Page 6A*



Photo by Patrick Shea

**Center Interim Police Chief Aaron Fresquez debriefed Saguache County Commissioners on their proposed 'Race the Cop' event during a meeting on Aug. 2.**

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# OBITUARIES

## Robert Virgil Clark

Robert Virgil Clark, 73 (Robbie to everyone who knew him) went to join his little dog, Clara, in heaven on July 24, 2022, in Yuma, Ariz. Robbie was born on Nov. 10, 1948, to Delmar V and L Ruth Clark.

He and his wife, Connie, were married for 53 years. Robbie always thought his greatest accomplishments in life were being a good husband and a good father to their three sons, Fritz, of Ada, Okla., Justin (Kelli), of Grand Junction, Colo., and Jeremy (Bridget), of East Aurora, NY, and especially a good grandfather to his four grandchildren, Jesse and Mathew, of Grand Junction, Colo., and Brooklyn and Aiden, of East Aurora, NY.

He often expressed how proud he was of his sons and grandchildren. There was no limit to the support he gave whether it was football, baseball, wrestling, golf, soccer, volleyball, gymnastics, rodeo or their academic successes.

Robbie graduated from Monte Vista High School where he excelled in football, wrestling, and track. He laughed when he told friends that this "little fat guy held the school record in the 100 yard dash."

He also was a bull rider and later a team roper where he won the Ski-Hi Stampede with his son Fritz. He was on the Ski-Hi Stampede Committee for 20 years where he generated many great memories and a whole lot of great friends.

Later in life Robbie took up golf, mainly to spend time with his grandson Aiden. He also spent many hours elk and deer hunting.

Robbie owned and operated J & R Sales with his sons. When he sold the business, he was the equipment salesman for the Monte Vista COOP.

When they retired, Robbie and Connie made the decision to become snowbirds and spent the last six years between Monte Vista and Yuma, Ariz. They loved the warm weather and low elevation.

Robbie was preceded in death by his parents, Delmar V and L Ruth Clark and, of course, his special little traveling partner, Clara.

He is survived by his wife, Connie, his three sons, four grandchildren, and his two sisters, Nona (Kenneth) VanIwarden, of Monte Vista, Colo., and Lynette Freel, of Albuquerque, NM, his forever brother in law, Rod Freel, Belen, of NM. He is



also survived by his nieces, Christy (Monte) Smith, Tandy Freel, Blair (Brian) Lopez, and great nephews Luke and Trey Jones, and Joey and Alex Lopez.

A celebration of life will be held on Aug. 20, 2022, at 11 a.m. at the new Ski-Hi building with lunch to follow.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to "Ski Hi Stampede Committee for Tough Enough to Wear Pink Stephanie Miner Imaging Center" or "Ski Hi Stampede Scholarship," PO Box 391 Monte Vista, CO 81144.

## Marvin 'Merv' Self

Merv Self, a life-long resident of Monte Vista, passed away in the Del Norte Hospital on July 28, 2022, at the age of 85.

Merv was born on Oct. 11, 1936, to Ed and Estella (Alley) Self, attended all 12 years of school in Monte Vista where he graduated in 1954 and was proud to be a letterman in football, basketball, and baseball.

Merv earned a B.A. Degree with Lifetime Teaching Certificate from Colorado State College (modern UNC in Greeley) and began his professional career teaching and coaching at Basalt High School where he earned Outstanding Young Teacher Award for school year in 1959-60.

In 1960 Merv accepted the position of Accountant at the Monte Vista Golden Age Center, later named the Colorado State Veterans Center at Homelake, where he was promoted to Administrative Officer and then later Assistant Superintendent.

Merv and his wife, Darla, and their three sons resided on the grounds of the Veterans Center at Homelake until 1987. Merv continued his career as Superintendent of the Colorado State Veterans Nursing Home in Rifle until his retirement in 1992.

Merv was passionately involved with the Old Timers Baseball Association since its inception in 1944 as an 8-year-old player and continued as player, assistant coach, head coach, State Secretary/Treasurer, and later board member until 1987.

He was very proud of his involvement in the OTA program which grew to 50 different communities and involved over 10,000 kids throughout Colorado. Merv also served at Cub Scout Secretary/Treasurer during the years his sons Casey, Kirby, and Corky were Cub Scouts. He also belonged to the Monte Vista and Rifle Rotary Clubs from 1980 to 1992.

Merv's other long-term involvements included being a Life Member of the Monte Vista Elks Lodge #2465, Monte Vista Parks and Recreation, Monte Vista Jaycees in which Merv served as District Vice President of Southern Colorado, and Colorado National Director for the Southwest Region.

Merv was also a member of the Monte Vista Conquistadors, an organization affiliated with the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce, responsible for promoting business and social interests of the general community.

Merv also served as President of the Monte Vista Quarterback-Booster Club supporting all athletic programs and received Outstanding Booster Club award in 1980 and was selected to the MVHS Sports Hall of Fame in 1981.

Merv was a life-long sports fan and participant and had many highlights in his life. One of his favorite achievements was

pitching a two hitter and hitting a home run to beat the Alamosa Merchants 1 to 0. He continued to play softball for many years after his baseball career ended and was competitive in national tournaments up until 2007.

Since then, he continued to enjoy golf and fish at his and Darla's cabin at Hermit Lakes where he said that he had spent some of the best times of his life with friends and family.

In addition to his wife Darla, to whom he was married for 61 years, Merv is survived by his three sons Casey (Doug), Kirby (Pam), and Corky (Paula) and his four grandchildren Colby (22), Kaylie (20), Bodhi (15), and Lila (12), his younger brother Bill (Peggy) and his sister, Beatrice and his many nieces and nephews.

Merv was preceded in death by his older brother Charles (Chike).

Merv will forever remain in the hearts of the many who have known him during his 85 years and will be greatly missed by all.

At his request, a private 'celebration of life' will be held next summer at the family cabin at Hermit Lakes, which he loved so dearly. To express condolences to the family, please visit [www.rogersfunerals.com](http://www.rogersfunerals.com).

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



## Juan 'John' Francisco Gallegos

Juan 'John' Francisco Gallegos B. 30 March 1936 — D. 21 July 2022

US Naval Veteran (23 June 1955-18 June 1959)

Beloved Father, forever Loved Born March 30, 1936, in Taos, N.M. Died July 21, 2022, in Turlock, Calif. Mother, Guadalupe (Lupe) "Lupita" Anglada (D.) and father, Florestino Gallegos (D.) of Saguache, Colo.

One of six siblings: Claude Carmel Gallegos (D. 1999), LeRoy "Ray" Ramon Gallegos (D. 2017), Gilbert Gallegos (D), Augustine "Bernie" Gallegos, Mary Ann Vigil (Gallegos) (D), Lawrence Gallegos and Geronimo "Jerry" Gallegos (D. 1993).

Father of three: Alicia Duffy (Gallegos) of Turlock, Calif., Anthony Gallegos of Modesto, Calif., and John F Gallegos (D. 2011).

Grandfather of seven: Jennifer Guzman of NC, Nicole Guzman of Calif., Kylie Duffy of Calif. and Zackary Duffy of Calif., Derrick Wawrzyniak of Wash., Jordan Gallegos of Calif., Arianna Gallegos of Wash.,

He was a favored Uncle and cousin to many in Colorado and California.

He was known as John by friends, coworkers and loved ones. He was raised in the San Luis Valley of Colo. He lived in Saguache and Moffat most of his life. He grew up in a full household and did chores to help feed and care for the family. He fondly

recalled drinking milk straight out the bucket, warm and sweet. He graduated high school in 1955 (Hooper, Colo.) and went into the US Navy right after graduation.

John served aboard the wooden minesweeper, USS Energy. He worked in the boiler room and was designated as a rescue swimmer even though he never learned how to swim. He was Honorably Discharged on 18 June 1959.

John went to work for the US Postal Service in Hayward, Calif. He married Anne Rice in 1967. He divorced Anne in 1973. He retired from the Postal Service and worked several jobs. He worked with his brothers, Ray and Claude, doing tile work and he worked as a truck driver.

John returned to Saguache in the late-80s and lived in town for a while. He bought a small ranch near Moffat, Colo., and made that his home.

John was determined to be fully disabled from the US Navy from exposure to asbestos. He suffered permanent hearing loss from working the boiler rooms. John's health declined and he moved to Turlock, Calif., in 2019 where his daughter, Alicia (Charlie), cared



for him around the clock for three years. John became more infirm and eventually could not recover. John passed away in his sleep on the afternoon of July 21, 2022.

John did not want a service and he requested that he be cremated. John wanted to be spread on a mountain top overlooking Saguache and the remainder of his ashes will be interned in the family area of Chicago Cemetery, West of Saguache, Colo.

## FAIR Continued from Page 1A

11 a.m.-Noon — Horse Exhibitors' Test  
5 p.m. — Ranch Rodeo  
**Sunday, Aug. 7**  
SOFTBALL FIELDS  
8-9 a.m. — 4-H Dog Check In  
9 a.m. — 4-H Dog Show

LIVESTOCK PAVILLION  
Noon — Dairy Goat Judging, followed by Milking Competition  
6 p.m. — Mike Kelley Memorial Open Barrow Show

For more information on the SLV Fair, visit [online.slvfair.com](http://online.slvfair.com).

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## The curse of wealth

This past week found someone winning the \$1.2 billion lottery somewhere in Illinois. And along with that came the usual blather about how winning a lottery is actually bad for you and that it cannot buy happiness, yadda, yadda, yadda.

Now I don't know what kind of idiot journalists come up with that load of manure, but I do know whatever editor lets it be published is not playing with a full deck. All the people I know at least could have used a shot in the wallet of any amount and I guarantee you it would have purchased enormous happiness.

I know a lot of people who do win and end up spending foolishly but that's not to say even if they did that they didn't enjoy it while they had it. As opposed to the rest of us peasants that never even got a chance at luxurious living for even one minute. Yet, according to these writers, we are to console ourselves how lucky we were NOT to have won.

I don't know if you have noticed but the latest trend of really rich people is they try to pump up sympathy for their plight of having so much money. They will take you down a path of how awful it is to be cursed with money and the papers and tabloids print this stuff like its Gospel.

If you recall the movie Fiddler on the Roof, they are all discussing the curse of money. And the character Perchik says "Money is the world's curse." And Tevya, the patriarch says, "May the Lord smite me with it and may I never recover." To which Ol' Dutch says, "Amen."

Of course, we all know that poor Prince Harry and Meghan are suffering along on their hundreds plus millions, and they cannot understand why we all don't fawn over their hard times with big old crocodile tears.

But just last week Ol' Dutch heard the ultimate in absolute foolishness when the Tom Brady of Super Bowl fame and his lovely wife the model Gisele entered into this foray of idiocy on their own. For some reason Tom felt the need to let us all know that his children are really suffering from being raised in such opulence and wealth. Somehow these two people with upwards of a \$700 million dollar checking account think that their kids are suffering by being waited on hand and foot.

He went on to list all the things that they have like unlimited jet access, private drivers, people who shop



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

for them and prepare all their meals, housekeepers and maintenance men, etc. And he said that his kids just don't have a "normal life" and are really suffering because of it. And to top that off Tom, in his absolutely destitute situation during Covid, managed to glean \$960,000 in taxpayer money to take care of his staff and their salaries. I mean honestly. You cannot expect a couple worth \$700 million to pay their own way? Can you?

I don't know about y'all but during Covid no one clued me in how I could get that kind of relief cash or any kind for that matter. But the rich get richer, as they say.

I think Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie could probably give Mr. Quarterback some good clues on how he can give up that lifestyle and raise his kids like all of the rest of America but it's all just their attempt to somehow believe they are struggling just like the rest of us slugs.

The Good Book itself makes a lot of references to money and admonishes us not to love it and it's pretty clear that it's hard for a rich person to enter into Heaven. But once just once I wish the Good Lord would smite me with an abundance so that I could waste it as I see fit.

And probably the best news of all for many of those I know is that they would never see me again on this side of Heaven. That is, if I made it in.

*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.troutpublic.com.*



## YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

### Spectacular Perseids

They peak around 2 a.m. on Aug. 13, but will be highly active for several days before then as they gradually build in intensity, and another few days after then as they quickly drop off. So, you're going to have a week of great viewing! Unfortunately, the full moon is on Aug. 11, but the good thing is that the moon sets by 4 a.m. So, then you can go out and observe the Perseids.

At the peak there could be 100 meteors per hour, kind of hard to miss. We like to soak in the hot tub several evenings from 9:30 for an hour or so, but this year I'm also going to get up during the night to watch them. The very best viewing will be from midnight until dawn. While you're out early, look for the constellation Orion which is beginning to appear in the east just before dawn.

The Perseids occur as Earth crosses the orbital path of Comet Swift Tuttle. Dusty debris left behind

by this comet smashes into Earth's upper atmosphere lighting up the night sky with meteors. They're called Perseids because they appear to originate in the northeast constellation Perseus, just below Cassiopeia.

This is probably the best meteor shower we'll have this year. The Perseids are all long lasting as they shoot across the sky. They can also be quite colorful. A good percentage of them are known to leave meteor trains, a persistent glow in the air after the meteor has gone. Meteor trains are caused by luminous ionized matter left in the wake of the incoming space debris. Also, the Perseids have more fireballs and bright meteors than any other major shower.

One advantage to watching them in the evening is the Earthgrazers. These are slow-moving long-lasting meteors that travel horizontally across the sky. In case you are wondering, Perseids travel about 35 miles per second.



Even though it's still summer, when you're out during the night you need to dress warmly. On a clear night the temperature will drop into the 40's, and you'll get cold reclining in a lounge. That is the best way to watch them. You may even want a hat and a blanket. Don't forget the mosquito repellent.

While you're enjoying the meteor show, you can sing John Denver's Rocky Mountain High: "I've seen it rainin' fire in the sky". John and Annie camped out in the mountains to watch the Perseids, and that's when he wrote the song. So, enjoy the fire rain in the sky next week!

## LETTER

### People gather for annual Lariat reunion

Editor,  
A Lariat reunion was held Saturday, July 23, after the Stampede Parade for those who were born and raised in Lariat. It was put together by Art Medina (Northglenn, Colo.) and Don Martinez (Monte Vista) and held at the Lariat Baptist Church which the pastor, Bill

Walstrom, had generously loaned to us for most of our family's activities. At the reunion, we honored my Aunt Ruby who turned 90 years old this year. We are very blessed to still have her with us. She was born and raised in Lariat, the youngest and only living sibling of our mother. We also

honored my brother, Art Medina, and his wife, Ursula, for all they do. They are awesome and very active in many activities (too many to mention). We had over 150 in attendance. Then, that same evening, we, the Naranjo-Sandoval family had our yearly, 35<sup>th</sup> reunion at my sister Juanita

Archuleta's house. Her son, David Archuleta, who lives with his mom and is her caregiver, did a great job preparing for the reunion. His sister and her husband, Sara and Daniel Garcia, do most of the cooking and the rest of the family all chip in. There is always plenty of food and we always

have a great time seeing the family. We appreciate all those who travel so far to make the effort to attend. Thank you all. We love you and look forward to seeing you next year. Que viva la familia.  
*Annie Medina Lariat*

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# Rhythms on the Rio is back this weekend

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

**DEL NORTE** — Del Norte is the place to be this weekend, and no one is going to want to miss the return of Rhythms on the Rio, Aug. 5-7.

The organization has been on hiatus for the past two years, first having to postpone their 2020 festival due to COVID and then losing their festival location in South Fork. Last year, the organization decided that the safety of their guests and board members far outweighed the need for the popular music festival and decided that one more year of planning would be better.

Now with all the plans in place, a new location northeast of Del Norte set and a lineup that will set the stage for one of their greatest festivals since their inception, Rhythms on the Rio is ready to get back to the love of music and to welcome their fans back for an epic weekend.

Rhythms on the Rio organizer and South Fork Music Association board member Scott Stecken spoke about the coming weekend and all they have in store for festival goers.

“One thing we really want to get

out there is that there will be a local’s discount for anyone who purchases tickets at the gate,” he said. “This does not include camping passes, but we really want to show our appreciation for the San Luis Valley and all of the support communities have shown to us through the last 15 festivals.”

Stecken also said that the lineup for this year’s event includes some extremely talented individuals and bands.

“We have six performers and one band in our lineup that have received nominations through the International Bluegrass Music Association (BMA) and we know they are going to put on a great show,” he said.

Friday night will feature Railroad Earth who is known for their Bluegrass-American sound. According to their bio, for over two decades, Railroad Earth has captivated audiences with gleefully unpredictable live shows and eloquent and elevated studio output.

The group introduced its signature sound in 2001’s The Black Bear Sessions. Between selling out hallowed venues such as Red Rocks Amphitheatre

in Morrison, they’ve launched the longstanding annual Hangtown Music Festival in Placerville, Calif., and Hillberry: The Harvest Moon Festival in Ozark, Ark., — both running for a decade-plus.

Sought after by legends, the John Denver Estate tapped them to put lyrics penned by the late John Denver to music on the 2018 vinyl EP, “Railroad Earth: The John Denver Letters.”

Beyond tallying tens of millions of streams, the collective has earned widespread critical acclaim from David Fricke of Rolling Stone, American Songwriter, Glide Magazine, and NPR who assured, “Well-versed in rambling around, as you might expect from a band named after a Jack Kerouac poem, the New Jersey-built jam-grass engine Railroad Earth has let no moss grow under its rustic wheels.”

The lineup on Friday also includes Branjae, The Jauntee and George Porter Jr. & Runnin Partners. All of whom are exceptional bands with eclectic sounds sure to please audiences all night long.

George Porter Jr. was one of the founding members of The Meters and was known for being one of the most popular musicians from the New Orleans sound. Bios and descriptions for all the musical talents are all available on the Rhythms on the Rio website at [www.rhythmsontherio.com/lineup](http://www.rhythmsontherio.com/lineup).

Saturday will feature bands such as Smelter Mountain Boys, Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs, Pixie and the Partygrass Boys. Throughout the weekend the festival will also feature food, craft vendors, Yoga, and much more.

That evening will kick off with The Travelin’ McCoury’s who is comprised of four musicians that have been nominated for individual musicians of the year.

The McCoury brothers- Ronnie (mandolin) and Rob (banjo) — were born into the bluegrass tradition. Talk about a source abundant and pure: their father, Del, is among the most influential and successful musicians in the history of the genre.



File photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

**Rhythms on the Rio is back at a new location just north of Del Norte with a lineup of top-of-the-line musical talent. There will be local discounts at the gate for anyone in the San Luis Valley.**

Years on the road with Dad in the Del McCoury Band honed their knife-edge chops and encouraged the duo to imagine how traditional bluegrass could cut innovative pathways into 21st century music.

Next in the lineup for Saturday night is Molly Tuttle and the Golden Highway which received nominations for Entertainer of the Year and Female Vocalist of the Year as well as Instrumental Group of the Year and Album of the Year.

An award-winning guitarist and songwriter, native Californian Molly Tuttle continues to push her songwriting in new directions and transcend musical boundaries. Since moving to Nashville in 2015, she has worked with many of her peers and heroes in the Americana, folk, and bluegrass communities, winning Instrumentalist of the Year at the 2018 Americana Music Awards.

Tuttle’s 2019 debut album, “When You’re Ready,” received critical acclaim, with NPR Music praising its “handsomely crafted melodies that gently insinuate themselves into the memory,” and the Wall Street Journal lauding Tuttle’s “genre-boundary-crossing comfort and emotional preparedness,” calling the record an “invigorating, mature and attention-grabbing first album.”

The last concert of the night will be the Bluegrass Generals accompanied by Bill Nerishi, Ronnie McCoury and Alan Bartan

Bluegrass Generals features Chris Pandolfi and Andy Hall (Infamous Stringdusters) plus Bill Nerishi (The String Cheese Incident), Ronnie McCoury (The Travelin’ McCoury’s) and Alan Bartram (The Travelin’ McCoury’s). Chris Pandolfi and Andy Hall are the Bluegrass Generals.

“We have some strong household names on our lineup this year and it is going to draw in some wonderful people,” said Stecken.

The South Fork Music Association will also be presenting donations to two schools during the weekend to help support the music programs at the Creede School District and Sangre de Cristo School District.

Historically, Rhythms on the Rio was one of many fundraising events that procure funding for local music programs and the South Fork Music Association hopes that this comeback will be only the beginning of what is yet to come.

The event will be at 12510 Highway 112 just outside of Del Norte on August 5, 6 and 7. For more information and a full schedule, visit [www.rhythmsontherio.com](http://www.rhythmsontherio.com).

## Rio Grande Hospital brings back Keeping the Dream Alive for 2022

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

**DEL NORTE** — The Rio Grande Hospital is pleased to welcome back patrons and community supporters after two long years for its annual Keeping the Dream Alive fundraising event.

This event was created to say “Thank You” to all the communities that help support the Rio Grande Hospital and give the hospital a chance to share their vision of what the medical future here in Rio Grande County will look like. It is also the only large-scale fundraising event hosted by the hospital throughout the year.

This has been a big year of growth for the Rio Grande Hospital and its outlying clinics. Not only did a new clinic recently open its doors in South Fork but plans for a wellness center addition to the main hospital are underway. These two exciting pieces of news were released last year but now with the help and support of all the communities in Rio Grande County, the hospital can say they are keeping the dream alive.

This year’s fundraising event will be hosted in the Upper Rio Grande School District commons areas inside the new school.

“We miss seeing our community and can’t wait to share an evening with you again,” said Development and Communications Officer Eva Timberlake.

The event is set for the evening of Aug. 13 with dinner at 5:30 p.m. The Mountain View Restaurant will be catering the dinner and it will be served as in years past by Rio Grande Hospital physicians and staff which is both a pleasure for the attending crowd and fun for the clinicians serving guests.

The evening will also include a live auction by Brady Stagner. Auction items are still being accepted, call 719-657-3266 to donate items or to make donations. Some items that will be auctioned are a signed pennant from the 2022 Colorado Avalanche hockey team, an air conditioner from Altitude Appliance, an airplane ride, hotel stays, jewelry, golf, dinners, and more.

All proceeds go toward the improvement of the Rio Grande Hospital and clinics. Tickets are available for purchase now or at the door the evening of the event. Tickets are available at any of RGH’s clinics or the hospital’s main desk. For more information, visit [riograndehospital.org](http://riograndehospital.org).

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# Great Sand Dunes celebrating Junior Ranger Day

**SUBMITTED ARTICLE  
GREAT SAND  
DUNES NATIONAL  
PARK** — Great Sand

Dunes National Park and Preserve is celebrating Junior Ranger Day on Saturday, Aug. 6. Activities will take place from 9 a.m.

to 1 p.m. in the dune field and at the south entrance to the dune field from the Dunes Parking Area (follow signs posted in the parking lot).

Participants will have the opportunity to earn patches, pedometers, and t-shirts after completing a variety of activities. Families and children of all ages are welcome and there are no fees or reservations required to participate in the event.

This event is made possible with generous support from the Friends of the Dunes and the staff and volunteers at Great Sand Dunes. The Friends of the Dunes is a non-profit organization committed to supporting research and education at Great Sand Dunes.

An orientation table, prize table and activity stations will be staffed by park staff and Friends of the Dunes board members. This year, Great Sand Dunes has organized the following activities for kids to participate in:

- Learn about mountain lions, pronghorns, and a variety of insects at



the “Animal Olympics” station.

- Stop by the “Artifact Table” station to learn more about artifacts, rocks, and other exciting items that have been found in the park.

- Look for plants, animals, and unique features in the dunes as part of the “Scavenger Hunt”.

- Practice your “Sand Painting” and learn about ways that many cultures connect to their environments.

- To promote physical activity in National Parks, the Friends of the Dunes will provide pedometers for Junior Rangers to participate in “Steps for Stamps” — walk or hike 1,000 steps with a pedometer and earn a stamp.

Junior Rangers will collect a stamp after completing each activity and pick up prizes at the Prize Table.

For more information on Junior Ranger Day and other programs at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, visit [www.nps.gov/grsa](http://www.nps.gov/grsa) or call the visitor center at 719-378-6395, between 9: a.m. and 4:30 p.m.



Photo by Patrick Shea

An AirMedCare Network helicopter landed on the Mountain Valley School football field during the Saguache Arts Walk and Hollyhock Festival on July 30, a chance for people to learn about the AirMedCare membership program.

## HOLLYHOCK

Continued from Page 1A

Crescent newspaper headquarters, the AirMedCare Network helicopter landing zone, and participating artist galleries.

Hackbarth started playing around 10 a.m., the AirMedCare helicopter touched down before noon, and the excellent weather held throughout the day. At the same time, the mobile

COVID vaccination bus parked at Otto Mears Park where a flea market featured multiple booths.

The Saguache Volunteer Fire Department sold breakfast burritos at the “Fire Hut,” and Mountain Valley School students set up at the Cozy Castle Cinema to solicit more funds for their European trip next year.

## SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF’S REPORT

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff’s Office for the period between July 25 and July 31, 2022.

In addition to issuing two speeding tickets and a summons for third-degree assault, the Sheriff’s Office monitored 13 controlled burns, four ambulance calls, eight instances of criminal and suspicious activity, and 10 traffic stops, complaints, or calls for roadside assistance.

### ARRESTS

• A 27-year-old Center man received multiple charges for assault, domestic violence, child abuse, and

resisting arrest.

- A 22-year-old Center man was charged with first-degree burglary, assault and menacing with a deadly weapon, and assault in the third degree.

### INCIDENTS

- Early on the morning of July 31, a half-dozen armed burglars stormed a home in Center. One victim was injured during the heist, taken to Rio Grande Hospital, and later released. Center Police Department officers and K9 Unit dogs came upon the burglary in progress at 3:30 a.m. and received support from the Alamosa Police Department and Alamosa County Sheriff’s Office.

## Remains thought to be missing camper

### STAFF REPORT

**SAGUACHE** — Human remains believed to be those of a missing camper were discovered Thursday, July 28, in an area west of here. Positive identification is pending based on the coroner’s investigation.

According to the Saguache County Sheriff’s Office Facebook page, the remains were located at the base of a cliff less than a mile from the missing person’s camp. The party had been reported overdue when they failed to keep a scheduled appointment.

Sheriff’s deputies discovered the missing party’s vehicle the morning of July 26 and requested Saguache County Search and Rescue

(SAR) to begin search efforts. The area surrounding the vehicle and prominent rock formations were searched that afternoon and evening but heavy rains from the previous day had washed away any foot tracks.

On July 27, Saguache SAR was joined by two canine search teams from El Paso County Search and Rescue. The teams worked from early morning until early afternoon when thunderstorms suspended search efforts for the day.

On July 28th, search teams from Saguache SAR and Chaffee County SAR – South resumed the search. Chaffee SAR - South deployed two aerial drones along with ground teams. The missing party was located

by a ground team late in the morning.

Saguache SAR would like to thank all the personnel and agencies who helped with this search and recovery: Saguache County Sheriff’s Office and Dispatch, Saguache County SAR Personnel, Colorado State Patrol – Alamosa Regional Communications Center, Colorado Search and Rescue Association - CSAR, Chaffee County Search and Rescue - South, El Paso County Search and Rescue, and REACH Air Medical Services – Reach 29.

In an email response Monday, Saguache Sheriff Dan Warwick said the incident was being investigated as an accident or possibly “self-inflicted.”

## Stampede says thanks!

To the Monte Vista Community, and the entire San Luis Valley:

With the 100th Ski Hi Stampede celebration in the books, the Ski Hi Stampede Committee would like to extend a huge “THANK YOU” to all the people who attended and made it such a special event. The Concert was a tremendous success, the Parade was awesome, the Rodeos were packed with excitement and the Carnival never disappoints.

Our apologies to the approximate 300 rodeo goers that we had to turn back for Saturday’s event because we were sold out of tickets. Keep in mind next year to get your tickets in advance at our web site or the Monte Vista Visitors’ Center.

The committee puts in countless hours during the year to bring this to the valley, but also knows that this event does not happen without the help of the many people who volunteer their time. Too many to mention by name, but please know your hard work did not go unnoticed.

The new building and facilities are amazing and help make the experience even that much better.

The committee looks forward to another 100 years and planning for next year begins today. See you next year for the 101st Ski Hi Stampede.

You Are Appreciated.

*Sincerely, 2022 Ski Hi Stampede Committee*



# SLVREC receives nearly \$2M for high-speed internet access

**USDA Rural Development awards \$400M nationwide**

**STAFF REPORT**  
**DENVER** — San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (SLVREC) in Monte Vista was just awarded a \$1,998,448 grant to deploy fiber-to-the-premises services (internet) in rural parts of the San Luis Valley.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced on Thursday that the Department is investing \$401 million to provide access to high-speed internet for 31,000 rural residents and businesses in 11 states, part of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to investing in rural infrastructure and affordable high-speed internet for

all. This announcement includes a group of investments from the ReConnect Program and an award funded through USDA's Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan and Loan Guarantee program.

REC's subsidiary, Ciello, will use the grant to connect 129 people, eight businesses, one public school and 20 farms to high-speed Internet in unserved and underserved parts of Conejos and Alamosa counties.

"We began providing high-speed fiber optic based broadband internet access to rural areas in the San Luis Valley in 2014," said Loren Howard, CEO of SLVREC/Ciello. "This grant, the second Ciello has received, accelerates Ciello's commitment to bring this crucial utility service to the Valley residents. REC and Ciello are incredibly grateful for this boost in building our fiber network to difficult-to-serve areas."

"Connectivity is critical to economic success in rural America," Vilsack said. "The internet is vital to our growth and continues to act as a catalyst for our prosperity. From the farm to the school, from households to international markets, connectivity drives positive change in our communities."

"The investments I am announcing will help 31,000 people and businesses in large and diverse regions across the country access to new and critical opportunities. Under the leadership of President Biden and Vice President Harris, USDA knows rural America is America's backbone, and prosperity here means prosperity for all."

"Living in the San Luis Valley, I know the need of reliable internet access and being able to engage in remote work, telehealth, e-commerce, and online schooling," said Armando Valdez, USDA

Rural Development Colorado State Director. "Internet service strengthens community prosperity by providing connections to a vast number of resources and potential markets."

"This grant will change lives and provide quality enhancements to our telecommunication infrastructure in a strong rural community in southern Colorado. I am grateful that SLVREC pursued this opportunity. And I am so happy that residents in Conejos and Alamosa counties will be able to tap into these resources and thrive both economically and socially."

As a provider for the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program, Ciello will serve these socially vulnerable areas in Conejos and Alamosa counties. REC members that live in the Zapata area, along with some REC members along Highway 15 in Conejos County, will experience a lot of benefits from the availability of high-speed fiber broadband service in their areas.

"We are very grateful to have been awarded these funds from the Reconnect3 program," said Ciello's Chief Technology Officer Monroe Johnson. "This is the culmination of a lot of hard work on the part of the management team here at the cooperative, and we look forward to working with everyone involved



Courtesy photo  
**An SLVREC/Ciello lineman is shown installing fiber optics at an SLV home.**

to bring this project to a successful conclusion.

"Ciello's mission is to bring the best broadband service available anywhere to the communities we serve, and this is a logical extension to all the work that has been completed in the last several years".

The Department will make additional investments for rural high-speed internet later this summer, including ReConnect Program funding from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which provides a historic \$65 billion investment to expand affordable, high-speed internet to all communities across the U.S.

## FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1A

Updated estimates put the crowd at 13,000 instead of 20,000, based on pre-sale data. For the county, the scale of this event is unprecedented. According to Live Nation's Tim Reid attending via telephone, Live Nation has produced 39 shows over the past 10 years. In mid-July, they had 45,000 people in Detroit.

But Villa Grove has fewer than 500 residents. Accommodating Labor Day traffic is always a challenge, despite the revenue it generates for the town. Beyond asking why they were not notified in advance, residents asked about plans for sanitation, traffic backups, crowd management, and cleanup after the musicians and fans go home.

Reid said they use a company that cleans Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City after events, and they clean up after PGA Tour golf tournaments as well. Reid also said the standard formula of one portable restroom for every 90 people is "horrible." Instead, they will have 450 facilities, which

drops the ratio to one toilet per 28 people.

Also, the property owner paid to install a 50,000 gallon septic tank to handle all the waste from campers over time. The site can support more than the 300 campsites already established for the event. They will accommodate RVs as well.

People reported traffic backups in Chaffee County for this event in the past. Residents worried about lines of cars on both ends of Villa Grove. Colorado State Patrol Capt. Brett Williams said they will be paving a separate lane for southbound traffic.

State patrollers will monitor northbound traffic, and flaggers will direct drivers. Williams said his staff will be on-site, including five Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) trained to identify drugged and drunk drivers and could conduct blood tests.

The main entrance will funnel cars off the highway and provide multiple lanes for initial check-in a half-mile from the gate. Weapons will not be

permitted, but event organizers will have a secure storage facility so fans can surrender their guns and retrieve them when the festival ends. Other restrictions include no fires and no fireworks.

Performances on the main stage will conclude at 11 p.m., and a smaller, quieter stage called "Whisky Row" will close at 1 a.m.

Live Nation has a dedicated medical staff as well, and they will make announcements throughout the event to remind people to hydrate themselves.

Residents asked about festival-goers wandering through town after the music. As Sheriff Warwick noted, he will have staff in town for the weekend. Similarly, if people park in front of private property or along the highway, vehicles will be towed away as quickly as possible.

## TABOR

Continued from Page 1A

are fully filed by the Oct. 17, deadline, a TABOR rebate check will be mailed, no later than Jan. 31, 2023.

Other people who qualify for the TABOR rebate are people who have filed a property tax/rent/heat credit rebate, also known as the (PTC) Rebate for tax year 2021. These residents must have also filed their PTC Rebate by June 30 to receive the check.

Colorado will be mailing these

rebate checks to your last known address on file. For taxpayers who used direct deposit as a method of payment, or a prepaid debit card, Colorado will be sending all TABOR rebates to residents by check only. TABOR rebates will not be directly deposited to bank accounts or cards.

For more information on the TABOR Rebate, visit tax.colorado.gov.

## SOLUTION

Continued from Page 1A

The legal liability for the county concerned commissioners, and County Attorney Brad Crowell will examine the proposed liability text.

"They do this in the Denver area all the time," Fresquez noted. "Colorado State Patrol does it. Douglas County does it. Jefferson County does it. But they have a race track, so they can host bigger events."

The format of the "Race the Cop"

competition begins with tournament brackets. Participants who lose the first race can choose to pay to race again but only once. After the bracket narrows down to a final winner, the racer faces a Center PD officer driving the K9 Unit Chevy Tahoe or the department's Charger.

The race day date will be announced if and when conditions are met and a race track is determined.

# Three Keys to True Happiness

I believe everyone has a desire to be happy. In fact, much of what we do is motivated by that desire, yet there are so many people who are not happy with their lives because they are striving to get happiness in the wrong way.

Through studying God's Word, I've discovered several principles we must live by to be happy or to increase our level of joy.

**It's Your Choice**  
 The truth is, you'll never be truly happy if you don't make a decision to be happy, no matter what your circumstances may be. Because true godly joy is not based on what is happening around us.

One definition I've read describes happiness as the product of expecting something good to happen to you. I love this because it means that even if something good isn't happening to me right now, I can have hope and expect that something good will happen. We don't have to wait for our circumstances to dictate whether we should be happy or not.

I realize we can't always control our circumstances or what happens to us, but we can choose our attitude. And no one can take away our hope in Christ if we don't let them. The key to this is believing what God's Word says about us, especially about who we are as His creation and through the salvation we have in Jesus. (Psalm 139:13-14, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 and Ephesians 1 are just a few great scriptures to study about this topic.)

steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying, also]."

This scripture is saying that if you want to be happy, you have to learn to give your life away, or "live to give." This is not easy in the beginning because we are naturally selfish people, accustomed to thinking about ourselves first. But in order to really live, you have to die to yourself first. I'm not talking about physical death, but being willing to give up what you want all the time to be a blessing to others.

I know what this is like because I used to think I was the center of my universe, and I was miserable! But when I learned the truth about what Jesus meant when He said we must deny ourselves, lose sight of our interests, forget about ourselves and take up our cross to follow Him, it was life-changing.

To forget yourself doesn't mean you shouldn't take care of yourself or that you never get to do anything you want to do; it just means you don't have yourself on your mind all the time. And taking up our cross to follow Jesus is all about losing sight of ourselves and our own interests so we can say, "Here I am, God. I give my life to You and I want You to use me in any way that You want to work in and through my life."

**Be a God Pleaser**  
 We also have to understand that if we let other people run our lives, we won't be happy. God created you as a unique individual with a special plan and purpose in this world. And you have to be who He created you to be—not what others may want you to be—in order to fulfill your destiny.

Being yourself is all about learning to follow your heart and the leadership of the Holy Spirit in your everyday life. But many times, we find ourselves doing what others say we're supposed



to do and worrying about what they think or what they will say.

The apostle Paul understood this. In Galatians 1:10 (AMPC), he said, "Now am I trying to win the favor of men, or of God? Do I seek to please men? If I were still seeking popularity with men, I should not be a bond servant of Christ (the Messiah)." He was saying here, "If I was living to please people instead of God, I would have lost the opportunity to be an apostle of Jesus Christ."

Refuse to give in to a fear of rejection and give up the destiny God has for you. Remember that God loves you and He always has your best interest at heart, so whatever He shows you to do, it's for your good. Sometimes being obedient to Him requires us to do things we don't feel like doing or that are hard to do. But if we trust Him, we'll find that doing things His way, by His grace, leads us to the happiest life we could ever have.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's teaching resource *Ways to Increase Your Happiness*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 135 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](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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# Crestone Music Festival is coming Aug. 6

**SUBMITTED ARTICLE**

**CRESTONE** — Mark the calendar for Aug. 6 for the 21st Crestone Music Festival. It's free and will be held in downtown Crestone from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

There will be two stages, multi-genre and multi-cultural acts plus food, odds and ends and arts and crafts vendors.

The food vendors are special this year — Mama Minnelli's Crepes, Aly's Gyros and the beverage vendor Coffee by Topo serving coffee, chi, kombucha, teas, specialty lemonades plus pastries and other baked goods. They will have hats and T-shirts for sale plus a bouncy house for the kids. There will also be free door prize drawings consisting of multiple hot springs passes at multiple hot springs.

Performers will include acts from schools plus students, local and regional performers.

Organizers are looking for volunteers to help set-up, tear down and take a turn at the bouncy house. Call any of the following numbers — Tom — 719-207-4043, cell 719-937-1954, office 719-256-4533.

"A big part of what makes this work are our special sponsors who kicked in extra as part of our fundraiser for naming our 'Local Business Stage,'" organizers stated. "They are Crestone Mercantile, Crestone Eagle, Joyful Journey Hot Springs, Shumei International Institute, Alamosa Live Music Association, Crestone Creative Trade, Valley Root Food Hub, Higher Elevation Dispensary, Shaman 1214, Harrell Quality Homes, One Eleven Dispensary and Shangrilah Colorado LLC. The other stage is funded fully by Amica's Pizza in Salida. A big thank you to all these businesses."

Schedule and acts:  
Songwriters Circle — 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

The day starts with the popular Songwriter's Circle when 12 acoustic acts each get 10 minutes to play. This will give more local musicians the opportunity to play, and it will give the audience nice snapshots of talented locals. There are still slots left so call Tom direct at 719-207-4043 and sign-up.

The River Tribe — 1:15-2 p.m.  
This is a drum and dance troupe that blends traditional African,

original and modern dance. They have been performing together since 2005. Precision choreography combined with colorful costumes and high energy, these dancers and drummers are a fun and lively spectacle. At the end of their show, the drummers will continue to play for the next act. Members of this group have collaborated with Bones from Articipate in local school presentations.

Malana Ramadei — 2-2:20 p.m.  
Malana is a home-grown — Crestone — aerialist hula-hopper. Her abilities have continued to bloom and blossom through the years as all the locals here have noticed. Her gigs list is increasing, and folks are getting to enjoy her amazingness. The River Tribe will accompany her as she winds flips and twirls her way through her silks.

Rhondavoo — 2:30-3:15 p.m.  
Rhondavoo is a trio of tried-and-true performing musicians leading people through vintage blues, swing, jazz, and obscure eclectic covers. The band is Rhonda Schoenecker on guitar and vocals with Mark Dudrow on cello and vocals and Charley Johnson on bass and vocals. The word eclectic can be overused, but if you mix the above with songwriters like John Prine, Hank Williams, Bonnie Raitt, and Leonard Cohen, then it is eclectic and fun.

Shumei Hikari Taiko Drums 3:30-4 p.m.  
The Shumei Hikari Taiko drummers will once again wake the mountains and the trees. They have been the most popular local school performers, having presented over 22 times in the San Luis Valley and Salida. Art and Beauty is one of the three main pillars of Shumei philosophy and Taiko most certainly elevates the spirit with the beauty of art.

Blue Rooster — 4-4:45 p.m.  
Blue Rooster is a blues, rock and funk band. The boys have paid their dues through the years playing with different bands, but all have struck a chord crowing like true blue roosters.

Brazilian Capoeira — 5-6 p.m.  
Come check-out this one-of-a-kind act that is going into Saguache County schools during the 2022-2023 school year. Capoeira is a unique combination of martial arts, dance, acrobatics, and live music. It builds

strength, flexibility, coordination, confidence and is both challenging and fun. It can be considered a dance, a fight, or a cultural manifestation. Its origins come from Bazillion slaves in the mid-1880's who taught themselves martial arts that was disguised as break dancing when the guards were looking. Capoeira is strongly driven by the rhythm of the music. In addition, music is an important cultural component, as it tells about the past and history. The practice of Capoeira was banned by law until 1940. This is a unique, one-of-a-kind experience.

ONDA — 6:15-8 p.m.  
The headliner this year is ONDA. Their sound is a wonderful mix of originals, traditional Latin standards and Afro-Cuban rhythms blended with funk, salsa, R and B, cumbia, boogaloo, reggae, boleros, and modern jam arrangements. The set is diverse and eclectic, interesting and easy on the ear and the feet. ONDA's reputation as a top-shelf dance band and performance experience is well founded. An explosive horn section, tight rhythm section, seductive vocals, and percussion all contribute to the irresistible ONDA groove.

"We really want to create a sustainable event that's unique, cool and a positive contributor to our community. Our continued success is made possible through individual donations and sponsors," organizers stated.

For more information or to contribute, visit [crestfest.org](http://crestfest.org), call at 719-207-4043, 719-937-1954 or 719-256-4533, or mail to P.O. box 6, Crestone CO 81131.



Courtesy photo

**ONDA is headlining the Crestone Music Festival on Aug. 6. Their sound is a wonderful mix of originals, traditional Latin standards and Afro-Cuban rhythms blended with funk, salsa, R and B, cumbia, boogaloo, reggae, boleros, and modern jam arrangements.**

**Saguache County Sales Tax Grants now available**

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners will be taking Grant Applications for Saguache County Sales Tax Grants until 3:00PM, Friday, August 12, 2022.

To be eligible grant applications must be for either: Emergency Services/Public Health and Safety; Youth and Senior programs, projects, or organizations; or Renewable Energy projects/Business Opportunities and Job Creation.

Grant applications are available on our website at [saguachecounty.colorado.gov](http://saguachecounty.colorado.gov) - use "sales tax grant application forms" or you can contact the Saguache County Administration office at 719-655-2231 to request a copy of the grant application.

No. 1641 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, July 7, 14, 21 and 28 and August 4 2022.

**IFB for Concrete**

The Saguache County Housing Authority is submitting Invitation to Bid for a sidewalk installation located at the property Puerto Del Norte, Saguache.

Scope of Work and questions can be addressed by texting or calling 719 849 0356.

The sealed bid must include the following:

- Your company name and contact information.
- Proof of insurance
- Quote for the services detailed in the Scope of Work.
- Approximate date that the survey will be completed.

The sealed bids are due by 4:00PM August 5th, 2022.

The sealed bid must be addressed and submitted to:

Saguache County Administration  
Attn: Wendi Maez - SCHA  
P.O. Box 100  
Saguache, CO 81149

No. 1643 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, August 4, 2022.

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## Why you need dental insurance in retirement.

### Medicare doesn't pay for dental care.<sup>1</sup>

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Your odds of having a dental problem only go up as you age.<sup>2</sup>

### Treatment is expensive — especially the services people over 50 often need.

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Simply put — without dental insurance, there may be an **important gap** in your healthcare coverage.

1 "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2021. 2 "How might my oral and dental health change as I age?," [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com), 11/30/2018. 3 American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2018 Survey of Dental Fees, Copyright 2018, American Dental Association.

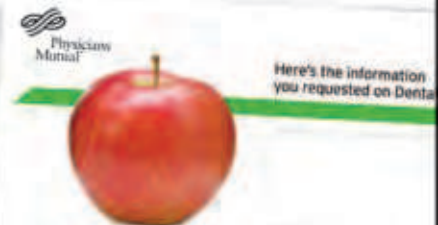
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## CWCB OKs \$17M for drought, water infrastructure projects

STAFF REPORT

**DENVER** — The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) — the state’s water policy agency — considered and unanimously approved the Governor’s request for \$17 million to kick-start local-level implementation of the recently updated Colorado Water Plan.

“Colorado’s Water Plan sets a vision for vibrant communities, successful farming and ranching, thriving watersheds, and climate resilient planning,” said Governor Jared Polis. “Prolonged drought and aging water infrastructure are major barriers to achieving that vision, particularly as Coloradans face a future with more people sharing less water.

“We remain undaunted by that challenge and I’m excited that together we can help overcome these barriers by investing needed resources and seizing upon opportunities to secure funds for locally-driven aging infrastructure and drought resiliency projects.”

This newly transferred funding is on top of an additional \$3 million



previously authorized to the Water Supply Reserve Fund. The recommendation to significantly increase the total amount of funding (\$20 million) for basin wide and local water projects comes from severance tax revenue.

Colorado severance tax revenue is collected from non-renewable

resources that are removed from the earth, including molybdenum, oil and gas, oil shale and coal.

“This infusion of funding will directly positively impact Colorado’s local communities as they continue to experience the effects of a continued drought first-hand,” said CSCB Director. *Please see CWCB on Page 3*



## SPMDTU awarded \$1.351M restoration grants

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

**ANTONITO** — La Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos (SPMDTU) has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area of Alamosa, a \$250,000 grant from the History Colorado State Historical Fund (SHF) and \$1,076,000 from the Colorado Community Revitalization Fund. These three grants will enable the organization to complete the restoration of its iconic building

in the 1925 adobe style. The building sits in the heart of Antonito on Main Street.

SPMDTU will be hosting the History Colorado Board of Directors Friday morning, July 29, for a tour of the SPMDTU building. History Colorado is expected to make a special presentation to SPMDTU as well.

The Scopes of Work of these grants include: the stabilization and replacement of the roof and *Please see SPMDTU on Page 3*

## Holder family awarded Adamson Award

### SLV Health Foundation holds Bolos and Boots

By **KEITH R. CERNY**  
Regional Publisher

**ALAMOSA** — In an emotional acceptance, members of the Larry Holder family were awarded the 2022 Adamson Award during the SLV Health Foundation’s 18th annual Bolos and Boots fundraiser Friday at the Alamosa multi-purpose center.

This year’s event drew over 165 attendees and raised an estimated record of over \$70,000, this year targeting the expansion of the pharmacy at SLV Health to provide for better cancer

treatment.

The Adamson Award is given annually to an individual, organization or group that supports the mission and vision of the SLV Health Foundation.

*Please see AWARD on Page 7*

**Dr. Jason Allen and wife Julie were presented an Appreciation Award during SLV Health Foundation’s Bolos and Boots events at the city multi-purpose pavilion. According to Kelly Gurule, presenting the award at left, Dr. Allen has been passionate about women’s health and has helped grow the breast health program at SLVH.**

Photo by Keith R. Cerny



## Injured fox returned to the wild after rehab

Staff Report

**DELNORTE**—According to the Twitter feed of Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), a young fox was recently released into the wild after being rehabilitated for a broken leg at the wildlife rehab center here.

This past spring, Monte Vista District Wildlife Manager Tyler Cerny picked up a red fox kit that was found with a broken leg after being caught in a leg-hold trap. After taking the fox to the CPW rehab center, the kit was taken to Durango where a veterinarian pinned and stabilized the broken bones.

After a few weeks of antibiotics and daily feedings, the fox was returned to Frisco Creek facility for rehab. There, CPW said the female fox was fed live mice to be sure she was keying in on live prey and was housed in a bear pen where she had room to run and regain her strength. Once the pins were removed from her leg, she was ready for release.

A Twitter video posted by CPW of Cerny releasing the fox back into the wild showed her taking “off like a bolt of lightning back into her natural home on a healthy leg.”



Left: A red fox kit is shown being nursed for a broken leg by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Right: Tyler Cerny, Monte Vista District Wildlife Manager for CPW, is shown releasing the fox into the wild in this still shot taken from a Twitter video.

Photos courtesy of Colorado Parks and Wildlife





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# K9 officers show skills in Center

By PATRICK SHEA

**CENTER** — The Center Police Department hosted its second annual K9 Competition at the Center Community Park on July 23, a show of skills and agility in canine law enforcement. Participants learned details about the K9 Unit in Center, an overview of the training program, and first-hand experience getting taken down by a K9 officer.

Interim CPD Police Chief Aaron Fresquez shared the microphone with his identical twin brother Adam, another officer in the department (along with sister A.J. Fresquez). They took turns demonstrating drug identification and suspect apprehension while describing the training process and support within the Center community. “Kitt has been on the force for two years,” Adam Fresquez explained while his brother ran her through the course. “She is a dual-purpose, German Shepherd-Dutch Shepherd cross.”

“Dual-purpose” means Kitt can

sniff out illegal narcotics and, if necessary, chase down and apprehend a suspect.

Fresquez described the partnership between the Center Police Department and the Center Consolidated School District. They plan to place one of the K9 officers on campus as a different kind of School Resource Officer.

“We were able to get this school program paid for by Center Schools,” Fresquez said. “They’re going to pay our officer full-time, and we’ll pay the benefits. We’re having an officer in the school the entire time. The dog that’s in the school will be trained in explosives and gunshot residue and firearms.”

Representing the Salida Police Department, a Dutch Shepherd named Sarge correctly identified hidden drugs and completed the obstacle course. Although the Center Police Department K9 Unit currently includes three dogs and has already trained and sold other K9 officers, Salida’s Sarge is the only



Center Police Department Officer Adam Fresquez fields questions in Center on July 23.

dog on the force.

Despite other activities scheduled across the Valley, enthusiasts young and old came out to the stadium to see the dogs in action and hear more about the program.

T-shirts and food for sale helped raise funds for the department.



‘Sarge’ from Salida and K9 officers from the Center Police Department demonstrated their skills at Center Community Park on July 23.



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## SFFR Ladies Auxiliary hands out scholarship



Courtesy photo

The South Fork Fire Rescue Ladies Auxiliary in South Fork recently announced that Jeremy Roderick, of Ignacio, was chosen as their first scholarship recipient. Roderick will be studying Fire Science at Iowa Community College beginning this fall. Volunteer and professional firefighters stand ready to apply highly specialized training and education in life saving capacities. Classroom and practical learning are paramount to success in careers that require split-second action, such as firefighting.

## ESTIMATED CROP WATER USE

Weather Data from SLV Research Center located on the 9N and Hwy 285

Crop	Date Planted	Daily Crop Water use for Dates Shown (in./day)				Accumulated Water Use (ET) (inches)				
		7/31	7/30	7/29	7/28	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
		Moravian 69	04/05	0.06	0.05	0.03	0.04	0.11	0.14	0.18
Moravian 69	05/05	0.19	0.15	0.09	0.10	0.34	0.43	0.53	0.75	1.12
Early Wheat	04/05	0.08	0.07	0.04	0.05	0.15	0.19	0.24	0.35	0.56
Early Wheat	05/05	0.20	0.16	0.09	0.10	0.36	0.44	0.55	0.76	1.14
White Wheat	04/05	0.13	0.11	0.06	0.08	0.24	0.30	0.37	0.53	0.82
White Wheat	05/05	0.20	0.16	0.09	0.10	0.36	0.44	0.55	0.76	1.14
WinterWheat	10/01	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.09	0.11	0.14	0.21	0.33
<b>Potatoes</b>										
Norkotah	05/05	0.21	0.17	0.09	0.11	0.37	0.46	0.57	0.80	1.19
Centennial	05/05	0.20	0.16	0.09	0.10	0.36	0.44	0.55	0.76	1.14
Nugget	05/05	0.19	0.15	0.08	0.10	0.34	0.42	0.52	0.72	1.08
Alfalfa	Est.	0.22	0.18	0.10	0.12	0.41	0.50	0.62	0.87	1.30
Lawngress	Est.	0.19	0.15	0.08	0.10	0.34	0.42	0.52	0.72	1.08

For the latest ET information, call 754-3494 extension x40 for Center, x36 for Center #2, and x38 for La Jara. Use the crop maturity and planting data and weather station closest to your own. Find this upJune 8d table each day at this web address: <http://aes-slvrc.agsci.colostate.edu/daily-crop-water-use-report/>  
This information is provided by the SLV Research Center (Colorado State University) and the Colorado Potato Certification Service. For info, call 754-3494 x26 or e-mail: [andrew.houser@colostate.edu](mailto:andrew.houser@colostate.edu)

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The 21st Crestone Music Festival will be held Saturday, August 6, from 11am to 8pm in downtown Crestone. It's FREE. It's fun and it's friendly. We have two stages, multi-genre and multi-cultural acts, plus vendors and activities for youth and adults. Acts include: Latin, Funk, Capoeira, Rock, Silks, Songwriters, Taiko. [Crestfest.org](http://Crestfest.org)

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# SPMDTU

Continued from Page 1

the deteriorating northeast corner of the building, restoration of the stage, plumbing and construction of two ADA Gender Neutral bathrooms, installation of a heating system, construction of an all-electric food service area, restoration of the stairs and floors, wall painting, and converting the office into a SPM-DTU Museum-Visitor's Center and Education-Research Center.

These funds will also be used to construct the following energy efficiency measures: an electric service area, Electric Charging area for visitors to the building, Wi-Fi for internet connection for zoom and other web-based meetings, Solar Panels to provide a renewal energy source for the future maintenance of the building, an apartment for an onsite manager.

Previous grants from the State Historical Fund and the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area of Alamosa have funded Construction Documents and Architectural Plans (design-engineering) plus the restoration of all 26 outside windows and outside doors and the restoration of the entrance and the vestibule.

The SPM-DTU will continue to use the previous general contractor, Torres Builders, LLC and the previous architect, Scheuber and Darden Architects. Both companies know the building well and are well informed with the requirements for the restoration and rehabilitation of historical buildings.

The SPM-DTU Concilio Superior Headquarters Building, located on the west side of Antonito's main street at 603 Main Street, is listed in the State Register of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic Places in the areas of Ethnic Heritage and Social History.

Once the restoration and rehabilitation of the building is complete it will be returned to its splendor in appearance and style of 1925 and will be used to host the type of artistic and historic events of the past, that is, musical performances by groups such as Hilos Culturales, art exhibitions, art displays and workshops, dances, weddings receptions, family reunions, and other community events. In addition, once the SPM-DTU Museum is established it will be open to the public, tourists and for group tours, thus attracting more interest in the town and in turn having a positive influence on the town and its citizens.

The SPM-DTU was founded 122

years ago on Nov. 26, 1900, and is the oldest Hispanic civil rights organization in the United States. It was founded in Antonito, a small town in the San Luis Valley of southern Colorado next to the New Mexico state line, by Celedonio Mondragón and six others to fight discrimination in the fields, mining industry, and railroads. Also, to defend their property rights.

After World War II the SPM-DTU had more than 1,500 members. The SPM-DTU had concilios locales (local councils or chapters) in 36 towns in northern New Mexico, three towns in Utah and 41 towns in Colorado. They were numbered in order of their founding. Those in Colorado included the following: No. 1 Antonito, No. 2 Capulin, No. 3 Mogote, No. 4 Sagua-che, No. 5 Ortiz, No. 6 La Isla, No. 7 Los Sauces-Salida, (later became No. 7 in Denver), No. 8 Del Norte, No. 8 Los Valdezes, No. 10 La Jara, No. 11 Fort Garland, No. 12 Del Norte, Nos. 8, 30, No. 15 Center, No. 41, No. 16 La Garita, No. 17 Lobatos, No. 18 La Jara, No. 19 Alamosa, No. 20 Oak View, No. 21 Ignacio, No. 22 Conejos, No. 24 Pagosa Springs, No. 27 Monte Vista, No. 28 San Pablo, No. 29 Los Pinos-Valle, No. 30 Del Norte, No. 31 Chama, No. 32 Fort Collins, No. 34 Pagosa Springs, No. 35 Durango, No. 36 Montrose, No. 41 Center, No. 45 McPhee, No. 48 Aguilar, No. 49 San Luis, No. 50 Cañon, No. 52 Leadville, No. 54 Garcia, No. 60 Brighton and No. 60 Walsenburg. The three concilios locales in Utah were: No. 59 Clearfield, No. 61 Odgen and No. 63 in Salt Lake City.

Towns in New Mexico that had concilios locales include: No. 4 Rodarte, No. 9 La Madera-Vallecitos, No. 10 San Miguel, No. 11 Las Tusas, No. 12 Costilla, No. 13 Ojo Caliente, No. 14 El Rito, No. 15 Placitas, No. 18 Ranchos de Taos, No. 20 Ranchos de Taos No. 21 Española Valley (Española, Alcalde, Velarde, Lyden), No. 23 Lumberton, No. 24 No Agua-Tres Piedras, No. 25 Chama, No. 26 Española, No. 29 Los Pinos, No. 30 Chamita, No. 30 Ratón and Dawson, No. 32 Arroyo Hondo, No. 33 Las Cruces, No. 34 Chamita, No. 37 Rosa, No. 38 Tierra Amarilla, No. 39 Alcalde, No. 40 Velarde, No. 42 Arroyo Seco, No. 43 Cerro, No. 44 Questa, No. 45 Dulce, No. 46 Embudo-Dixon, No. 53 Taos, No. 57 Nambé, No. 58 Peñasco, No. 63 Amalia, and No. 64 Lyden.

The SPM-DTU began as a mutual aid organization that sought, through

non-violent actions, to combat the exploitation of Hispanic workers by land barons, mine owners, and the railroads. The organization is still active. Its concilios locales conduct monthly meetings and functions, to further the organization's vision which is "The SPM-DTU is comprised of a diverse group of men and women committed to enriching Hispanic communities and families, with fund-raising efforts aimed at providing and enhancing community services."

For more information, visit the SPM-DTU website at [www.spmdu.org](http://www.spmdu.org) and see "La Sociedad: Guardians of Hispanic Culture along the Río Grande," written by José A. Rivera, a SPM-DTU member and University of New Mexico Professor and published by the University of New Mexico Press.



# CWCB

Continued from Page 1

rector Becky Mitchell. "Supported projects will include improving water delivery infrastructure for efficiency and resilience in both cities and agricultural areas."

In her statement, Mitchell thanked board members and Gov. Polis for "recognizing the need to drive this funding to our local communities on the ground where it can make the biggest impact."

Cleave Simpson, general manager of the Rio Grande Water

Conservation District, had the following reaction to the announcement.

"This is much appreciated funding towards the Water Supply Reserve Fund account which really helps each Basin Roundtable advance some of their projects as part of their Basin Implementation Plans," Simpson said. "I hope we can find a more permanent funding source for these projects going forward."

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

Level: Advanced

### Here's How It Works:

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

### Solution to last week's puzzle

S	T	E	T			U	S	A	B	L	E							
T	I	M	E			N	O	N	P	A	R	E	I	L				
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						S	A	L	I	N	E				T	E	S	T

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**The Saguache County Clerk and Recorder's Office will be closed on Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup> Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022**, so that staff may attend training. Normal Business will resume on Friday, August 12, 2022. Please plan ahead. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. (7/27)

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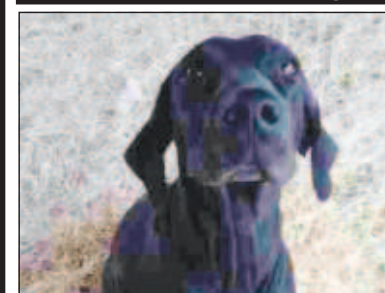
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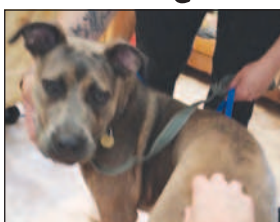
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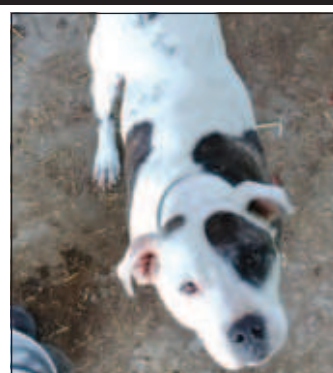
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# Valley Wide

org or call 719-937-5083.

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(Meal is by donation only)

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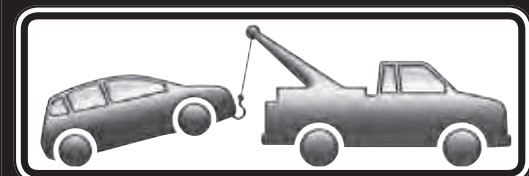
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# AWARD

Continued from Page 1

Since 2016, the Holder family has supported the foundation with funds raised from Larry's 2015 memorial (in lieu of flowers) they donated over \$ 10,000 to purchase "caregiver chairs" for the SLV Health Cancer Center, according to Kelly Gurule, director of the foundation and volunteer services.



Photo by Keith R. Cerny

**Members of the Larry Holder family accepted the Adamson Award from the SLV Health Foundation at Friday night's 18th annual Bolos and Boots fundraiser. Holder lost his battle with cancer in 2015 and the family has since raised funds for the SLVH Cancer Center annually.**

They continue to support the Foundation by hosting and running an annual glow ball tournament held at the Monte Vista Golf course (3 years). The funds from this event are used to fund the Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship Program. This exercise program is run by Adam State University's Department of Kinesiology.

An Appreciation Award was also presented to Dr. Jason Allen, who has been a radiologist with SLV Health since 2015, with the support of his wife. He also served as the medical director for the Stephanie L. Miner Women's Imaging Center for three years.

According to Gurule, he has been passionate about women's health and has helped grow the breast health program at SLVH. He advocated for the addition of the 3-D Mammography unit followed by the stereotactic breast biopsy machine.

Allen cares about the women of the SLV and has been instrumental in increasing services for them. He started the ultrasound breast screening program and has worked with surgeons to trial technology involved

with lumpectomy procedures for patients at SLV Health.

County commissioner Lori Laske, vice president of the SLV Health Foundation, welcomed guests followed by remarks from Carmelo Hernandez, chief medical officer. He reminded attendees that the event had raised money in the past for the cancer center, much-needed equipment, and other hospital expansions.

Dr. Hernandez also recognized the hospital's senior team members in attendance.

A live auction of ten items and a paddle auction at varying degrees of giving resulted in the bulk of the fundraising. Alamosa State Bank provided a \$15,000 match to the paddle auction.

Several Adams State management and staff members were among the major contributors in the fundraising effort.

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# CRT unveils season poster



Courtesy photo  
Artist Peggy Morgan Stenmark, right, is joined by Morgan M. Manfredi, managing director of the Creede Repertory Theatre on Saturday evening as the theatre's 2022 art poster was revealed at the opening of the play 'Native Gardens.'

The watercolor original by Stenmark depicts a scene outside the main stage theatre as patrons gather for a play in keeping with the theme of this year's season, 'Welcome Back' (to indoor theatre). She is a graduate of Colorado State University and a former student of Creede's own Steve Quiller and has been painting for 23 years. Prints of the painting are available at both CRT stages.

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Courtesy photo

The South Fork Friends Foundation Arts and Craft Festival was a tremendous success and plans are already underway for next year.

# South Fork Friends Foundation hosts a successful festival

**STAFF REPORT**  
**SOUTH FORK** — The South Fork Friends Foundation hosted a successful first-ever Arts and Crafts Festival on Wednesday, July 20. This event was held at the Visitor Center and featured 32 vendors with a wide array of unique and exquisite items.

There was a steady flow of customers from the 9 a.m. opening until the 4 p.m. closing. Two parking lots and both sides of the street were filled with cars of people coming to shop.

The event offered a wide variety of gifts and artwork by local and visiting artists. Several vendors offered fun for the whole family,

including the tie-dye t-shirt venue and more.

In addition to the artists and crafters, the South Fork Police Department sold burgers and hot-dogs to raise funds for equipment.

Both vendors and buyers alike reported that it was a fantastic show, and all the vendors requested space at next year's event. Rave reviews keep coming in regarding everything from the layout to the diverse selection of products displayed to the great weather.

SFFF thanked organizers Jenny Quinn and Judith Brennan, the vendors, and the community for their support.

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### Treatment is expensive — especially the services people over 50 often need.

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- ▶ Shop for coverage with no annual maximum on cash benefits.

Simply put — without dental insurance, there may be an **important gap** in your healthcare coverage.

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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6247-0121



# Saguache resident wins powerlifting competition

By **PATRICK SHEA**

**SAGUACHE** — Faith O'Reilly operates the Saguache Lodge south of town today, but she has done some heavy lifting in the community over the years and recently rekindled her passion for the sport of powerlifting. O'Reilly won her division at the Rocky Mountain State Games in Colorado Springs on July 23.

"It's nice to see how well everyone gets along at these events," the 79-year-old O'Reilly explained.

Throughout the day, participants represented both genders and all races and ages. Between lifts, they shared tips and supported one another.

Standard powerlifting competitions rotate through three events in succession. Because it takes more than half a dozen officials and spotters to conduct the lifts at each station, they complete the Squats first, followed by the Bench Press, and ending with the Deadlift.

Competitors get three attempts at each event, starting with a weight they're confident they can lift. If a participant fails to lift the weight three times, they are disqualified from the rest of the competition. The final score is the total weight lifted.

Weighing a little under 58 kilograms herself (roughly 128 pounds), O'Reilly started her Squats at 30kg and lifted 35 and 40 kilos on her second and third

attempts. She benched 30kg, and her Deadlift hoists were 50, 52.5, and a final 60 kilos.

While attending law school at the University of Iowa, O'Reilly maintained a swimming regimen. But after she finished her studies and no longer had access to the pool, she gravitated to powerlifting during the 1980s. She competed regularly throughout the Midwest, earning the Iowa champion title a few times.

After she left Iowa, O'Reilly moved to Montana. When the gym where she trained acquired new equipment, she bought the old gear, which is now in her home gym at the Saguache Lodge.

Although O'Reilly has safety bars and techniques for working out alone, she said most lifters prefer to work with a partner.

The nearest gym is over Poncha Pass. Also, powerlifting events are scarce in Colorado. O'Reilly has her eye on an event in Fort Collins later this year, and the long drive to Utah for another competition is tempting, she said.

A former Saguache Chamber of Commerce president and current Tourism Council member, O'Reilly also runs and competes in short races for conditioning. She's expanding operations at the lodge and shared how powerlifting helps everyday life.

"When you train," O'Reilly explained, "everything is easier. You have more confidence in your ability to manage tasks."

This year's edition of the Rocky Mountain State Games included 13 separate competitions ranging from badminton, pickleball, and disc golf to swimming and Taekwondo.

Run by the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation, the Rocky Mountain State Games is designed to accommodate multiple sports and abilities through different competitions.

In addition to the Olympic-style competition for O'Reilly and others, the organization runs other events in the Pikes Peak region throughout the year, including the Labor Day Liffoff ballooning event in Colorado Springs.




Courtesy photos

Faith O'Reilly completes the Deadlift at the Rocky Mountain State Games in Colorado Springs on July 23.

Left: Faith O'Reilly, Rebecca Novak, and Trina Guy pose during the Rocky Mountain State Games in Colorado Springs on July 23.


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# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate


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107 Marmot Lane • South Fork



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# San Luis Valley Fair Schedule August 6-13, 2022

## Saturday, August 6, 2022

8:00 am-Noon Set Up Split clubs  
 10:00-11:00 am Mandatory Livestock Exhibitors' Meeting  
 11:00 am-Noon Horse Exhibitors' Test  
 5:00 pm Ranch Rodeo

## Sunday, August 7, 2022

### SOFTBALL FIELDS

8:00-9:00 am 4-H Dog Check In 9:00 am 4-H Dog Show

### LIVESTOCK PAVILLION

2:00 pm Dairy Goat Judging Followed by Milking Competition  
 6:00 pm Mike Kelley Memorial Open Barrow Show

### MCMULLEN BUILDING

11:00-1:00 pm Dairy Goat Check In  
 Breeding Livestock Check In  
 Barrows For Barrow Show Check In

## Monday, August 8, 2022

### INDOOR BUILDING

7:30-9:30 am Open Class Check in  
 8:00-11:00 am 4-H/FFA Project Check In  
 9:00 am-2:00 pm 4-H/FFA Project Judging  
 10:00 am- 12:00 pm Open Class Judging  
 8:00 pm Hypnotist

### ARENA

8:00-8:30 am Horse Check In 9:00 am 4-H Horse Show

### LIVESTOCK PAVILLION

9:00 am Breeding Beef Show/ Dairy Calf



1:00 pm Breeding Sheep Show  
 3:00 pm Production Meat Goat Show  
 5:00 pm Breeding Swine Show  
 5:30 pm Swine Showmanship

### MCMULLEN BUILDING

9:00-11:00 am Market Swine  
 Check in/Weigh in

**BREEDING STOCK CHECK OUT BY 9:00 PM**

## Tuesday, August 9, 2022

### INDOOR BUILDING

10:00 am- NOON 4-H Fashion Revue  
 7:30 pm 4-H Fashion Show

### ARENA

8:00-8:30 am Horse Check In  
 9:00 am 4-H Working Ranch Horse Show

### LIVESTOCK PAVILLION

5:30 pm Market Swine Show

### MCMULLEN BUILDING

8:00-10:00 am Market Lamb Weigh In/ Check in  
 10:00am- 12:00 pm Market Goat Weigh In/ Check in  
 1:00 pm Rabbits check in

## Wednesday, August 10, 2022

### ARENA

8:00 am 4-H Gymkhana  
*The Horse Awards Ceremony will be held after completion of the Gymkhana in the Arena*

Continued on page 3



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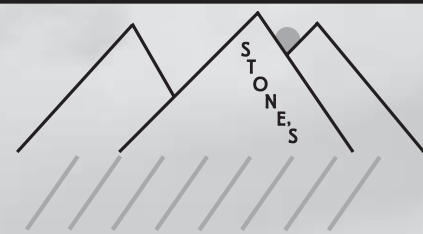
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# San Luis Valley Fair Schedule August 6-13, 2022

Continued

**LIVESTOCK PAVILLION**  
8:00-11:00 am Market Beef Check in  
5:00 pm Market Lamb Show Followed by Showmanship

**INDOOR BUILDING**  
7:00 pm 101<sup>st</sup> Country Band

**MCMULLEN BUILDING**  
10:00 am Rabbit show

## Thursday, August 11, 2022

10:00 Aa **STOCK PAVILLION**  
4:00 pm Meat Goat Show Followed by Market Goat Showmanship  
6:00 P.M. Market Beef Show followed by Market Beef Showmanship

*RELEASE OF NON-SALE ANIMALS MAY BEGIN AFTER LAST SHOW. NON-SALE ANIMALS MUST BE*

*OUT OF MCMULLEN BUILDING BY 6:00 p.m.*

## Friday, August 12, 2022

**INDOOR BUILDING**  
8:00-10:00 am Indoor projects picked up that did not make state fair

**McMullen Building**  
4:00 p.m. Sale birds back in pens  
**LIVESTOCK PAVILLION**  
8:30 am Round Robin  
6:00 pm SLV Fair Junior Livestock Auction

**INDOOR BUILDING**  
Dance immediately following the Sale Will be a street dance

Saturday, August 13, 2022  
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# Agriculture was foundation for San Luis Valley

BY LYNDSIE FERRELL

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — There were several reasons why back in the beginning of establishing the San Luis Valley that pioneer families relocated from other parts of the US to this unchartered territory and agriculture was at the top of the list.

Dating back to the very first families who ventured to this area around 1866, it is easy to see how rich the Valley floor was for planting every kind of crop known to this region while just reading through the local newspapers which came later in 1874. Several articles speak of how shallow wells needed to be to reach ground water, some even boasting about only having to dig 10 feet before striking the cleanest water that had ever been tasted.

Once the Civil War had ended, both Confederate and Union Soldiers found their way to the San Luis Valley and though many headed to the hills to search for golden riches and silver ore, others settled in areas east of the steep mountains and started cultivating agricultural communities like those found in the plazas along the Rio Grande.

Though the soil was rich, the pioneers that first came here quickly realized that without adequate water flowing through the fields, many crops would not survive. According to history collected by several historians at the Rio Grande County Museum, the first ditches dug along the Rio were the Atencio, the Silva and the San Jose that carried the waters of the Rio out onto the Valley floor where plentiful crops were planted and harvested.

Even back in the early days, ranchers and farmers quickly realized the significance of the high desert crops which yielded crops of alfalfa, sugar beets, strawberries, lettuce, native grasses and hay, potatoes, barely, wheat, carrots, spinach, quinoa, and canola. The high elevation and cool nights made for a sweetness to the variety of crops grown here in the Valley that could not be matched in other locations.

The first people to come to the area and establish agriculture here in the Valley are some of the very same families that reside here today. The Valley is home to several heritage farms and ranches that were homesteaded as far back as 1866 with the first 14 families that came to the area just after the end of the Civil War and the Valley continues to be a place where war-weary veterans come to settle down and spend the rest of their days.

One story comes from Monte Vista during World War II. During that time, the Valley served as a means to produce food which was then shipped off to feed the troops fighting in the war. During this time, Monte Vista was home to an armory which is still standing today. This armory was used as a camp for prisoners of war who during their time in the Valley worked as potato pickers for local farms.

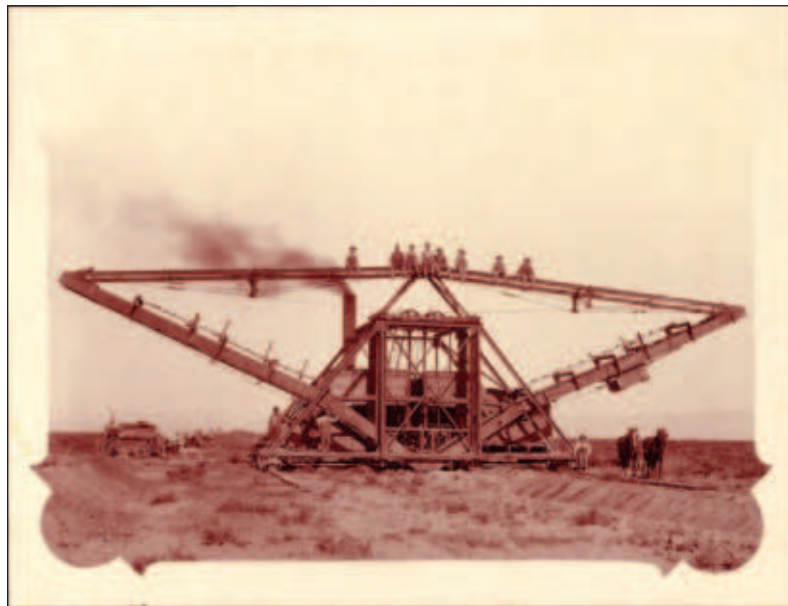
These men, mostly of German descent, were worked to the bone, just like many of the other potato pickers. It was hot, dirty work but compared to the life they had lived prior to becoming prisoners of war, these men had a wonderful time. In fact, they enjoyed it so much, they painted pictures making fun of their work and gifted these paintings to the farmers.

Later, after the war was over, many of these men brought their families back to the Valley and made it their

home. The paintings are part of the collection at the Rio Grande County Museum to this day and are, from time to time, on display for patrons to enjoy.

Agriculture helped shape the Valley into what it is today and were it not for the hard work of all the pioneer men and women, some of the advancements, including the irrigation throughout the Valley, would not be the same. The agricultural community here in the Valley continues to be the foundation of the San Luis Valley and only the future awaits.

**Agriculture continues to be the life blood of the San Luis Valley. Pioneering families forged the foundation for what agriculture is today and add to the rich history of the San Luis Valley dating back to the original families that came around 1866.**  
Photos courtesy of Rio Grande County Museum



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# CWCB OKs \$17M for drought, water infrastructure projects

## STAFF REPORT

**DENVER** — The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) — the state’s water policy agency — considered and unanimously approved the Governor’s request for \$17 million to kick-start local-level implementation of the recently updated Colorado Water Plan.

“Colorado’s Water Plan sets a vision for vibrant communities, successful farming and ranching, thriving watersheds, and climate resilient planning,” said Governor Jared Polis. “Prolonged drought and aging water infrastructure are major barriers to achieving that vision, particularly as Coloradans face a future with more people sharing less water.

“We remain undaunted by that challenge and I’m excited that together we can help overcome these barriers by investing needed resources and seizing upon opportunities to secure funds for locally-driven aging infrastructure and drought resiliency projects.”

This newly transferred funding is on top of an additional \$3 million previously authorized to the Water Supply Reserve Fund. The recom-

mendation to significantly increase the total amount of funding (\$20 million) for basin wide and local water projects comes from severance tax revenue.

Colorado severance tax revenue is collected from non-renewable resources that are removed from the earth, including molybdenum, oil and gas, oil shale and coal.

“This infusion of funding will directly positively impact Colorado’s local communities as they continue to experience the effects of a continued drought first-hand,” said CSCB Director Becky Mitchell. “Supported projects will include improving water delivery infrastructure for efficiency and resilience in both cities and agricultural areas.”

In her statement, Mitchell thanked board members and Gov. Polis for “recognizing the need to drive this funding to our local communities on the ground where it can make the biggest impact.”

Cleave Simpson, general manager of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, had the following reaction to the announcement.



“This is much appreciated funding towards the Water Supply Reserve Fund account which really helps each Basin Roundtable advance some of their projects as part of their Basin Implementation Plans,” Simpson said. “I hope we can find a more permanent funding source for these projects going forward.”

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## Fields in bloom

Farmers in the Valley water their fields with large, automated irrigation systems like this one outside of Monte Vista.



Potato fields like these outside of Monte Vista and others across the San Luis Valley were blooming in July, signally that harvest is not far off.

Photos by Brian Williams



Different varieties of potatoes bloom in a field outside of Monte Vista in July.

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# CSU San Luis Valley Research Center hosts field day

By **PATRICK SHEA**

**CENTER** — Almost 50 seasoned farmers and other people attended the Colorado State University San Luis Valley Research Center south of Center on July 27 for the Water Wise Crops Field Day. Participants learned about camelina and witnessed the results of a three-field study showing response to reduced watering levels.

Research Center Manager Zach Czarnecki introduced CSU Area Extension Director and Agent Larry Brown at the start of the event.

Brown described the field experiments as possible answers when a person asks, "What else can we grow of economic value with no water?"

Brown said, "We quit looking for that one super-crop that was going to be the answer for everybody across the Valley. We had three or four runs at that, and they all ended up being part of the answer, but not the whole answer. Instead of looking for that one crop, we're testing as many things as we can."

The first half of the Field Day presentation focused on camelina.

"These are the stars of the day," Czarnecki qualified with his introduction. "They came all the way from Montana and Kansas to talk to us about their company Sustainable Oils Camelina."

Sustainable Oils Camelina has a refinery in California and is growing the plant in nearly a dozen states. The camelina they are breeding is specifically for making renewable fuel.



**After it is processed, camelina separates into three products — renewable diesel oil, meal for livestock, and seeds.**

Unlike Biodiesel, which is a separate product that other companies create, Sustainable Oils Camelina is a renewable form of diesel. The company is breeding for North America, but they also have development in Europe.

At their refinery, they have an exclusive five-year commitment from ExxonMobil to purchase up to 220 million gallons per year of renewable diesel made from Sustainable Oils Camelina.

Camelina is in the same family as broccoli and canola, but it is much tougher. Presenters from Montana and Kansas told stories of camelina, and canola mixed in the same fields. Camelina survived drought conditions where canola failed, and camelina showed more freezing tolerance as well. Flea beetles that damage canola did not overcome camelina.

During his introduction, Brown also

noted a separate soil health study on a distant field.

"We're using soil amendments to renovate pastures and control weeds," Brown said. "We're seeing how far we can go with that to increase production of desirable plants and decrease the production of undesirables just by changing the soil biology."

Brown recognized, "Tom McCracken, the Saguache County Commissioner who couldn't be here today. He wanted us to study millet. [Interns] Daniel and Maria and I spent the entire weekend with the Grain Chain Group of Colorado. There's a lot of interest in the smaller artisan bakeries and things like that with these new, different grains."

Brown also mentioned a distillery in northern Colorado that makes whisky from millet.

The three-field study conducted by interns Daniel Rhode and Maria Ortega



Photos by Patrick Shea

**Colorado State University San Luis Valley Research Center Manager Zach Czarnecki introduced Larry Brown, pictured on left, at the Water Wise Crops Field Day on July 27**

included 16 different plants, half of them varieties of millet. To control for burial depth height, they chose a half-inch for all the species. Unfortunately,

the lowest depth recommended for planting. The camelina failed, along with the Yellow Sweet Clover and Teff Grass Haymaker.

Participants returned to the research center headquarters a quarter-mile from the test fields to enjoy complimentary lunch and discuss considerations for a water-challenged future.

## Farm Tour and Seminar to be held at Outcalt Center

By **MARIE MCCOLM**

**MONTE VISTA** — The Colorado Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the Mosca Hooper Conservation District and Acres USA will be hosting a Farm Tour and Seminar on Saturday, Aug. 13, beginning at 8 a.m., at the Outcalt Event and Conference Center at SLV Ski-Hi Complex.

This event is free, but registration is required to attend. The event will include a keynote address from Jimmy Emmons, a well-known agriculture producer from Oklahoma.

Two local farm tours will be available at the seminar, and transportation will be provided for both tours. Other events that will take place at the seminar include, guest speakers from the Colorado Legislature, breakout rooms on soil science and farm economics. There will also be a panel discussion with local farmers and ranchers regarding soil health.

The Preliminary Agenda for the seminar will be as follows:

- 8 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
- 8:10 a.m. Program update
- 8:20 a.m. Legislator speaker
- 8:30 a.m. Coffee Break
- 9 a.m. Travel to farm visits
- 9:30 a.m. Farm visits - Crop-land Operation or Rangeland Operation
- 11 a.m. Drive Back to Ski-Hi Complex
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch Break
- 12:30 p.m. Keynote Address: Jimmy Emmons
- 1:30 p.m. Guest speakers
- 2 p.m. Break
- 2:15 p.m. Breakouts rooms
- 3:30 p.m. Panel Discussion

• 4:30 p.m. Closing

The Colorado Department of Agriculture's mission is to strengthen and advance Colorado agriculture; promote a safe and high-quality food supply; protect consumers; and foster responsible stewardship of the environment and natural resources.

Acres USA is North America's oldest producer of information on organic and sustainable farming. Acres mission statement is to help farmers, ranchers, and market gardeners grow food in an organic way, without harmful toxic chemistry.

The Mosca Hooper Conservation District was established on June 7, 1942. Their mission is to provide leadership in natural resource management for the betterment of all present and future residents of the district through education and example.

All three groups have come together to provide this seminar at the Outcalt Center to residents all over the Valley.

Keynote Speaker Emmons has been farming since 1980. Emmons is known nationally as an ag producer and known for demonstrating successful soil health systems all over his farm.

Emmons farms wheat, peas, soybeans, canola, rye, and milo, he is also a cow-calf farmer. Emmons has worked hard to build a soil health system on his farm, to contribute to the overall restoration of his land.

Emmons is open about sharing what he has learned through trial and error while farming. Emmons has a crop rotation system that he uses on his farm. His reasoning

behind the rotation is the diverse weather changes that occur in Oklahoma.

According to Emmons, there is usually a 22-25-inch rainfall annually in Oklahoma. By applying this crop rotation, Emmons is benefiting from the changing weather patterns, and not just committing to one or two crops.

Emmons has also implemented his cow/calf operation into his soil health system, through revolving grazing practices. Emmons currently serves on the board of the Dewey County Conservation District and is the president of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation districts.

For more information on the seminar and to register, visit <https://events.acresusa.com/e/colorado-star-farm-tour>.

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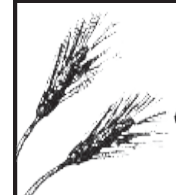


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# CFB joins Supreme Court Case on WOTUS

The Colorado Farm Bureau Federation recently joined 20 other state Farm Bureaus to file an amicus curiae brief supporting the petitioner in the Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency United States Supreme Court case review.

Sackett v. EPA pertains to the federal wetlands jurisdiction under the 1972 Clean Water Act. The case originated in Idaho more than a decade ago when the Sackett family's land was filled and leveled for home construction. Shortly after, the EPA notified the family that the land was protected under the CWA and needed to be restored to its original state.

Crucial to the case is the "water of the United States" distinction, which has since seen many interpretations. WOTUS determinations remain unclear and controversial, and in early 2022 the United States Supreme Court agreed to hear the case again. The SCOTUS ruling will decide the proper test to consider whether applicable wetlands are "waters of the United States."

The Supreme Court will hear the case this fall.

The Colorado Farm Bureau and the other state farm bureaus have voiced concern over the federal government's increasing regulatory overreach in defining and regulating "waters of the US." The amicus brief cites the lack of a "clear and definitive test" in determining what constitutes WOTUS and lists three primary arguments.

- Over-federalization of water-resources regulation has led to absurd and unsustainable results.
- State and local governments are well-suited to regulate land and water use.
- State and local regulations provide robust protections for water resources.

As expected, the brief has generated significant interest from other stakeholders. An additional 27 briefs have since been filed, and farm bureaus around the country have taken steps to voice their opposition to the increasing threat of federal regulatory overreach. Colorado's farmers and ranchers rely on clear and straightforward rules that our industry can adhere to without fearing punishment.

Colorado and other states' Farm Bureau's have also participated in



Photo courtesy of Colorado Farm Bureau

stakeholder meetings with EPA staff around the country to voice producer concerns over the Biden administration's proposed WOTUS rules. AFBF is disappointed that the meetings will not become part of the official record for the rulemaking process, and producers will need to engage heavily in the public comment period when the final rule is proposed.

## USDA awards over \$70M in grants, increases access to local, healthy foods for kids

WASHINGTON D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on July 25 announced it is awarding more than \$10 million in Farm to School Grants to 123 projects across the country. Additionally, for the first time, the department is empowering states with \$60 million in non-competitive grants to develop stronger and sustainable Farm to School programs over the next four years. Both actions will help more kids nationwide eat healthy, home-grown foods.

Farm to School increases the amount of locally produced foods served through child nutrition programs, while also educating children about how their foods are harvested and made. Various child nutrition operators can participate in farm to school, from states and tribal nations to schools and community organizations.

"The expansion of Farm to School is more important than ever for our kids," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "When schools and local producers work together, children benefit from higher-quality foods on their plates and program operators have stable sources for the products they need." Vilsack added farm to school is an investment in the next generation and one of many ways the department is advancing nutrition security – the consistent, equitable access to healthy and affordable foods that promote well-being.

The 123 projects funded by the fiscal year 2022 competitive grants will serve more than 3 million children at more than 5,000 schools in 44 states and the District of Columbia. Further, USDA acknowledges

that many people have been historically underserved and marginalized through unfair food systems. The projects selected by the department reflect its commitment to transforming food systems to be more equitable through Farm to School:

- An estimated 62% of students served by these projects are eligible for free and reduced-priced school meals.
- 40% of projects serve rural areas or economically disadvantaged areas.
- Nearly 30% of organizations are led by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, with projects serving those same communities.
- Seven projects are tribal nations serving Native American communities.

Since the USDA Farm to School Program's inception in 2013, the department has awarded nearly \$75 million in Farm to School Grants, funding more than 1,000 projects across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and Puerto Rico. These projects have reached over 25 million students in nearly 60,000 schools. For more information on how your community can get involved with Farm to School activities, visit the FNS website.

Additionally, as announced last month, the department's \$60 million non-competitive grants for states will allow them to better assist program operators in purchasing and using more local foods in meals for kids between Fiscal Years 2023-2026. The resources will also expand agricultural education for children. More information about the distribution of funds is coming

soon.

"States and school districts with strong Farm to School programs have been more resilient in the face of recent supply chain disruptions, compared to operators lacking relationships with local producers," said Stacy Dean, deputy under secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services. "The Farm to School program deserves to be at the forefront of long-term solutions that operators can lean on to ensure nutritious, local products are always within reach."

When schools source foods locally, it supports American farmers and strengthens the economy. USDA surveyed school food authorities nationwide in the 2019 Farm to School Census. According to the findings, in school year 2018-2019, school districts purchased nearly \$1.3 billion in local fruits, vegetables, and other foods, totaling approximately 20% of all school food purchases.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

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# San Luis Valley Potato Festival set for Sept. 10 in Monte Vista

By MARIE MCCOLM

**MONTE VISTA** — The annual San Luis Valley Potato Festival will be coming to Monte Vista on Saturday, Sept. 10. The event will again be held at Chapman Park with lots of new activities to entertain young and old alike.

The event is held annually in celebration of the end of the potato harvest. The event features craft and food vendors, a 5K Spud Run, a chef demonstration, guided ag tours, and much more.

Jessica Crowther of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee is excited about this year's festival.

"We have lots of new things happening for the festival this year," Crowther said. "We also have traditional things that people really love every year, like the Ag Tour will be available this year. The Ag Tour is something we have had that's really fun for people to do at the Potato Festival. We provide a bus and we take folks out to tour a farm. In the past, we have taken people to Martinez Farms. We do ask for people to sign up for this so we know how many people we are taking ahead of time; this is something folks really enjoy doing every year. We will also have our mashed potato dunk tank. So traditionally people get dunked in water, but we have a huge tank full of mashed potatoes, and it's really gross and really fun. I think we are going to be dunking participants from some chemical companies this year, so that should definitely be something fun for people to do."

Crowther also talked about some of

the new events that are taking place.

"We are working with a company called Circus Foundry, that is something new this year," Crowther said. "So, we will have people that do acrobatics, and also people out on stilts, and walking out among the crowd. In the evening, they will actually be performing at Chapman Park. They will have their big tent out and will give a performance. We will also have the San Luis Valley community band playing. We are excited about all of that."

Crowther also said that there would be tons of games for the kids, too, including face painting and bouncy houses, and a little train ride that the festival brings to the park every year for the kids.

"We really like to entertain the kids," Crowther said. "We think it's important for them to have just as much fun as the adults."

Crowther also spoke of the Monte Vista basketball team doing the free baked potato like they do every year and said that people get the baked potato for free and then they just pay for their toppings such as bacon, green chile, sour cream, cheese, and other toppings for their potato.

"The Monte Vista Chamber will also be auctioning off the rest of the cranes that are all over town," Crowther said. "We don't have the final count on that, but if you are interested in purchasing one of the beautiful cranes that are pinned up in Downtown Monte Vista, this is a good auction to attend."

For more information on the Potato Festival, visit [coloradopotato.org](http://coloradopotato.org).

## U.S. potato exports show continued signs of recovery

With many countries around the globe relaxing restrictions and showing signs of recovery from the pandemic, demand for U.S. potato exports is strong in many markets. During the first three quarters of the marketing year (July 2021-March 2022), overall U.S. potato and potato product exports increased from the same period one year earlier.

From July 2021 to March 2022, U.S. frozen potato exports increased by nearly 3% in volume and 6% in value. Major increases for frozen shipments occurred in Canada with a 42% growth, the Philippines with a 25% growth, and Myanmar with a 13% growth. Central America, Mexico, Japan, and Vietnam also saw increases during the nine months. These increases are a great sign of recovery in the international foodservice sector.

While frozen exports were up overall, there were significant declines in shipments to Thailand by -36%, Malaysia by -15%, and Saudi Arabia by -20%. These, and other markets, are still suffering from unstable supply and shipping issues. This is particularly true for Asian markets, where shipping times are much longer.

Many international restaurant chains are looking to source frozen products from other origins to ensure a consistent supply. Some major operators, such as A&W and Carl's Jr. in Thailand, are going so far as to shut down operations in the market entirely. Despite this, demand for U.S. potatoes in international markets remains high.

U.S. fresh potato exports, which include both table-stock potatoes and chipping potatoes for processing,

were up during the July-March period at nearly 10% by volume. Value for fresh shipments increased even further by 15%, due to higher prices and inflation impacting the globe.

Some markets did see a drop in U.S. fresh potato shipments, including a -90% decrease in Vietnam and a -43% decrease in Thailand. Fresh exports were up in many major markets though, including the top two export markets for U.S. potatoes: Canada, where fresh shipments were up 10%, and Mexico, where fresh shipments increased by 13%.

Notably, the first shipments of fresh potatoes destined for beyond the 26-kilometer border zone of Mexico have crossed the border. The U.S. potato industry continues to work through the process to create more efficiencies for future shipments. These first shipments occurred in Q4 of the marketing year and will be included in next quarter's export report.

U.S. exports of dehydrated potatoes are not recovering at the same rate as other potato products as tight supply is limiting exports. In the first three quarters of the current marketing year, dehydrated shipments were down -10% by volume.

Some of the largest drops in dehydrated potato exports compared to the previous year were in Central America (-55%), China (-55%), the Philippines (-43%), and Japan (-31%). Amongst these decreases, some markets did see increased shipments of U.S. dehydrated potatoes: South Korea, which saw an increase of 105%, and Taiwan, which had an increase of 44%.

— Compiled by [PotatoesUSA.com](http://PotatoesUSA.com)

## Moving forward together

**ALAMOSA** — Farm Fresh Direct of America has developed a new program "Seguimos Adelante", to provide the agricultural employees and their dependents with a top-quality working environment, tuition, job training assistance and other resources.

"Seguimos Adelante" was launched with a donation for the agricultural community and three — \$1,000 scholarships to a recipient of each of the following potato warehouses — Blanca Potato, Expo and Grower Shipper.

"We are building community partnerships and moving forward together," said Mayra McKibbin, Director of Workforce and Community Programs

The SLV Agricultural Coalition appreciates and values the part-



nership with Farm Fresh Direct of America in serving the farmworker

Coalition Farmworker Appreciation Picnic on Aug. 7, at Center Community Park in downtown Center.

**2022 San Luis Valley POTATO FESTIVAL**

SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 • MONTE VISTA, CO  
CHAPMAN PARK: 8 AM - 6 PM

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## HERE'S THE BEEF

Fairs involve a lot of beef . . . calves, steers and bulls. So where's the beef? Right here in this area. Our local livestock producers raise some of the finest beef in the world. Where's the beef? You'll find it at a local backyard family barbecue. You'll find it at a far-a-way fancy four-star restaurant. Hats off to our local livestock producers. We appreciate their continued business.

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