

CENTER POST -DISPATCH



100th ANNUAL
San Luis Valley
Ski-Hi Stampede
OFFICIAL PROGRAM
Inside this week's
Center Post Dispatch

Volume 121, Number 29

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Shorts

CRT performances canceled through July 24

CREEDE — Due to a major outbreak of COVID-19 among the company of the Creede Repertory Theatre, all performances have been canceled through July 24. The company is pausing all in-person work in order to stop the spread within the team and to let members heal.

Performances will resume in full on Tuesday, July 26 at the last report. Ticket holders are being contacted as soon as possible or should contact boxoffice@creederep.com for re-booking.

DN Food Bank distribution July 23

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Food Bank's monthly food distribution is from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 23. The Del Norte food bank serves Del Norte and South Fork and is situated in the alley behind the Pioneer United Church at 630 Spruce St. In Del Norte. Anyone in need of food assistance is welcome.

County Clerk-Recorder's Office Closed Aug. 8-11

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The Saguache County Clerk and Recorder's Office will be closed Aug. 8-11 for training. The office will return to normal hours on Aug. 13.

ALMA Sundays at Six series continues July 24

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Live Music Association's Sundays at Six continues July 24 with the Texas-born, Colorado-based music duo, Bonnie and Taylor Sims. Check them out at <https://www.bonnieandtaylor.com/>. Head on over to Cole Park at 6:00 PM and enjoy some quality live music right here in Alamosa! The MOKI food truck will be on site selling some delicious and local dinner items. Visit <http://www.almaonline.org/> for the complete summer lineup.

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Lengthy battle ends with DA's resignation

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — For months, a battle has been brewing between a makeshift coalition of victims of crime, law enforcement officials, members of the Alamosa City Council plus key city executives and the embattled District Attorney, who had run on a platform of criminal justice reform and, once in office, created a history of controversial practices and decisions in the prosecution of cases in the San Luis Valley.

On Wednesday, July 13, 12th

Judicial District Attorney Alonzo Payne submitted his letter of resignation to the governor's office, effective at 11:59 p.m. Wednesday night. Payne then sent a screenshot of the letter to the Denver Post for publication.

That afternoon, in a statement, Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser announced that he had been appointed interim District Attorney for the 12th Judicial District until the governor appointed a new District Attorney to permanently

Please see DA on Page 7A



Phil Weiser

File photos



Alonzo Payne



Running parallel to Highway 112 east of Center, the oft-smelly county line ditch is officially known as Outfall001A, the only outfall permitted for the Idaho-Pacific Colorado Corporation.

Photos by Patrick Shea

Potato processor in Center faces state violations

BY PATRICK SHEA

CENTER — The Idaho-Pacific Colorado Corporation manufactures dehydrated potato products on the Rio Grande County side of Highway 112 south of Center, a process that has raised a stink with residents and a cease-and-desist order from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

Please see POTATO on Page 2A



Plenty to celebrate at 100th annual Ski-Hi Stampede

BY MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Ski-Hi Stampede Committee President Greg Metz is excited about the 100th annual Ski-Hi Stampede, July 21-24.

"I am excited to be a part of all of it. I have been the President for 3 years now and being a part of this is great," Metz said. "This year there will be a two-day parade (Friday and Saturday), last year there was a one-day parade. This year we already have great numbers for the concert coming in, too. We had that Bullfighters Only competition last weekend and for our first time ever doing that, the turnout was so great. We had around 1,150 people come out. We wanted to

bring the BFO out as a pre-Stampede kickoff and it really worked out well."

The Bullfighters Only competition was on Saturday, July 9, at Ski-Hi Park and featured nine of the top bullfighters in the country.

"There was a tailgate party right before the show, and everyone really enjoyed that. We just want everyone to have a great time and really enjoy this Stampede. It's going to be a historical event," Metz said.

Metz said that this year's dance that will be held right after the concert on Thursday night, will be birthday themed to celebrate the 100th-year celebration of Ski-Hi Stampede and will feature a singer from Texas —

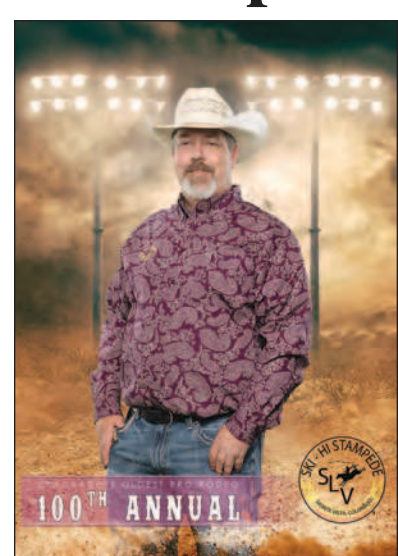
Houston Bernard.

"It's exciting to get someone that travels all over out here, I think this is going to be something fun for this year's dance," Metz said.

Bernard was born in Oklahoma and is a relative of the famous gunfighter George "Bittercreek" Newcomb. Newcomb was a member of the infamous "Wild Bunch," one of the most wanted men in the 1890s era. He was known for robbing banks and trains and was gunned down and laid to rest in Oklahoma in 1895.

Bernard's father and uncle have some rich roots in country music, playing back up for many Country

Please see 100TH on Page 2A



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Monte Vista man pleads guilty to burglary of US Post Office



Edward Medina

DENVER — The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado announced that Edward Anthony Medina, 60, of Monte Vista, pleaded guilty to burglary of a United States Post Office.

According to the plea agreement, on Dec. 19, 2021, the defendant knowingly broke into the Monte Vista Post Office, located at 150 Washington St., Monte Vista, with the intent to commit larceny. Once inside, Medina accessed multiple safes and stole \$702.91 in cash

belonging to the United States Postal Service.

United States District Court Judge Raymond P. Moore presided over the change of plea hearing on July 12. A sentencing hearing has been scheduled for Sept. 23.

The United States Postal Inspection Service in Denver and the Monte Vista Police Department conducted a joint investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Albert Buchman handled the prosecution of the case.

SFFR douses fire on Monday

On Monday, July 18, at 2:24 p.m., South Fork Fire Rescue was paged to a report of a smoke coming from the area behind Ramons Restaurant. Firefighters located the source of the smoke southwest of South Fork on Trout Creek Trail. The fire was approximately 20-feet by 20-feet and was contained, then completely mopped up by firefighters. The cause of the fire is under investigation.



Photo courtesy of Linette Nye Schmidt

POTATO

Continued from Page 1A

Kelly Morgan, the Compliance and Enforcement Section Manager for CDPHE, served a Service of Notice of Violation-Cease and Desist Order to IPCC on June 13. IPCC officials received 30 days to admit or deny the Findings of Fact and respond to the Notice of Violation in the 13-page document.

The Colorado Water Quality Control Division has the authority to impose a penalty of up to \$56,759 per day per violation and \$10,000 a day for violations before July 2. The letter concludes with a note that ongoing investigations may uncover additional violations.

IPCC sorts, steam-peels, slices, cooks, mashes, and dehydrates potatoes to make flakes and flour. To dispose of waste, the company uses a combination of methods.

In addition to barrel screening, diffused air flotation, sequential batch reactors, settling, disk filtration, and ultraviolet light, IPCC diverts wastewater to the County Line Ditch on the south side of Highway 112. Especially during the summer

months, the slow-moving muck reeks.

On Feb. 16, a Division Inspector interviewed staff, examined records, and inspected the facility to see if IPCC was in compliance with the terms and conditions of their permit. Four months later, the Division's letter identified multiple violations and corrective actions for IPCC to take.

Under the Failure to Properly Monitor and Report section, the inspector noted multiple inaccuracies in IPCC's Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs). Reports from June to July 2021 revealed improper averaging to calculate Biological Oxygen Demand (BODs), Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), and a Total Coliform count. The inspector also uncovered periods without reports, specifically IPCC's failure to submit DMRs for February and March of this year.

Subsequent pages include multiple points under different categories — Invalid-Unrepresented Sample, Failure to Maintain Required Records, Failure to Comply with Permit Effluent Limitations, Improper

Operation and Maintenance, Notice of Violation, and Required Corrective Action.

IPCC received 30 days to request a hearing or respond to the CDPHE letter.

In 2003, the company took over a potato dehydration facility that local farmers pioneered in 1998.

During one of their monthly meetings in 2019, Rio Grande County commissioners heard public comment from Center residents who couldn't handle the smell any longer. Despite improvements, IPCC received a cease-and-desist order from CDPHE this year, and the ditch continues to stink.

100TH

Continued from Page 1A

Western stars including Tanya Tucker.

Metz also talked about the Rotary Chuck Wagon Dinner that will take place on Thursday, July 21, at 5 p.m. at the Ski-Hi Complex.

"The dinner is always good and after the dinner Dwight Yoakam along with the Josh Abbott Band will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are going fast," Metz said. "We will have some small presentations all

along the way in celebration of the 100th year, and though I am not on the committee, I am sure the parades will have some 100-year themes, too. Nobody will want to miss out on the PRCA rodeos at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday either. All in all, some great events for the 100th annual Ski-Hi Stampede."

The Ski-Hi Committee sponsored a mural in town and Metz said

that this is perfect addition for the celebration.

"This mural looks great. This is a picture from one of the original programs from years ago. The artist did a great job on the mural, and I think it shows a great part of history," he said.

For more information on the 100th annual Ski-Hi Stampede, read the Official Program inside today's paper.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between July 11 and July 17, 2022.

In addition to five violations on the roads, the department patrolled Saguache, monitored a dozen controlled burns, managed five cases of suspicious activity and 11 traffic situations, faced six problems with livestock and other animals, assisted other agencies, and conducted one search and rescue operation.

ARRESTS

- A 39-year-old Lakewood woman was charged for a failure to appear (FTA) violation.
- A 20-year-old Center woman was charged with menacing with a deadly weapon and domestic violence.
- A 34-year-old man was charged with assault third degree, crimes against at-risk adults and juveniles,

and failure to comply.

- A 35-year-old Pueblo man was charged with multiple kidnapping, child abuse, reckless endangerment, and harassment cases.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Re-ran my reruns



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

You do not have to watch much television to understand the prevalence of shows that have previously aired being run over and over and over. This is called being in syndication and once they get into that avenue, they seem to take on a life of their own.

No one can argue with the popularity of shows that have remained on the 3,577 channels now available and television shows dating back to the 1950's are still as popular today as the day they were aired if not more so. There is something about the human soul that likes predictability and even Ol' Dutch finds solace in the old "Andy Griffith" and "Green Acres" shows so much to the point that I can often quote it word for word as it is shown.

Other shows like the sitcom Friends and Seinfeld also have an almost cult-like following and remain popular even though people have seen all the episodes and have even bought copies of them to view at their pleasure. Even Ol' Dutch has some series on CD like "Band of Brothers" which is a classic and realistic portrayal of the Greatest Generation. Everyone needs to see that once to appreciate what men of that era went through to protect the world from absolute tyranny.

But any who, no matter how many of the short sitcoms I do watch on a regular basis, Miss Trixie has latched onto a couple shows of unbearable length and it is about to drive Ol' Dutch to distraction.

One is the musical "Hamilton." And even though I am hard of hearing enough that I cannot hear the words, it has this constant drumming sound that sounds like my kids banging around on stuff when they were little. You know the sound. Not enough to drive you insane but just in the background with some off rhythm that makes no sense to a parent's brain and finally results in an explosion of your patience.

So over and over and over I get to see them sing and dance and wear wigs and such and that's just the men. And the banging for effect at each sentence they speak. And try as I might, I cannot get Miss Trixie to come off her "Hamilton" fix so I suffer in not so much silence as you can imagine.

But finally, I think she sought some sort of clinical treatment or maybe her friends did an intervention on her, but she moved onto another show called "Downtown Abbey." This is a never-ending series about a bunch of Britishers who talk, talk, talk. You have never heard people talk

so much. So much so that it is more than people do in real life. Ol' Dutch does hear bits and pieces of what is said, and they did have a little bit of WWI on there which at least had some action but mostly it is just talking and talking and talking which makes me realize now why my ancestors fought to get rid of King and country those many long years ago. I mean enough already.

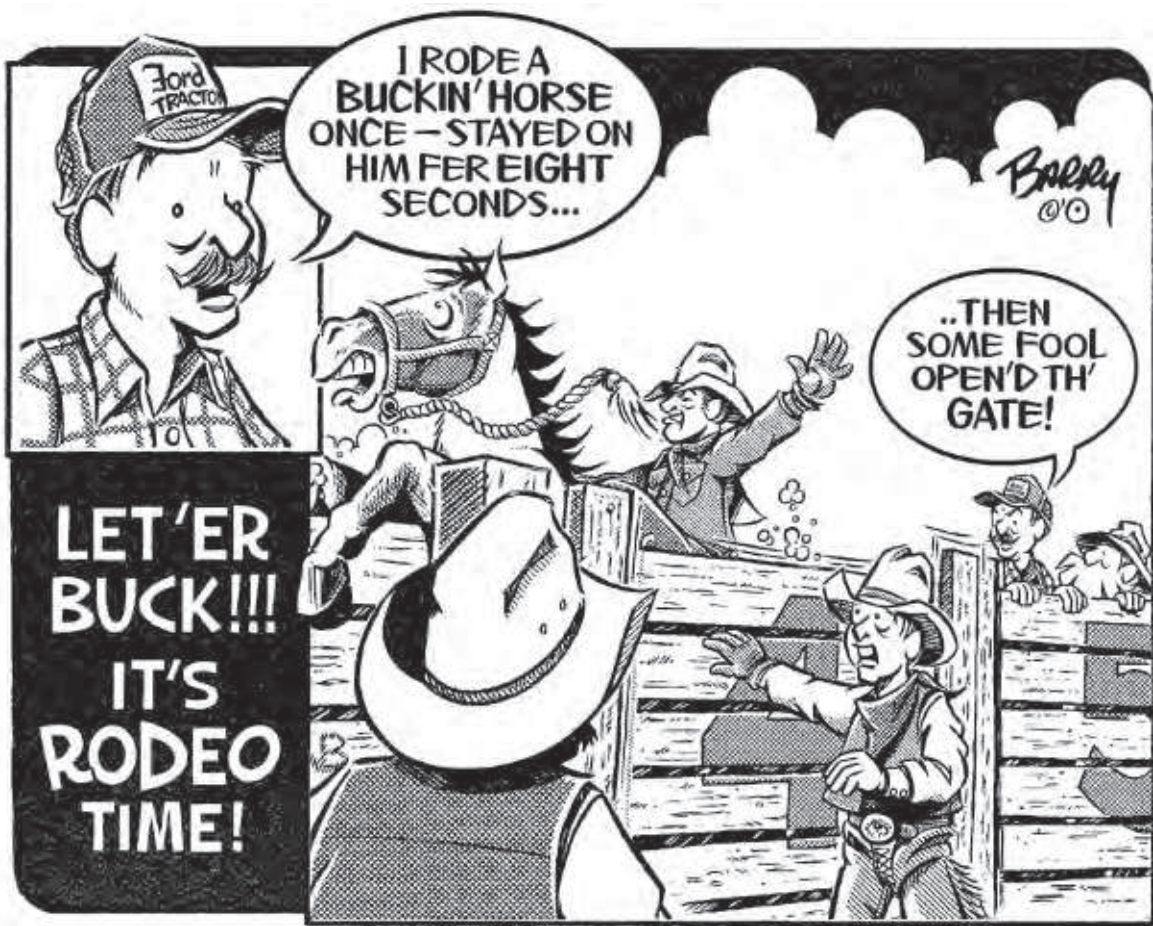
I think she is on episode 11 of season 3,455 or something like that and I fear that it will last into fall. Thankfully of which I will be saved from further non-stop yakking by those foreigners by the beginning of elk season. Thank the Lord.

Now like I said, Ol' Dutch does watch a few of the old sitcoms during the long winter months but always with my laptop open as there are not many shows that can hold a man's attention for the whole 30 minutes. Which is why the remote control was invented so that we can change the channel every commercial and watch parts of another show we have already seen a hundred times.

I am not sure how they convinced the American public to be satisfied with re-runs for most of the year but it's a great concept and I guess our putting up with that is akin to Miss Trixie putting up with Ol' Dutch. Sometimes it's just better to live with the poison you are used to rather than switch and risk certain death.

So tonight, just to have Miss Trixie at least take a break from her current binge watching of her show, Ol' Dutch is going to pop in another Clint Eastwood movie which of course never grows old. And maybe just maybe that will "Make my day."

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



YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

Delta Aquariid Meteors

The Delta Aquariid meteor shower peaks early in the morning of July 29 and 30. This isn't a big meteor shower with only about 15 per hour, but sometimes there are 25 per hour.

Especially because it occurs early in the morning after the rain clouds dissipate. The best viewing is from 2 a.m. until dawn lights the sky. Since the new moon is on July 28, this will be a great time to look for it.

This occurs at the end of July each year as Earth crosses the path of Comet Machholz. The debris left by this comet smashes into Earth's upper atmosphere and burns up as the Delta Aquariid meteors.

They seem to radiate from the Delta Aquarii star, hence, the name, but appear to be streaking in many directions across the sky. To find them, look in the southern sky for the Great Square of Pegasus, Delta Aquarii sits below it close to the horizon. It is the highest at about 3:30 a.m. So, if you get up during the night, have a look.

Then on July 24 you will be able to see many planets before dawn. Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn are in a long line before Sunrise. On July 25, after sun sets, look for Mercury. It will set about 40 minutes later. They will all be in the ESE.

Of course, the Perseid Meteor Shower is peaking toward the end of this month and will last heavily for at least two weeks. You can watch it



late in the evening and early morning. They peak on Aug. 12 and are good to watch from July 29 for the next three weeks.

Did you see the James Webb telescope Pictures on TV? They were amazing and a lot of TV shows showed them on TV. It is currently about a million miles from Earth. It is going to orbit the Sun as it takes pictures. They are amazing and it is going to continue to file pictures of everything out there.

LETTER

Need to rebalance the Supreme Court

Editor,

Right now, the right to abortion care is at risk because of a deliberate, decades-long takeover of the Supreme Court by powerful right-wing extremists. We're seeing the culmination of this takeover as the Court just overturned Roe v. Wade, the landmark ruling that made abortion access a constitutional right. This opens the door for states to outlaw abortion and take us back to a time

when women were forced to go through with an unwanted pregnancy, potentially endangering their health and hurting their ability to provide for their families.

But it's possible to undo this damage. The Judiciary Act would add four seats, restoring balance to the Supreme Court. It's the solution that recent polling showed is supported by the majority of Americans, and it's what we need to move away from

partisan rulings that dismantle our rights and freedoms. And it's been done before. In fact, Congress has changed the size of the Supreme Court seven times already in our nation's history. It's time to do it again.

I'm urging Congress to pass the Judiciary Act of 2021 to ensure we protect our fundamental freedoms and restore balance to our courts now.

*John McEvoy
Del Norte*

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Mineral County Search and Rescue (SAR) has new vehicle

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

MINERALCOUNTY — You will probably see the new Mineral County SAR Dodge Power Wagon around Mineral County. This new pickup was purchased utilizing both funds awarded to Mineral County SAR from Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) flexible funding, which was specifically identified for Back County SAR (BSAR) needs, and money donated by individuals and the Friends of Mineral County Emergency Services (FOMCES).

Mineral County's SAR Coordinator, Terry Wetherill, received an email that was sent to all the counties in Colorado from Colorado Search and Rescue Program Manager Perry Boydston. This email announced a new competitive grant opportunity.

After reading the email and doing significant research, Wetherill decided that Mineral County SAR response was an exact fit for this grant, and he started writing.

He reports, "To be completely transparent I submitted a request for up to \$169K which included a new pickup with radios, lights and fitted out with safety equipment, a new

six-passenger side by side with doors and a heater, a new snowmobile and a new drone. The grant stated we could request whatever we thought we needed, and I did!"

He continued, "I understand that there is only so much money to go around and I certainly appreciate receiving the \$71,000 grant award for the new pickup, I just wanted to make sure if there was any extra money that the state would know of a good place for it to go."

This BSAR Flexible Funding Grant required a 10 percent match from rural counties, which in this case equated to \$7,100. Mineral County SAR was fortunate to have their 10 percent match due to the donations from several individuals in addition to FOMCES and all our residents and guests of Mineral County.

FOMCES has been raising money and donating it to all the Mineral County Emergency Services since 2011. They have raised and donated over \$350,000 to our emergency services. Additionally, much of this money was able to be raised due to the generous donations of goods-services by local businesses and



various entities throughout the San Luis Valley.

After the new pickup had been ordered, Colorado Search and Rescue Program Manager Boydston sent another email to all the Colorado counties announcing that there would be a Phase 2 Back County SAR Flexible Funding grant.

Recognizing that the new truck cost was going to utilize most of the

Phase 1 BSAR grant money, Wetherill started writing again.

He stated, "This Phase 2 grant was much more limiting on what we could put in for but fitting out the new pickup with safety equipment matched the grant requirements."

Ultimately Mineral County SAR was awarded an additional \$16,000 to fit out the new SAR pickup.

Wetherill says, "This new Search

and Rescue pickup once outfitted with all of the necessary equipment will be a game-changer in response times and capability for our SAR Team. To be able to have most of our vital equipment already loaded on our truck and ready to go is a real blessing. I cannot thank all the entities that have made this possible, and I am sure the people who our team rescues will certainly feel the same."

EPA awards \$200,000 to San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition for food waste project

STAFF REPORT

MOSCA — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded \$200,000 to the San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition for a food waste processing project that will help divert food and other organic waste from landfills.

The Valley Roots Food Hub (VRFH), a program of the San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition, plans to install a high-efficiency anaerobic digestion (AD) system at its Mosca campus to process food and organic waste and turn it into fuel.

"Keeping food waste out of landfills and converting it to fuel is a powerful tool for combatting the climate crisis. Projects like these can meet local needs and address global challenges," said EPA Regional Administrator KC Becker. "This project will be innovative for the San Luis Valley and will provide opportunities for demonstration, education, and expansion into other parts of the region."

With the funding, the VRFH will launch the Renewable Energy Park at the Mosca campus. The

Renewable Energy Park will be a demonstration and educational space for learning and sharing the benefits of AD and other forms of renewable energy. The installation of the new AD system will demonstrate the technological feasibility and cost-effectiveness of using AD to convert food and other organic waste into processing and cooking fuel.

"The EPA's visionary funding for diverting organics out of landfill streams and providing opportunity for carbon-neutral renewable energy is a great catalyst for rural communities working on these issues," said Valley Roots Food Hub General Manager Nick Chambers.

The San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalitions is one of 11 awardees this year to receive a total of approximately \$2 million to divert food waste from landfills by expanding AD capacity nationwide.

EPA is prioritizing environmental justice by ensuring nearly half of the funds are awarded to projects or recipients located in underserved communities.

Specifically, EPA considered the

effects of this program on people of color, low-income, tribal, and indigenous populations, and other vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and children.

The VRFH project will benefit the more vulnerable and overburdened members of the community.

AD is a process in which bacteria break down organic materials in the absence of oxygen. These materials can include food scraps, manure,

and sewage sludge. This process produces a mostly methane biogas. Technology can then capture the gas and use it for creating energy and a nutrient-rich material called digestate that can be used as a fertilizer.

By decreasing the amount of wasted food in landfills, AD reduces landfill methane emissions, in turn reducing the impacts of climate change. Methane traps 28 to 36 times

more heat in the atmosphere over a 100-year period than carbon dioxide.

Included in EPA's food recovery hierarchy, AD is a waste management strategy preferable to landfilling and incineration because it reclaims valuable resources, contributing to a circular economy. Keeping food waste out of landfills by transforming it into fuel or fertilizer can save money and reduce environmental impacts.

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Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area hosting Alliance of National Heritage Areas 2022 Fall Conference

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

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

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

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

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

National Heritage Areas Program A Year in Review by the Numbers
National Heritage Areas (NHAs) expand on traditional conservation approaches by supporting large-scale, community-driven initiatives that engage communities in heritage preservation activities. NHA entities collaborate with stakeholders to determine how to make heritage relevant to local needs and interests. These entities serve as catalysts for community and economic development.

• In 2021, despite unprecedented challenges of a global pandemic and closures, NHAs continued to serve communities and support their partners. In summary, NHAs:

- Leveraged \$76 million in cash and in-kind support to carry out heritage projects and programs, greatly increasing the impact of the \$22.8 million in federal Heritage Partnership Program funding received.

- Engaged 2,901 formal partners and 5,102 informal partners in heritage area activities.

- Benefited from 21,803 volunteers contributing over 281,649 hours for heritage area projects - a \$7.6 million-dollar value.

Preserving our Heritage
Across the country, National Heritage Areas and their partners are reviving historic downtowns, preserving large landscapes and cultural practices, and sharing our nation's history through the arts. In 2021:

- 64 historic sites and 8,639 acres of cultural landscapes preserved and maintained, including battlefields.

- 63 collections projects undertaken, including the conservation of artifacts and creation of oral histories.

- 74 historic preservation grants awarded totaling \$972,188.85.

Recreation and Conservation
Through recreational projects such as access to land and water trails, National Heritage Areas are improving connectivity and accessibility, creating more vibrant and healthy communities. In 2021:

- 153 recreation projects undertaken.

- 574 miles of trails maintained and 30 new miles of trails developed.

- 71 recreation grants awarded totaling \$729,210.81.

Conservation activities led by National Heritage Area entities and their partners improve air and water quality and support healthy ecosystems. In 2021:

- 23,471 acres of land restored and maintained via invasive species; removal, replanting, and toxic site clean-ups.

- 46 conservation grants awarded totaling \$1.5 million.

Educating Current and Future Leaders

Through programs such as Mountains to Sound Greenway NHA's Equitable Green Opportunities for Youth in Highline, National Heritage Areas and their partners are providing meaningful and inspirational connections to our



national's heritage via educators and the (outdoor) classroom. In 2021:

- Capacity-building assistance provided to 1,306 organizations.

- 250 educational programs were offered.

- 308 grants to support educational programs were awarded totaling \$1.4 million.

In October, 55 National Heritage Areas from across the country are invited to visit and tour the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area which encompasses 3,000 square miles consisting of Alamosa County, Conejos County, and Costilla County. With 11,000 years of documented

human habitation, the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area is a crossroads of the centuries. Here a unique blend of Native American, Hispano and Anglo settlement is reflected in the diversity of the people, art and traditions. The geographic isolation of the high desert valley and the peoples' enduring ties to the land have given rise to a rich cultural heritage and ensured its preservation.

The area's fertile cultural landscape is complemented by remarkable natural resources, including the mighty Rio Grande, majestic Rocky Mountain peaks, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Alamosa

National Wildlife Refuge, Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, Baca National Wildlife Refuge, and the high mountain desert, all of which lend the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area an unparalleled beauty that offers a sense of retreat and a powerful source of inspiration for visitors.

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



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Treatment is expensive — especially the services people over 50 often need.
Unexpected bills, like \$189 for a filling, or \$1,219 for a crown³ can be a real burden, especially if you're on a fixed income.

When you're comparing plans ...

- ▶ Look for coverage that helps pay for major services.
- ▶ Look for coverage with no deductibles.
- ▶ 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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People crowd Main Street for Pioneer Days Parade

MANASSA — Thousands of people lined Main Street for the annual Pioneer Days Parade on Friday, July 15.

The Friday morning parade boasted the essentials that have marked Pioneer Days for more than a century now, including the ceremonial cannon start, horses, cowgirls, and floats galore. As is tradition a second parade was held Saturday morning.

A giant American flag was draped above Main Street by two local fire department ladder trucks near Manassa Town Hall.

Rose Archuleta was the Parade Grand Marshal. She smiled and waved to the crowd.

She was followed by the Pioneer Days royalty float. Wearing a shimmering graphite-silver dress was 2022 Miss Pioneer Princess Taylor Christensen, who is the daughter of Keith and Debbie Christensen and a senior at Centauri High School. She was joined by her attendants — Madison Montoya, who is the daughter of Carmen and Lawrence Montoya, Sadie Caldon, who is the daughter of Gina and Richie Caldon, Austyn Shawcroft, who is the daughter of Jesse and Cassie Shawcroft, Jaelyn Jackson, who is the daughter of Mark and Jennifer Jackson, and Brooklyn Reynolds, who is the daughter of Ryan and Deborah Reynolds.

The Pioneer Days grand marshal and royalty were honored during a kickoff banquet at the Opera House on Wednesday, July 13. Taylor Christensen received the first-ever Miss Pioneer scholarship.

The celebration continued with rodeos on Friday and Saturday and the ever-popular demolition derby and 5K run on Saturday.

People flocked to both days of the hamburger stand and the carnival rides and food.

The event concluded with the lighting of the M on the mountain and a fireworks display.



A giant American flag was draped above Main Street by two local fire department ladder trucks near Manassa Town Hall on Friday for the Pioneer Days Parade.

Parade Float Winners Sweepstakes — Martin Cattle Company
First place — Buhr Trucking
Second place — Manassa Market

Third place — Brian's Septic
Parade Committee Sponsored
First place — Miss Pioneer
Second place — Town of Antonito
Third place — Shawcroft Family



Photos by Brian Williams

Rose Archuleta was the Pioneer Days Parade Grand Marshal.

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 - use "sales tax grant application form 5" 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.

Experience the Radical Rest of God

God wants us to enjoy our everyday lives. John 10:10 says that Jesus died for us so we "may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]" (AMP). But it seems so many people who say they believe in Jesus are not really living with peace and joy.

It's tragic to think that Jesus paid the price for our sins, that He suffered to make that sacrifice, and yet there are Christians who are struggling just to get by and make it through each day. This is *not* God's plan for His children.

The truth is we can experience abundant life in Christ when we begin living by God's grace through faith. Because grace is His power working in us that enables us to do whatever we need to do in life.

Don't Go It Alone

When we try to do everything in our own strength and leave God out of the equation, we just get worn-out and frustrated by our mistakes and failures. But when we lean on God, we actually enter into His rest and can enjoy our lives, no matter what our circumstances may be.

Hebrews 4:9-11 (AMP) says, "So there remains a [full and complete] Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has once entered His rest has also rested from [the weariness and pain of] his human labors.... Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest [of God, to know and experience it for ourselves]...."

Now the rest of God is not a rest from work—it's a rest *in* work. It's partnering with God to do what He is calling you to do by His grace and leaving the part you can't do in His hands, trusting Him to do it. Hebrews 4:3 says it this way: "For we who believe [that is, we who personally trust and confidently rely on God]

enter that rest...."

Start by Believing

Let's take a look at what it means to really believe God. When I'm *trying* to believe, I haven't entered God's rest because I'm not trusting Him. But when I *do* believe, I have complete rest in Him. Living by faith is not a life of struggle, being stressed-out with fear and worry—it's rest.

I've discovered that the stress in my life is caused by the way I approach my circumstances and the attitude I have toward them. It was a turning point for me when I realized that the world will probably never change, but I can learn how to change the way I go about handling the challenges in my life.

One key to this is knowing that as believers in Christ, we are partners with God—we have a part and He has a part in everything He calls us to do. When we don't do the part we can do and we try to do His part, that's when we live stressed-out with worry, fear, anxiety, and frustration.

The reason this happens sometimes is because we think God needs our help. We meditate on the problem—rolling it over and over in our mind, worrying, trying to figure out how things should work out. It's like we're telling God, "I kind of think You need my help, and I'm not sure You can take care of this situation, Lord."

We need to realize that worrying is useless! It's like sitting in a rocking chair, rocking all day, wearing yourself out and getting nowhere. Trusting God means we give up worrying, reasoning, and anxiety and we enter into His rest with simple childlike faith—we live by grace through faith!

Living by Grace

Ephesians 2:8-9 is a great scripture that says we're saved by grace through

Moving Up Higher

with Joyce Meyer



faith. And we walk out our relationship with God and His plans for our lives the same way we receive salvation: by grace through faith.

This is possible because Jesus made the perfect sacrifice for us when He gave His life, taking our guilt and condemnation and paying for our sins. Through a personal relationship with Jesus, we access God's grace so we can do what He's calling us to do.

It's so amazing to know that God is always with us, giving us His grace for everything we need to do in life. I really want you to get this so you will trust God's unconditional love for you today. Do what you can do and give Him everything else. And when you find yourself getting frustrated or feeling overwhelmed, like you just can't do it anymore, remember to stop, get your focus back on Him and enter into His rest once again.

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

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 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.

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DA

Continued from Page 1A

fill the position.

Just minutes later, the governor's office issued a statement confirming the appointment, which was made via executive action following Payne's resignation.

"Applications for district attorney for the 12th Judicial District may be submitted to gov_officeofboardsandcommissions@state.co.us. Interviews will begin promptly," the statement read.

Initially, the conflict was limited to a small, struggling recall campaign started in the fall of 2021 by Lani Welch, the first victim to file a complaint alleging the violation of rights guaranteed by the Victim's Rights Act and the Colorado Constitution. Other victims with similar experiences soon joined in.

Then, on Feb. 16, the Attorney General made an announcement. Following an "unprecedented" referral from the governor's office related to numerous confirmed violations of the Victim Rights Act, the AG's office would be investigating the District Attorney's Office of the 12th Judicial District.

At that point, the battle went Valley wide.

During the Alamosa City Council meeting held on March 2, Alamosa Police Department Chief Ken Anderson and Alamosa City Manager Heather Brooks made a comprehensive, alarming presentation to council members, detailing the "devastating" impact actions by the DA's office was having on law enforcement and victims.

Members of the Alamosa City Council were presented with a proposal for an "unprecedented" ordinance allowing the city to spend up to \$10,000 in collecting signatures on petitions to recall DA Payne. After a lengthy discussion, council passed the ordinance on first reading by a unanimous vote. At the next meeting, held on March 16, members of the public — including victims with cases that had been prosecuted by the DA's office — spoke to the council. Except for two individuals, all spoke in favor of the ordinance. A vote was taken, and the ordinance passed with all but one council member in support.

The next day, DA Payne filed embezzlement charges against former DA Robert Willett for actions Willett allegedly committed 15 months before and while still in office. Payne had defeated Willett in the Democratic primary which, with no Republican opponent, led to his automatic victory in the general election.

Willett had called for Payne's resignation the previous month in a letter to the editor, and it was subsequently rumored that, should Payne be recalled, he would run for the position he formerly held. When asked, Willett would only say running was under consideration.

In the following weeks, victims of crime continued to step forward. The mayor held two roundtables — one with law enforcement and another with victims — where more sobering stories were told. County commissioners from five of the six counties weighed in as well as a collection of organizations, all speaking out against actions by the DA's office and in favor of the recall election.

The ongoing story was covered locally and by major newspapers out of Denver, three different television stations and the Washington Post.

Through it all, District Attorney Alonzo Payne continued the course he had set for himself, pursuing — what he saw as — criminal justice reform while not responding to questions related to claims of VRA violations or requests for interviews regarding decisions he had made in prosecuting serious crimes.

With the recall campaign underway, volunteers obtained nearly 6,000 signatures on recall petitions in four weeks and, ultimately, close to 1,000 more signatures than required by statute.

On June 25, the Secretary of State (SOS) notified the city that the petitions for a recall campaign were deemed "certified."

According to the SOS, DA Payne also had until last Friday to file an objection. No objection was filed, which opened the door for the governor's office to set a date for the recall election and the vote to be held.

On Tuesday, July 12, "unprecedented" was used yet again in Attorney General Weiser's press conference, announcing that the investigation was concluded.

In a strongly worded statement condemning the actions of the DA's office related to victims' rights, AG Weiser said that an agreement had been reached to include a monitor, chosen by the AG, who would oversee VRA related actions taken by the DA's office.

"Victims' rights must be upheld during the justice process," he said. "By excluding, disregarding, and disrespecting victims, District Attorney Payne and his office dishonored crime victims, and worse, compounded the trauma suffered from the crimes committed against them. Because the district attorney's office failed to allow victims' input and consultation during the justice process as required by law, those victims lost the chance to contribute to just outcomes in their cases. In some instances, the office may even have placed victims' safety at risk."

According to the agreement, should the monitor report to the state that there were continued violations, the AG's office would exercise their authority to file a permanent injunction and, if necessary, refer all VRA cases — which covers at least 19 different potential criminal charges — for prosecution by other district attorney(s) in the state, essentially removing many serious crimes from prosecution by prosecutors actually located in the 12th Judicial District.

Less than 36 hours later, the battle that had been going on at various levels for almost a year came to an abrupt halt.

DA Payne's resignation was submitted within days of when the governor's office was likely to announce the date of the recall election. His resignation saved election clerks in the six counties of the San Luis Valley the significant amount of time required to hold an election on short notice — and on the heels of the recent primary with a general election on the horizon. It also saved the six counties in the Valley an expenditure of \$94,000, to be divided proportionately.

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Farmer's Market is in full swing in Monte Vista

By **MARIE MCCOLM**

MONTE VISTA — It was breezy with plenty of sun midmorning on Friday with the Monte Vista Farmer's Market in full swing and a crowd of about 15 people in the parking lot of the Fassett Building where the market is located.

The market is on Fridays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. from July 8 through Sept. 16. The market features local fresh food vendors and arts and crafts vendors.

Palisade peaches, apricots, and cherries were available at one booth. "Linda's Chili Connection" had ground Chile powder and multiple chili packaged items for sale.

There was a colorful vendor booth set up with some homemade tie-dye shirts and clothing for sale.

The Moki Food Truck was also on site with lots of hot goodies to sell.

There was also a vendor with farm-fresh eggs for sale, along with the Jessie May Olson Memorial Garden booth, and a booth with homemade beaded jewelry.

Market Manager Chelsea McNeerney-Martinez was at the market and was happy with the turnout.

"We have seen a good crowd this morning and lots of people are buying. It's a good day for the Farmer's Market," she said.

McNeerney-Martinez was also giving out free flower seed packets, brochures that promote healthy foods, and coupons for the Farmer's Market.

Linda Hatfield of "Linda's Chili Connection" was also pleased with the turnout.

"Quite a few people have bought from me. I get all my chili from New Mexico. Great place to sell," she said.

The Jessie May Olson Memorial Community Garden sells locally grown plants and was manned by Wanda Hawman. The Garden gives children and their parents the chance to garden together. The garden is a



Photos by Marie Mccolm

The Monte Vista Farmer's Market was in full swing on Friday in the parking lot of the Fassett Building. The market is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Friday in Monte Vista. tribute to Hawman's aunt, a well-known and loved resident of the San Luis Valley. Hawman said the turnout was excellent.

"We have sold basically everything that we have here, the crowd here has been really great. We are still gardening and allowing parents and their children to garden together," she said.

Monte Vista resident Grace Martinez was at the Farmer's Market purchasing peaches and cherries. Martinez also visited the Moki Food Truck for breakfast. Martinez was all smiles.

"I come to the Farmer's Market when it's here," she said. "I like the food, and the goat's milk soap products are good, too. I think purchasing items that are home grown and that are homemade is old-fashioned and I prefer that. These days a lot of people order everything off the internet, more people should buy from people who make homemade stuff. The prices aren't bad, and I really like this little market. I wish they were out here for more of the year."

For more information on the Monte Vista Farmer's Market, visit its Facebook page.

Artists open their studios for the Silver Thread Studio Tour on Aug. 13

CREEDE — The Creede Arts Council and area artists are presenting the 18th Annual Silver Thread Studio Tour on Saturday, Aug. 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Artists between South Fork and Creede are opening their studios to friends, old and new. People can take a self-guided driving tour along Highway 149, the beautiful Silver Thread Scenic Byway, in the San Juan Mountains of Southern Colorado.

Artist's studios are located from South Fork through historic Creede, and along the route toward the Studios at Bristol.

"Enjoy a beautiful drive through the mountains and the incredible range of artistic talent in our area. Local artists will welcome you into their home studios and galleries, where they will answer questions, share techniques, perform demonstrations, and showcase a variety of works available for purchase," organizers stated.

The Silver Thread Studio Tour will have 16 participating artists this year. The offerings include fiber arts, ceramics, wood, photography, jewelry, painting, sculpture, and fused glass. Many of the artists have national and international recognition in their respective fields.

Map brochures will be available in August at the South Fork and Creede Visitor Centers, as well as The Studios at Bristol. You may also view and print the map brochure from the CAC website at www.creedeartscouncil.com.

Watch for the bright red and yellow

signs, banners and windsocks that will guide people from stop to stop. There is no charge for this event. All are welcome during these hours, without reservations.

For more information, contact the CAC office at creedearts@outlook.com.



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Saguache Arts Walk and Hollyhock Festival set

By PATRICK SHEA

SAGUACHE — The Saguache Arts Walk and Hollyhock Festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on July 30. For more than a decade, the Arts Walk and Hollyhock Festival drew crowds on different days. But after the Saguache Chamber of Commerce combined the events last year, the tradition became even more festive.

The artists will set up on the courthouse lawn. This year, hollyhock plants and seed cards will be sold across the street outside the Saguache Hotel. The 2022 Hollyhock Seed Card features the artwork of Caroline Irwin, the 2021 art contest winner.

The 2022 art contest includes divisions for children under 18 and adults. To enter, artists can deliver their work to Saguache Town Hall during the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. between July 18 and July 22.

Prizes for all contests will be awarded at 2 p.m. First-place winners will take home \$100 in cash. Second and third place winners in all three categories (hollyhock garden, non-hollyhock garden, and art contest) will take home prizes valued at \$75 and \$50, respectively.

Former Saguache artist and resident, Byron Williams, sparked the first Arts Walk 13



Photo by Patrick Shea

'Fairy Houses' hidden around town are one of many attractions traditionally marked on the 2022 Saguache Arts Walk and Hollyhock Festival map.

years ago. Known for his decorative gourds (and love of hollyhocks), Williams sought to celebrate more artists in town and showcase their work.

Once the hollyhock was selected as the town flower, Williams was instrumental in establishing the Hollyhock Festival 11 years ago. Hollyhocks are hardy, drought-tolerant, and flexible enough to adapt to soil conditions. The colorful flowers bloom today in the Middle East, Europe, and North America, some perhaps planted in the San



Luis Valley during the early 19th century.

For the first year of the Hollyhock Festival, former mayor Greg Terrell dressed as a gnome. Williams dressed as "Johnny Hollyhock", a nod to Johnny Appleseed. Several ladies from Saguache dressed as garden fairies. These costumes added spice to the festive atmosphere.

As a special attraction this year, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., AirMedCare Network representatives will showcase their helicopter on the football field of Mountain Valley

School. Cara Reano will be available to explain how their membership program works. When medical conditions require urgent help unavailable in the San Luis Valley, AirMedCare members can be assured they are covered.

The Saguache Volunteer Fire Department will sell breakfast burritos at the "Fire Hut" at 330 Denver Ave. near the post office starting at 9 a.m. Mountain Valley School students raising funds for a trip to Europe

Please see SAGUACHE on Page 2



Photo by Marie Mccolm

Monte Vista Police Department Officer Steven Pino poses for a photo in front of one of the department's new patrol vehicles.

MV Police Department has two new patrol cars

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Chief of the Monte Vista Police Department George Dingfelder recently announced that the department now has two new patrol cars.

"One of my main goals when I first started here two years ago, was to basically upgrade all the equipment for the officers; whether it was uniforms, vehicles, weapons, everything, I just really wanted to upgrade for them," Dingfelder said. "Knowing a lot of people, I was able to get a lot donated, but the vehicles were a big issue for us."

Dingfelder said the average age of the entire fleet of vehicles was 8 to 9

years old. The vehicles were outdated and all but three were police cars that had come from other agencies.

"The vehicles already had 80,000 or 90,000 miles on them when MVPD got them," Dingfelder said. "Our maintenance was just ridiculous. There was always a car in the shop that was broke down. So, that was one of my first priorities when I started, I thought, we have to get some new vehicles here, because without vehicles, well we will get to a call, but it might be two hours later, walking."

Dingfelder said maintenance on the vehicles was overwhelming because the vehicles were so outdated that it

Please see CARS on Page 8

SLV Dish Cook Off spices up Frontier Drive-Inn public preview

By PATRICK SHEA

CENTER — The SLV Dish Cook Off celebration during the Frontier Drive-Inn public preview on July 9 added spice to the free event. Hundreds came to tour the renovated facility, sample competitive chili, patronize vendors, and settle in at sunset to watch "The Wizard of Oz."

Built in 1955, the Frontier Drive-in reopened with a new focus. Now it's the Frontier Drive-Inn with an extra "n" to focus on "hospitality and art with an outdoor theater and projected sound."

Instead of parking in rows and hanging speakers on car windows or tuning car radios to the right frequency, spectators today sit in the grassy viewing area and hear the movie from concert-style speakers.

As the added "n" implies, guests can stay overnight. Plans to add **Please see PREVIEW on Page 2**

Winning a truly grand Grand Prize for her chili, Erica Enriquez won \$1,000 at the SLV Dish Cook Off during the Frontier Drive-Inn public preview on July 9.

Photos by Patrick Shea





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Montano recipient of Dusty Crophopper Big Heart Award

STAFF REPORT
SAN LUIS VALLEY
 — The fifth annual Dusty Crophopper Big Heart Award was presented to Jon Montano in recognition of how he embellishes the traits of Dusty Claunch.

This award is presented each year to a first responder who shows the same type of selflessness that Dusty had.

Montano is the RETAC (Regional EMS and Trauma Advisory Committee) coordinator for the region. He is also active with Monte Vista Ambulance and is retired, after many years of service, from the Monte Vista Fire Department. He also teaches numerous classes for Trinidad State College.

Montano reflects the traits of Dusty in that he is the kind of guy that will help anyone. He is often seen throughout the Valley helping other emergency service agencies. Montano's greatest fault is much like Dusty's in that he doesn't say no. Montano will help anyone at any time.

Montano was nominated by several other first responders that recognize just how selfless he is. Montano is a deserving recipient of this award.

Nominations are currently being taken for the 6th Annual Dusty Crophopper Big Heart Award. If you know a first responder who demonstrates the traits of Dusty Claunch, submit the nominee's name, agency affiliation, and why you feel they qualify to runnerangunner@gmail.com. This year's award will be presented at the 4-H Fair during the first week of August.



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SAGUACHE

Continued from Page 1

next year will set up at the Cozy Castle Cinema across from the Welcome Center on 4th Street.

Hollyhocks flash their colors all over Saguache. Event organizers will print a map to guide people to gardens (hollyhock and non-hollyhock), and more than two dozen "fairy houses" sprinkled around town. The map will also show food vendors and local shops.

Artists who want to take part in the 2022 Arts Walk can contact Sarah Krantz at 913-484-8983 or

email her at Saguacheartswalk@gmail.com.

The Arts Walk and Hollyhock Festival received funding from the Saguache County Sales Tax Grant, the Town of Saguache, and the Saguache Tourism Council. Volunteers and community participation drive this event.

For more information, visit the Saguache Chamber website www.saguachechamber.org, the Chamber's Facebook page, or send email to info@saguachechamber.org.

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Photo by Patrick Shea

Antonito artist Ron Rael and his team Emerging Objects used a 3D printer to create adobe-style bricks for building star-gazing pods.

PREVIEW

Continued from Page 1 —

RV campsite hookups will increase accommodation from rooms in four Quonset huts and 10 yurts. The preview on July 9 was open to the public free of charge, but most of the weekly screenings will be for guests only.

Program manager Adam Gildar said he will schedule periodic public viewings and notify the public. Gildar said they will focus on classic and cult films.

The renovated snack bar seats 25 and provides a full-kitchen menu that leans more toward “meal” than “snack.”

In addition to overnight accommodations, guests can enjoy protected views of the night sky. When the final credits roll off the big screen, folks can move to circular structures with innovative designs and construction.

Produced with a 3D printer, Antonito artist Ron Rael and his team Emerging Objects created adobe-style bricks to build the star-gazing pods.

The stage erected for musical performances throughout the day looked like it would block the screen for people on the grass up front. But crews quickly disassembled it before rolling vintage drive-in advertisements that encouraged folks to visit the snack bar.

The speakers were loud enough to overcome the sounds of joyful children playing in the background and traffic on Highway 285. The audience applauded at the end of the movie, partly for the film and also for a successful preview for the community on a pleasant summer night.

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) From 7/17 (inches)				
		7/17	7/16	7/15	7/14	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
Moravian 69	04/05	0.14	0.12	0.15	0.16	0.27	0.41	0.57	0.74	1.12
Moravian 69	05/05	0.22	0.18	0.21	0.22	0.40	0.60	0.82	1.04	1.51
Early Wheat	04/05	0.17	0.15	0.17	0.19	0.32	0.49	0.68	0.87	1.31
Early Wheat	05/05	0.22	0.18	0.21	0.22	0.40	0.60	0.82	1.04	1.51
White Wheat	04/05	0.20	0.17	0.20	0.22	0.38	0.58	0.80	1.02	1.49
White Wheat	05/05	0.22	0.18	0.21	0.22	0.40	0.60	0.82	1.04	1.51
WinterWheat	10/01	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.13	0.21	0.32	0.45	0.58	0.87
Potatoes										
Norkotah	05/05	0.23	0.19	0.22	0.23	0.42	0.63	0.86	1.09	1.59
Centennial	05/05	0.22	0.18	0.21	0.22	0.40	0.60	0.82	1.03	1.46
Nugget	05/05	0.21	0.17	0.20	0.21	0.38	0.57	0.78	0.99	1.40
Alfalfa	Est.	0.25	0.21	0.24	0.25	0.45	0.69	0.94	1.19	1.73
Lawngress	Est.	0.21	0.17	0.20	0.21	0.38	0.57	0.78	0.99	1.44

For the latest ET information, call 754-3494 extension x40 for Center, x36 fro 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

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

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Solution to last week's puzzle

	S	B	E		B	A	N	G	O	R						
	P	R	Y		S	M	I	R	C	H						
R	O		R	U	E		M	S	E	C						
U	P	P	I	N	G		U	S	E	L	E	S	S			
D	A	R	N	E	L		N	A	T	U	R	A	L			
E	L	E	G	I	A	C		I	N		D	A	L	I		
						S	H	P	T		E	S	T	E		
S	S	B				S	E	M	I	S			E	A	R	
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						A	L	A	S	K	A		R	E	T	
						V	E	N	E	E	R		Y	E	A	

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05 Notices

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CARS

Continued from Page 1

cost the department a lot of time and money.

“We were always nickel and diming it with the cars,” Dingfelder said.

Dingfelder said the one cent tax fund was key to adding new vehicles.

“I remember when that was voted on, it was in 2019,” Dingfelder said.

“So, 2020 was the first year that the one cent tax was used.”

With the one cent sales tax that was added in for Monte Vista, the money had to be broken down three ways: 25% to the police department, 35% to Public Works, and 40% to the Ski Hi Complex. The MV Police Department’s share was to be used in part for equipment.

“Last year we outright used it to buy one additional vehicle, a Dodge Durango, which is great, but at that rate we were going, well after we got rid of our last vehicle it would be at least 15 years old,” Dingfelder said.

After City Manager Gigi Dennis was hired in late 2021, Dingfelder approached Dennis to see what they could do to upgrade the fleet quicker.

“I told her, we really have to do something about our cars, so we started looking into different options,” he said.

Dingfelder said that in exploring options they thought about using some general funds and one cent funds to possibly buy two cars a year, but he also knew this would not be feasible as it would still take anywhere from 3 to 4 years to completely replace all the cars.

“Then what really hit home for me was in December of last year, we actually only had three cars that were running,” Dingfelder said. “For literally 3 or 4 days we were down to three cars.”

Dingfelder explained with only three cars running they were having to double up on officers and there weren’t always officers that could patrol.

“It was just a mess,” Dingfelder said.

“After Gigi came in, we decided to really do something.”

Dingfelder said he talked with law enforcement in the northern part of Colorado and asked them what they did about vehicles and one of the agencies said they leased their vehicles from Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

“I started looking into Enterprise and I contacted them. They gave us a presentation and a number of vehicles, they said five. I looked into it, and the numbers almost crunched just perfect. I figured it’s going to cost us around \$900 per month, per car, for the five

cars. I had already had \$60,000 set aside just to buy one more brand-new car, so I was like wow that’s just perfect, because that’s basically what it is \$60,000 per year.”

MVPD according to Dingfelder will lease the cars for 4 years, and then at the end of that it will have the option to buy the cars outright, “depending on what we paid per month, for about \$2,500 to \$3,000 each. We will have those, and then we can start all over again.”

Dingfelder said that on average the department drives about 6,000 miles

on one vehicle per year. He created a vehicle replacement plan with the Enterprise company, so that the average age of their fleet never gets to where it would be 8 or 9 years old again, and MVPD will have newer cars that run well, with a good replacement plan in place.

“We could not have done any of this without the one cent fund,” Dingfelder said. “I also just got a grant for some laptops, so we also have four brand new laptops for our cars, too. I am very grateful for all of this. Also, just thinking of our taxpayers, I decided we just needed to use the funds we currently had, without

asking our taxpayers for anymore. That was very important to us, too.”



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Artwork by Gigi Douglas



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100th ANNUAL San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede



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Ski-Hi Stampede ready to celebrate centennial



MONTE VISTA — Colorado's Oldest Pro Rodeo is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2022. The San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede will return to Monte Vista July 21-24. Described as having "roots as deep as the San Luis Valley itself," the event continues to be a key feature of the Professional Rodeo landscape in Colorado and beyond.

Founded in 1919, the Ski-Hi Stampede has continued for nine decades with three years deducted — two during World War II and one during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to old newspaper reports, the first Stampede was held on Aug. 11-13, 1919, with more than 10,000 attending the event. Since that time, the Ski-Hi Stampede has received four nominations for PRCA Small Rodeo of the Year and has come to be recognized as a mainstay of San Luis Valley history and culture.

The annual Stampede festivities feature a kick-off concert, three performances of PRCA rodeo, a carnival, parades and dances. The event continues to gain in popularity and remains the premier event of the summer for the San Luis Valley.

The Stampede concert attracts the largest crowds in the Valley and has featured numerous high-profile county music artists including Josh Turner, Thomas Rhett and Old Dominion. Over the years, icons such as Chris LeDoux and the Charlie Daniels Band have also made stops in Monte Vista. The 2022 concert is set to feature Dwight Yoakam and the Josh Ab-



Ski-Hi Stampede Committee: Top, Brandon Rogers, Jason Tilman and Keith Rogers; Middle, Derek Cooper, Rocky Southway, Mark Deacon, Eric Kimberling, Kelsey Kimberling, and Bob Carlucci; Front, Helen Smith, Nick Malone, Karla Willschau, Greg Metz, Charlie Burd, CE Glunz and Cliff Edwards. Committee members not pictured David Cooper and John Willschau.

bott Band.

The Ski-Hi Stampede also provides opportunities for the SLV community. Those opportunities include the chance for local amateurs to compete for trophy saddles in team roping, tie-down roping and barrel racing.

Furthermore, the Stampede Committee partners with Adams State University to provide scholarships to local students who demonstrate community involvement. The event is relatively unique in that it features a variety of entertainment choices and remains a social gather-

ing that families have been known to return to annually. The tradition of the Stampede is expected to continue well into the future with no signs of slowing down. It has been hailed as a testament to what can be accomplished when a community comes together.

Congratulations on 100 Years! and an awesome facility



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Welcome to the 100th Ski-Hi Stampede Rodeo Program

We are so excited to celebrate our 100th anniversary this year! On Thursday, July 21, the Monte Vista Rotary Club will be doing dinner serving barbecue sandwiches and baked potatoes. After the supper, we are pleased to announce another spectacular concert featuring Josh Abbott Band and Dwight Yoakam.

Immediately after the concert, make sure to stay and watch the fireworks, and then join us for the first dance of the weekend featuring Houston Bernard. On Friday, July 22, the first rodeo of the event will kick off at 7 p.m. with the world-class stock contractor Stace Smith and rodeo announcer Andy Seiler. Friday night is family night at the rodeo.

Rodeos will also take place on Saturday, July 23, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, July 24, at 2 p.m. Saturday's Rodeo theme is "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" — so make sure to wear your pink that day.

There will be parades on Friday, July 22, and Saturday, July 23, at 10 a.m. This year's parade theme is "Remembering Our Resilience, Celebrating 100 Years." Don't forget to take your family to Wright's Amusement Carnival as they exceed our expectations every year.

We hope you don't miss this opportunity to get out and spend time with friends and family and enjoy what the San Luis Valley community has to offer.

For more information, check out our website at www.skihstampede.com, like us on Facebook and Instagram, or add us on Snapchat!

Have a great time at the 100th anniversary of the Ski-Hi Stampede!

— Greg Metz, President



Courtesy photo

During the 2021 Stampede, rodeo scholarships were awarded to Kelsey Martin, Kyla Davis and Peyton Metz. Applications are available at www.skihstampede.com. From left to right are scholarship recipients Peyton Metz, Kyla Davis and Kelsey Martin.

Stampede, ASU partner on annual scholarships

MONTE VISTA — San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede, Inc. and Adams State University Foundation both know the importance of being involved in local communities and supporting local youth.

The San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede and Adams State University Foundation have teamed up to provide three \$3,500 scholarships to any male or female San Luis Valley resident. The scholarships will be awarded to qualifying applicants during

the 2021 Stampede rodeo. Qualifications include in the year of scholarship application, the applicant must have or will be participating either in the San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede Rodeo, San Luis Valley High School Rodeo, San Luis Valley Little Britches Rodeo, or the San Luis Valley Fair as a 4-H or FFA participant; or be a stockholder or child of a San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede shareholder or be a volunteer during the Stampede.

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Photo by Marie Mccolm

A mural commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Ski-Hi Stampede in Monte Vista was recently completed. It was painted by Jamie Brodie.

Ski-Hi Stampede mural commemorates centennial

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Just in time for the annual Ski-Hi Stampede in Monte Vista, a mural was completed on a wall of the Fassett Building parking lot, in downtown Monte Vista. This year marks 100 years of the Ski-Hi Stampede and the mural is a tribute to the annual event.

The inspiration for the mural came from a 1929 Stampede poster.

The mural has “Monte Vista” draped across the middle and states in large letters “Home of the Ski-Hi Stampede,” complete with “EST 1919” underneath the Stampede letters, and “Colorado’s oldest Pro Rodeo.”

This is the second mural that has been painted in Monte Vista by Del Norte artist Jamie Brodie. Brodie was excited about the painting. He also painted the mural on the side of the Monte Vista Elks Lodge.

“It feels good to paint another one of these and be a part of this fine community,” Brodie said. “I am excited that I was able to do this just on the

heels of the 100th anniversary of the Stampede rodeo. I’ll definitely be attending the rodeo and can’t wait to check it all out this year.”

Brodie said that this mural took him about three weeks to complete, and there is already talk of him doing a third mural behind one of the bigger buildings in downtown Monte Vista.

“The next one will be the biggest one yet and I am very excited to be asked to do this again real soon,” Brodie said.

The idea behind the murals in town is a beautification project that began with Bernadette Hagendorf. Hagendorf said she and Danielle Deforest went to a Ski-Hi Committee meeting to speak with committee member Karla Willshau.

Willshau said she didn’t hesitate when she was asked about the sponsorship for the Stampede mural.

“Our committee is just thrilled with the mural. It is a beautiful addition to our community,” Willshau said.

The Ski-Hi Stampede is set for July 21-24.



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Photo courtesy of blackhillsroundup.com and Jackie Jensen

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Andy Seiler to announce Ski-Hi Stampede Rodeo

MONTE VISTA — The oldest rodeo in Colorado will be welcoming a returning voice to announce the goings-on in the arena, this year. Andy Seiler will again be heading up the announcing duties for Ski-Hi Stampede

Seiler has been in the business for just over a decade and his career has followed an ascendant path being branded “an up-and-coming voice for professional rodeo,” by Boyd Polhamus and according to former NIRA Commissioner John Smith. “I honestly believe Andy will be one of the best-recognized announcers in the sport of rodeo.”

Rodeo is a family affair for Seiler as he and both parents competed in rodeo. In his high school competition days, he was a three-time champion team roper in the National High School Finals Rodeo. From there he qualified three times for the College National Finals Rodeo during his time at Troy College in Alabama.

To earn some extra money for college expenses, Seiler used his first-hand experience to take up gigs announcing at amateur rodeos. After winning the Walt Garrison Award of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association

(NIRA), Seiler’s first big break came in the form of an invitation from announcer Boyd Polhamus for Seiler to be his co-announcer at the National College Rodeo Finals in 2008.

After three years of working various rodeos including Rodeo Houston, Cervi Championship Rodeo and Harry Vold, he stepped away from the scene to get a “real” job, working for a feed supply company in Florida. During that time, he married his childhood sweetheart. Bringing about his next big break, in the form of another phone call from Polhamus asking Seiler to fill in as the announcer at Rodeo Houston.

From there, his announcing career took off as he was in demand at rodeos across the nation. All this eventually led to a prestigious spot at the National Finals Rodeo.

Seiler is well suited for his profession as he has plenty of experience with rodeo as well as a broadcast journalism degree. He also knows a thing or two about making the event fun for all ages as Seiler is a husband and a father.

He has announced all over the country in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA).

Contractor Smith Pro Rodeos provides quality stock

MONTE VISTA — If the bulls look meaner, the horses rougher and the calves and steers more agile, thank perennial Stampede favorite stock contractor Stace Smith.

Stace Smith produces more PRCA rodeos than any other PRCA stock contractor. In addition to PRCA rodeos, Smith Pro Rodeos produces PBR and Bronc Match events throughout the year. It is in large part to his experience that Stace Smith has been named PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. This consecutive 11-year accomplishment has never been achieved in PRCA history.

Stace has worked at every level of rodeo, beginning as a contestant, then spending time as chute boss, and pickup man. Smith was chosen as pickup man for the Texas Circuit finals in both 2005 and 2007 and continues to pick up at several events.

In 2009, Stace Smith became a shareholder in Mesquite Championship Rodeo,

and in 2014, Smith Pro Rodeos has served as the committee or partners with the committee at 26 of the 39 events produced. This one-of-

a-kind experience gives them an inside edge on what it takes to help the committees achieve one of the ultimate goals of spectator sports, putting spectators in seats.

In 2014, Smith Pro Rodeos had seven PRCA rodeos nominated in the four “Rodeo of the Year” categories. Smith Pro Rodeos produces rodeos across nine different states from Mississippi through Texas, Colorado, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

Each performance is carefully planned, from building equal, exciting pens of livestock, to planning the order they will be presented according to the stock and rider’s attributes. All timed event livestock come directly from the Smith ranch, so there are no mismatched pens or delivery issues. Because of these efforts, turnouts are at a minimum, so each rodeo is a balanced representation of the sport.

For more information, go online to www.smithprorodeos.com.



Bring canned food to carnival on Wednesday

MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista Food Bank is once again partnering with Ski-Hi Stampede and Wright’s Amusements for the annual food drive.

Come down to the carnival on Wednesday, July 20, for opening night. Those who bring two canned food items can purchase an all-day carnival pass for \$25.

They will be set up toward the east end of

the carnival. Look for a horse trailer with the banner.

This offer will only be available Wednesday, July 20.

Please make sure any food you bring is unopened and unexpired.

Thank you for supporting the Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank and have a safe and fun Stampede.



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Courtesy photo

SLV Health Foundation picture for the Tough Enough to Wear Pink and making the pillar for \$100,000 of donations — pictured are Brandon Rogers, Rocky Southway, Charlie Burd, CE Glunz, Cliff Edwards, Greg Metz, Amy McKinley, Bob Carlucci, Rosalee Martinez, Jason Tilman, Kelly Gurule, Keith Rogers, Sheila Hicks, Derek Cooper, Roxanne Sittler, Duane Bussey, Karla Willschau, Kelsey Kimberling, Helen Smith, Nick Malone, Eric Kimberling, Mark Deacon. Missing David Cooper and John Willschau.

Still tough enough to wear pink on Saturday

SAN LUIS VALLEY — For 100 years, the Ski-Hi Stampede has entertained crowds from all over the country and provided one of the best pro-rodeo events in the state. Not only has the Ski-Hi Stampede brought joy to the Valley, guests to the area and fun for all who attend, they have also provided donations to a local cause and have helped save the lives of many through their generosity.

The Stephanie L. Miner Women’s Imaging Center at San Luis Valley Health in Alamosa was created when Miner, a local teacher, was diagnosed with breast cancer after her fourth child was born. When Miner lost her fight with cancer, her family approached SLV Health with the idea and starting funds for a center where women could go for early detection, prevention and all the state-of-the-art equipment needed to fight the disease.

It was in 2006 that the members of Ski-Hi Stampede board of directors approached the hospital and asked if they could help by becoming a part of a nation-wide program known as “Tough Enough to Wear Pink.” The Saturday, July 23, program is an initiative supported by Wrangler and has participants from around the country.

“The Ski-Hi Stampede Committee’s commitment to the TETWP campaign has raised more than \$100,000 to directly benefit the Stephanie L. Miner Women’s Imaging Center,” stated Kelly Gurule, SLV Health Foundation director.

The Stampede committee, in conjunction with the San Luis Valley Health Foundation, is encouraging everyone to participate. All staff and volunteers for the event will be wearing pink throughout the festivities. “We know everyone is proud to be ‘Tough Enough to Wear Pink,’” said Gurule.

Tough Enough to Wear Pink was created by project founder Terry Wheatley in 2004. Wrangler presented the pink western shirts during the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo that same year

and has continued as the head sponsor for events nationwide. The program has raised cancer awareness as well as raised funds for research, equipment and to help families with financial assistance. The amount of money raised has been staggering in the 18 years since the program’s inception.

Wrangler donates all funds raised that come through their program to the national Breast Cancer Research Foundation that has been dubbed one of the best charitable programs in the nation. According to the website, “The Breast Cancer Research Foundation® (BCRF) was founded in 1993 by Evelyn H. Lauder as an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to funding innovative clinical and translational research. In 2010, BCRF awarded \$33 million to 172 scientists across the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, and Australia. Currently, more than 90 cents of every dollar donated is directed to breast cancer research and awareness programs.”

Gurule was pleased to talk about the things the donations have done for the center to date. Funds from previous years have been used to purchase equipment and maintain the center so the services provided there can be available to those that need them.

“There is one thing that people really need to understand,” said Gurule. “The money that is raised here stays here in the Valley to help local residents and provide local services.”

The women’s imaging center in Alamosa directly benefits from the funds raised during Ski-Hi Stampede, so keeping the money local is of the utmost importance. Breast cancer awareness, prevention and early detection is paramount in the fight against this disease.

Through these efforts, women from all over the world have the tools and support necessary to overcome the disease and find new hope in life.

Tomás Garcilazo — World-Renowned Charro

“You could see he was just outstanding. He’s a real showman and is so good at what he does. He has gotten more standing ovations at the NFR [National Finals Rodeo] than anyone — not only in the contract business, but any other individual at the NFR,” said Sean Davis, General Manager of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo (and three-time World Champion Saddle Bronc Rider/Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame 1997 inductee)

Tomás Garcilazo, a native of Mexico City and a resident of Southern California, was introduced at an early age to his family heritage and tradition of “La Charrería” which is a skill performed through the generations only by the Mexican Charro.

Charros take great pride in their highly developed horsemanship and roping abilities. Tomás, a third generation Charro, has devoted his life to sharing Mexico’s National Sport, La Charrería, with the world.

Garcilazo’s proficiency as a skilled horseman and roping artist define him as one of the finest Charros presenting La Charrería today.

Tomás has performed throughout Europe,

Canada, the United States, and Mexico. He has appeared on Broadway in New York City and has toured the United States with the Will Rogers Follies.

He was a featured performer at Disney’s Wild West Show in Paris, France and the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show which toured Holland and Germany.

Tomás has performed numerous times for Mexico’s Presidents as well as guest performances at the White House and Kennedy Center in Washington DC.

It is a rare and honorable experience to witness the refined horsemanship and the artistry of La Charrería that will be presented.

Garcilazo has performed all over the world. He has performed at the FMC Mexican Rodeo Finals and has performed at the NFR and other PRCA Rodeos. He has won several awards, including the 2007, 2012, and 2013 Specialty Act of the Year.

Garcilazo’s proficiency as a skilled horseman and roping artist define him as one of the finest Charros presenting La Charrería today.

CITY OF MONTE VISTA salutes the *Ski-Hi Stampede Committee*

for their dedication and leadership in creating 100 years of fun and memories! We support YOU and welcome all the cowboys and cowgirls to our community!



On behalf of Rio Grande County, the Commissioners Gene Glover, John Noffske & Scott Deacon, would like to Congratulate Ski Hi Stampede Committee for bringing the oldest Pro Rodeo through 100 years!



Stampede amateur events announced

MONTE VISTA — The Ski-Hi Stampede Committee announces the 2022 amateur events and rules.

All amateur contestants will participate in the slack-qualifying round of the Ski-Hi Stampede rodeo on Friday, July 22, at 1 p.m. Please be present by 1:30 p.m. for local entry events.

All participants must be residents of the San Luis Valley — no exceptions.

• Entry fees will be \$100 per person per event.

Calf Roping - \$100

Barrel Racing - \$100

Team Roping - \$200

An individual may enter only once per event.

• Event will be a one go round timed trials.

• The 8 (eight) fastest times, who were successful in the qualifying round, will advance to the Ski-Hi Pro Rodeo performances on Saturday and Sunday, bottom four Saturday and top four Sunday.

• Amateur monies will be paid to the fastest four contestants during Friday's qualifier.

Stock, secretary and judges fees will be deducted.

Pay off will be as follows:

1st-40 percent; 2nd-30 percent; 3rd-20 percent and 4th-10 percent

• There will be no additional entry fee for participation in the Stampede Pro Rodeo. The fastest time in each event will be the winner of the amateur saddle for the event. The amateur saddle will be presented to the winner at the Sunday performance of the San Luis Valley Ski Hi Rodeo. In the event of a tie for the saddle, tie-breaker will be the best time from the qualifying round.

Individuals and teams will be scheduled in the Ski-Hi Pro Rodeo as follows:

• Number of individuals and teams will be divided equally for each of the two days (Saturday and Sunday) of the Ski-Hi Pro Rodeo.

• Competition order will be from slowest times from qualifier at the Saturday performance to the fastest times at the Sunday performance.

• Example (with eight maximum qualifiers with performance date and running order): Saturday, July 23 – Qualifiers 8,7,6,5; Sunday, July 24 - Qualifiers 4,3,2,1

• Once individuals and teams have qualified, and performance times have been set, there will be no changes or additions even if a qualifier must draw out for any reason.

• All communications about complaints or grievances shall be directed to the Ski-Hi Stampede Board of Directors at a monthly meeting by asking for a spot on the agenda to express the concerns. At no time will sponsors or other individuals be approached about grievances. Any violations of this clause may result in disqualification in this year's eligibility as well as all future year's eligibility in Ski Hi Stampede Rodeo events.

• Registration will be from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Monday, July 18 at the Ski-Hi Stampede Committee Building, 2330 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista. Contestants must have the following for registration: Entry fee (cash or check; if a participant's check bounces, they will not be allowed to compete for the saddle in the pro rodeo); proof of health insurance; proof of residency (driver's license of 90 days in the Valley)

• Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a legal guardian or have a notarized release from your legal guardians.

• Team Roping – Must be the complete team!

• All participants must enter in person!

Mutton busting

Participants must be between ages of 5 and 7 years old and less than 50 pounds. They must be a San Luis Valley resident and show proof of age and insurance. Child must be present at entry office to weigh in. There will be a limit of 10 mutton busters per day. All mutton busters must report to the west end of the grandstand before the saddle bronc riding begins. Contestants not reporting on time will not be allowed to compete.

See website for more information and all the rules, www.skihistampede.com.



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Thursday, July 21

Wright's Amusement Carnival
5:30-7 p.m.: Rotary Chuck Wagon Dinner at Ski-Hi Park
7:30 p.m.: Concert (gates open at 6:30 p.m.): Dwight Yoakam and Josh Abbott Band
9 p.m.-1 a.m.: (begins after the concert) Dance: Houston Bernard

Friday, July 22

Family Day at the Rodeo
Wright's Amusement Carnival
10 a.m.: Parade
11 a.m.-2 p.m.: Monte Vista Band Booster Burger Fry at Sunflower Bank parking garage
1 p.m.: Local Rodeo, amateur events and professional slack
7 p.m.: PRCA Rodeo
9 p.m.-1 a.m.: Dance: Houston Bernard. Youth Night (first 100 people under 21 years old with paid admission receive a free commemorative Stampede t-shirt)

Saturday, July 23

Tough Enough to Wear Pink
Wright's Amusement Carnival
10 a.m.: Parade
11 a.m.-2 p.m.: Monte Vista Band Booster Burger Fry at Sunflower Bank parking garage
7 p.m.: PRCA Rodeo
9 p.m.-1 a.m.: Dance: Houston Bernard

Sunday, July 24

Wright's Amusement Carnival
10 a.m.: Christian Cowboys' Service at Ski-Hi Park
2 p.m.: PRCA Rodeo
Saddle Awards

For more information, visit www.skihistampede.com

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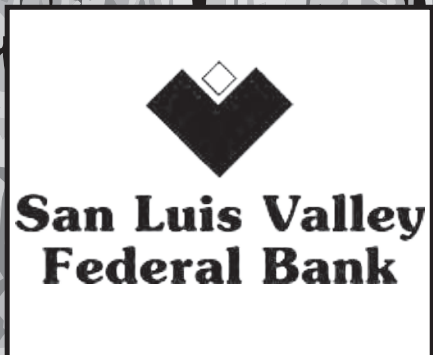
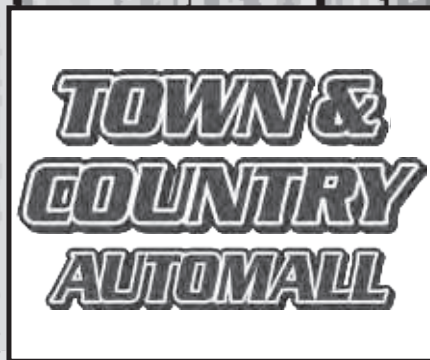
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Stampede parade basic information

Friday and Saturday, July 22 and 23
 Lineup will begin at 8:30 a.m. Floats and antique vehicles will assemble by the First Stop store, east of the railroad tracks on Highway 160. Drivers should remain with their entry in case it needs to be moved. Bikes, 3/4 wheelers, walkers, etc. will assemble at the west end of Fullenwider Park by the Sugar Shack. Horses/riders will assemble between the convenience store and the Information Center. Please no horses in the area of floats and vehicles.

Highway 160 closes at 9 a.m. and the line moves forward. The parade starts at 10 a.m. Be prepared to line up early and wait.

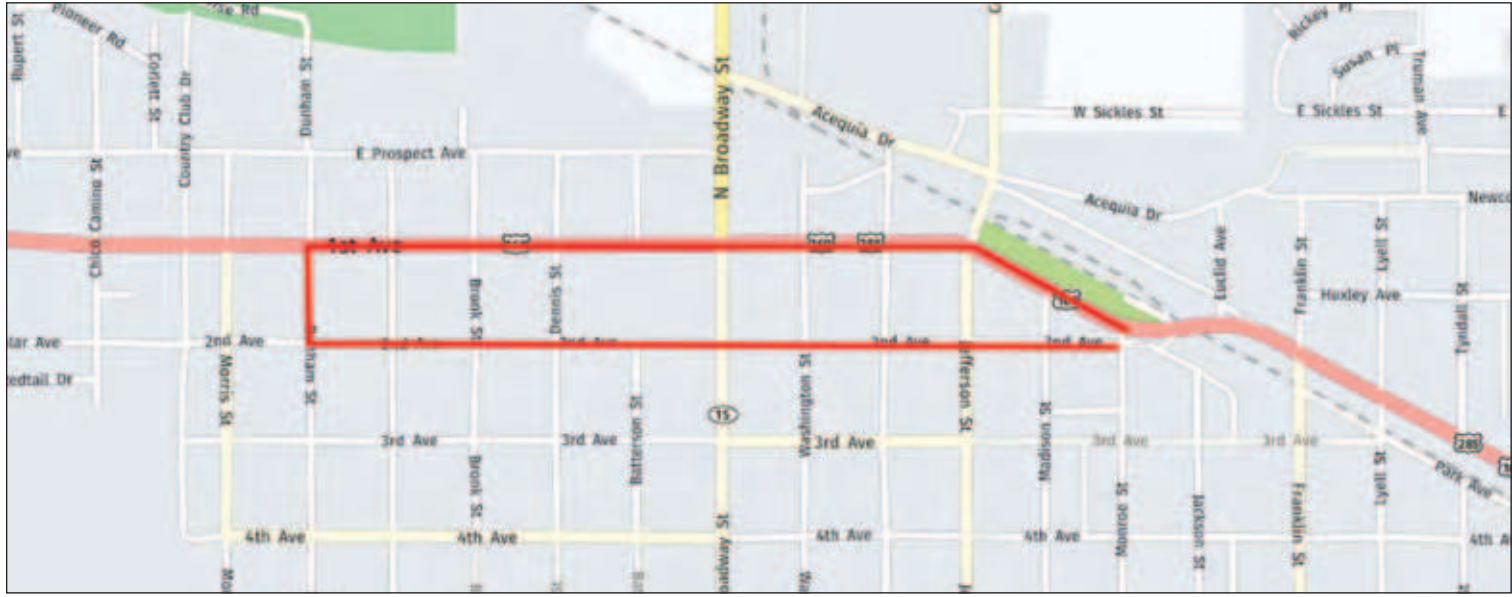
The parade route travels west on 1st Avenue (Highway 160), turns south on Davis Street, then turns east on 2nd Avenue and returns to Safeway.

Parade entry numbers will be issued when the entry form is returned to the Colorado Potato Administration Office, 1305 Park Ave., Monte Vista. FAX 719-852-4684. Place the number on the left front (driver side) of your entry. Horse entry numbers are to be placed on the left side of your horse. Please secure all four corners so judges can identify your entry quickly. Entry numbers are not required for bands, entries not wanting to be judged. Award winners will be announced Saturday.

During the parades: no group or individual may stop to perform or hold up the parade. All performances must be done while moving forward. Groups with small children must be able to keep up with the parade pace to avoid gaps. No candy or trinkets may be thrown from your entry. Nothing can be shot from an entry. If you wish to hand out items, you must have walkers that walk along the edge of the street and distribute them. These rules are in place for the safety of children who may run into the street.

Sand Dunes Shrine Club — A Favorite in the Parade

For those who have been attending the Ski-Hi Stampede parade for years or even those who



Parade route

have just been fans for a little while, one of the most memorable entrants is the Sand Dunes Shrine Club, as well as Shriners from throughout this part of the state.

It looks like fun, but there is a greater purpose. The Shrine's charitable arm is the Shriners Hospitals for Children, a network of 22 hospitals in the United States, Mexico and Canada. It was originally formed to treat young victims of polio, but as that disease was controlled, they broadened their scope. They now deal with orthopedic care, burn treatment, cleft lip and palate care, and spinal cord injury rehabilitation.

All treatment offered at Shriners' Hospitals for Children is offered without any financial obligation to patients and their families, and there is no requirement for religion, race, or relationship to a Shriner.

Patients must be under the age of 18 and treatable. In 2008, Shriners Hospitals had a total budget of \$826 million. In 2007, they approved 39,454 new patient applications and attended to the needs of 125,125 patients.



Courtesy photo

Past Miss Ski-Hi Stampede Queens and Royalty pose for a photo during the parade.

Miss Ski-Hi Stampede Queens

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1919 Kitty Halferty | 1958 Kathleen Grimwood | 1983 Sandy Hodgell |
| 1928 Esther Godfrey | 1959 Sylvia Claunch | 1984 Betty Claunch |
| 1933 Agnes Aust | 1960 Diane Selters | 1985 Brenda Rippe |
| 1934 Dorothy Dorris | 1961 Ann Ulstrom | 1986 Frances Slane |
| 1935 Mickey Gross | 1962 Barbie Roberson | 1987 Janell Booth |
| 1936 Vivian Goff | 1963 Janice Haws | 1988 Verla Rutgers |
| 1937 Marian Fennell | 1964 Donna Selters | 1989 Christy Wintz |
| 1938 Betty Trueblood | 1965 Jody Phillips | 1990 Isabel Jaramillo |
| 1939 Bonnie Hocker | 1966 Loretta Morgan | 1991 Robin Stagner |
| 1940 Louise Johnston | 1967 Clarine Claunch | 1992 Esther Sanchez |
| 1941 Dorothy Haigler | 1968 Nancy Rhodus | 1993 Michelle Claunch |
| 1942 Catherine Lague | 1969 Marcia Wright | 1994 Misty Brook Stagner |
| 1943-45 (no queen) | 1970 Cheryl Wright | 1995 (no queen) |
| 1946 Elinor Linger | 1971 Cindy Kane | 1996 Tammy Aldridge |
| 1947 Virginia Whitten | 1972 Rita Curtis | 1997 Jennifer Edwards |
| 1948 Lucille Ryan | 1973 Debbie Beiriger | 1998 Marcia Berggren |
| 1949 Donna Glee McOllough | 1974 Jackie Pavlovsky | 1999 Holly Binnian |
| 1950 Marianne Finley | 1975 Renee Smith | 2000 Jeanie Andreatta |
| 1951 Betty Jane Johnson | 1976 Cindy Wallace | 2001 Corin Crowther |
| 1952 Loretta Wiescamp | 1977 Tammy Wiescamp | 2002 Jaelyn Gabel |
| 1953 Charlene Wright | 1978 Anita Hunter | 2003 Kristen Prator |
| 1954 Ella Mae Noffsinger | 1979 Carol Carter | 2004 Johanna Steffens |
| 1955 Beverly Mann | 1980 Laura Wiescamp | |
| 1956 Sue Schroeder | 1981 Taina Andre | |
| 1957 Gretchen Shellabarger | 1982 Darius DeHerrera | |

— List provided by Gretchen Haller

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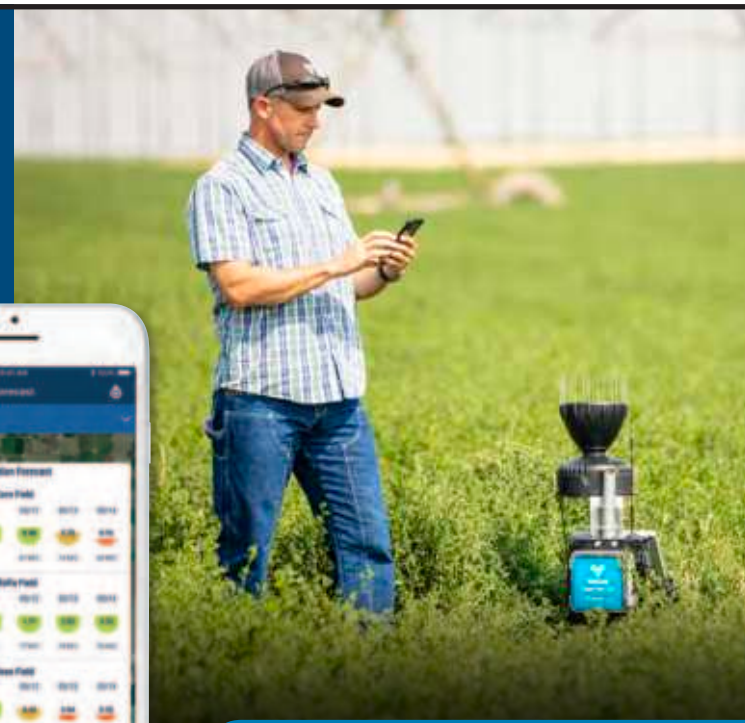
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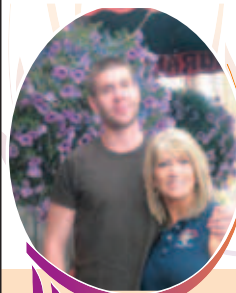
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San Luis Valley veteran continues to serve

By Patrick Shea

HOOPER — Featuring two days with parades, the 100th anniversary of the Ski-Hi Stampede at the renovated complex in Monte Vista will run from July 20 to 24. This year's Friday Parade Marshal is Lewis H. Entz, a 90-year-old soldier who returned home from the Korean War and continued serving his country.

Encouraged by younger neighbors, Entz ran for office and ultimately served 36 years as an Alamosa County Commissioner, a state representative, and a member of the Colorado Senate.

As a child, the Ski-Hi Stampede was the biggest event of the year for Entz. Many of his older sisters moved to other places, but they always came home for the Stampede. The dance drew people from across the Valley, and the professional rodeo is the oldest in Colorado.

Born Sept. 7, 1931, Entz lived and worked on his family's farm, joined the United States Marine Corps, and returned home to farm with his brother Irvin "Dutch" Entz. They



Photos by Patrick Shea

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Ski-Hi Stampede in Monte Vista, Parade Marshal Lewis H. Entz will drive his 1943 Ford GPW jeep.

grew potatoes, alfalfa, and other grains while maintaining a flock of roughly 700 sheep.

Entz turned to representing constituents when "five young Republicans talked me into running." He served 14 years as county commissioner for Alamosa, followed by 16 years as a house representative. During his first eight years, a new law set term limits. He served a full eight-year second term, and then he spent another six years in the Senate.

"I couldn't have done it without the help of my son [Mike] essentially running the farm," Entz said. He explained how rural representatives working at the state capitol have an added challenge to maintain agricultural operations while they're away from home.

The Ski-Hi Stampede features music, food, and multiple vendors. But the rodeo is the core of the celebration. The Stampede is one of many stops on the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) circuit. To qualify for the National Pro Rodeo in Las Vegas, competitors gather points throughout the season. Perhaps the ultimate national



champ will be in the rotation in Monte Vista.

Entz was never a horseman himself, noting how he preferred "steel ponies" (that is, motorcycles). A member of the Early Iron Club, Entz restored and maintained a number of vehicles over the years, including the 1943 Ford GPW jeep he has driven in many parades across the Valley. As his 91st birthday approaches, Entz is also well-tuned himself with hair on his head and a skip to his step.

As a legislator, Entz left his mark in the Valley and across the state. He pushed to add 50 miles of paved roads in Alamosa.

Also on the road, he initiated bills for the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway and signs marking the 38th parallel and the Korean conflict.

After a costly search and rescue operation in Mineral County almost completely drained the sheriff's budget, Entz proposed the idea of adding a 25-cent fee to hunting and fishing licenses in 1983. Of the 440 bills he carried, 70 directly addressed water issues in Colorado. Entz is particularly proud of his Aspinall "Water Leader of the Year" award from the Colorado Water Congress.



In his home office, Entz is surrounded by walls full of awards, old photos, special recognition, and his favored painting of a buttered baked potato.

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Courtesy photo

The Stampede Parade Committee, pictured, Sara Copley, Lorelynn Buss, Anita Olme, Linda Weyers, Debbie Garcia, Jacqueline Hurst, and Letha Hershey.

Parade theme 'Remembering the Resilience, Celebrating 100 Years'

MONTE VISTA — This year marks the 100th anniversary of the San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede. The Stampede Parade Committee is excited to be part of this long-standing tradition once again by offering parades Friday and Saturday, July 22 and 23. This year's theme

is Remembering the Resilience, Celebrating 100 Years.

The parade is a much-anticipated part of Stampede, showcasing the area's youth, talents, businesses and unity. First 100 participants for both days will receive a commemorative ribbon.

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Bill and Peggy Metz chosen as Parade Grand Marshals

MONTE VISTA — Bill and Peggy Metz will be the Grand Marshals of the Ski-Hi Stampede Parade on Saturday. The Ski-Hi Stampede Parade Committee was looking for a way to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Ski-Hi Stampede and thought the best way to do it was to honor the long-standing farming families of the area. The Metz were the perfect choice as the farm has been in the family more than 100 years.

Bill and Peggy Metz obviously have deep roots in the San Luis Valley and have been integral contributors to the Ski-Hi Stampede over the years.

Peggy (Wilcox) Metz was born in 1945 in Elk City, OK to Toney and Wilma (Jansson) Wilcox, and has one sister, Sue Davis of Monte Vista. The family moved to Guymon, Okla., where Peggy's father farmed wheat in the Texas Panhandle and her mother was a homemaker. The family moved to Monte Vista the summer before Peggy started fifth grade, where Toney bought a farm on the 4 Mile Road to raise potatoes and sheep. Peggy began attending Sargent Elementary School where she met her future husband, Bill Metz.

Kenneth William (Bill) Metz, son of Kenneth Gordon and Virginia (Bond) Metz, was born in 1945 in Del Norte. He has two brothers, Bob and Jere, who both still reside in Monte Vista with their wives. Bill's family's farming roots go back to 1917 when Bill's grandparents, Ray and Mabel (Berg) Metz purchased their home quarter on the 6 Mile Road north of Monte Vista in the Sargent Community. They built their home on the corner of that quarter in 1927, and it remains an active residence today. Ray and Mabel had two children, Kenneth Gordon (Bill's father) and Mary. Ray later expanded their farming operation, purchasing and farming two more quarters also located on the 6 Mile Road, and leasing an additional quarter west of their home. In addition to raising sheep and farming barley, alfalfa, and potatoes, Ray built and operated a potato warehouse packing shed. This structure was unique and innovative for the times — the Metz Potato storehouse was one of the first refrigerated potato storages in the San Luis Valley!

Ray's Metz Potato storehouse applied for and was granted on May 23, 1939, the Patented Trademark "Colorado Top Quality Potatoes, Grown A-Top the World" logo and spinning top symbol, which are still used today on Metz Potato Company potato packaging.

While in high school, Bill and Peggy participated in various sports, clubs, and activities and became high school sweethearts. They both graduated from Sargent High School in 1963 and both chose to continue their education at Fort Lewis College in Durango. She graduated in 1966 with a Business Education degree, and he graduated in 1967 with a Business degree and played basketball during his college years.

Peggy taught high school business in Pagosa Springs while Bill was finishing his college education. They married in June of 1968 at the Sargent Community Church. Soon after, Bill joined the Army. While in the Army, Bill was stationed in Petersburg, Va., Korea, and Colorado Springs. While Bill was serving our country, Peggy lived in Colorado Springs where she was employed as a bookkeeper for a nursing home company. In 1971, Bill's time in the Army was up, and his roots in farming brought them back home to the Valley and the family farm. They established a home on the 6 Mile Road and had two children, Tonya Rae and Kenneth Gregory (Greg).

Bill's dad, Kenneth, and Bill strived to continue to produce "Top Quality" potatoes along with barley mainly contracted to Adolf Coors Brewing Company. Bill and Peggy purchased a quarter of land in 1972 and established Bond Metz Farms, Inc. with the assistance of his uncle, Jack Bond. Improvements to now Metz Potato Company were made over time, as well. In time, Bill also purchased the original quarter of land from his grandfather, Ray Metz, and inherited two quarters from his father, which now totals the 640 acres Bill and Peggy still farm today; doubling the size of the original 1917 farm.



Unfortunately, on April 16, 1986, a devastating fire destroyed the entire warehouse, all processing and packaging equipment, storage buildings, trucks, and a portion of the potato crop. Despite the complete loss, Bill and Peggy's dream and determination to continue the legacy of Metz Potato Company lived on. A new packing shed, storage facility, two storage quonsets, and processing equipment were constructed, purchased, and completed in time to store and process the fall crop that same year!

Over the years, Bill worked hard alongside his father to tend the crops and run the warehouse and Peggy assisted Bill with farming chores, farm bookkeeping, raising their children, and staying involved with their school activities. Bill enjoyed taking Tonya and Greg on the tractor and teaching them about farming; how to run equipment, and care for the land. He taught them how to ski and his love of sports rubbed off on them. Bill loved officiating football and basketball. His basketball official career began while he was serving in the Army and continued for 50-plus years and included many college-level games and high school

state championship games. He was inducted into the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials (IAABO) Hall of Fame in 2014 and was recognized in 2021 by IAABO 50-year Contributor to the Sport of Basketball. Bill also contributed to his community, just as his father and grandfather did, by serving on the Sargent School Board of Education for 14 years.

In 1987, Peggy began working at Sargent High School as the High School

Secretary where she stayed until 1996. In addition to her responsibilities at the school, she continued to assist Bill with farm bookkeeping, and contribute to her community by serving on the Monte Vista Carnegie Library Board and Rio Grande Library Board. She served on the Stampede Parade Committee for many, many years, retiring after the 99th Ski-Hi Stampede so she could enjoy the 100th Year Celebration as a spectator!

Since 1986, Metz Potato Company and Bond Metz Farms have continued to thrive. Bill and Peggy's son, Greg, is continuing the farming tradition by working alongside Bill in Metz Potato Company, making Greg a fourth-generation "grower-shipper" and continuing Ray's legacy. Bond Metz Farms produces 160 acres each of potatoes and barley every year. Metz Potato Company processes and packages approximately 850,000 cwt. of potatoes each year, processing not only Bill's and Greg's crops but crops of other area growers.

At the Colorado State Fair in 2018, Bill and Peggy were deeply honored as Bond Metz Farms, Inc. was recognized by History Colorado: Colorado Department of Agriculture as a "Centennial Farm/Ranch," a farm or ranch that the same family owns for more than 100 years.

Today, Peggy continues to be involved in farm operations with bookkeeping. Bill can be found still driving a tractor in the fields and running a forklift in the warehouse. His passion for basketball is still evident, as he works for Colorado High School Activities Association as a Basketball Official Evaluator. They enjoy following the sports and activities their grandchildren and great-grandchildren are involved in, spending time at their cabin, and traveling with friends and family.

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Dwight Yoakam

Dwight Yoakam headlining Stampede Concert

MONTE VISTA — Country music legend Dwight Yoakam will be headlining the 100th-anniversary Stampede Concert on Thursday, July 21, at the Ski-Hi Complex. Tickets are currently on sale at the Ski Hi Stampede website, www.SkiHiStampede.com.

The Josh Abbott Band is opening for Yoakam.

The Ski-Hi Stampede is celebrating its centennial anniversary, July 21-24. It is Colorado's oldest pro rodeo. It began in 1919, but two years were deducted because of World War II, when no events were held. The first rodeo was held Aug. 11-13, 1919, and was called the Ski-Hi Stampede.



JOSH ABBOTT BAND

Yoakam has sold more than 25 million albums worldwide, and he is a 21-time nominated, multiple Grammy Award winner. He has 12 gold albums and nine platinum or multi-platinum albums, with five of those albums topping Billboard's Country Albums chart and another 14 landing in the Top 10. Nearly 40 of Yoakam's singles have charted on Billboard, with 14 peaking in the Top 10.

Yoakam is a recipient of the Artist of the Year award from the Americana Music Association, the most prestigious award offered by the organization. A staple in the Texas music scene since forming in 2006 at Lubbock's Texas Tech University, the Josh Abbott Band has weathered many storms including divorces, burying their fathers, the Route 91 Harvest shooting and a pandemic. Josh Abbott Band consists of drummer and founding member Eddie Villanueva, who joined in 2008 after Abbott and banjo player Austin Davis had been performing at open mic nights together and realized they needed to add more musicians to the group. Guitarist Caleb Keeter came on board in 2010 while keys player David Fralin joined the band in 2015 before bassist Jimmy Hartman entered the fold in 2018.

The concert kicks off the Stampede and is followed by amateur and professional rodeo action July 22-24 and a parade in Downtown Monte Vista on July 22 and 23. The event includes nightly dances and a carnival.

For ticketing information, go to www.skihistampede.com.

Dance the nights away with Houston Bernard



MONTE VISTA — Thursday, Friday and Saturday night's dances will feature country rock singer Houston Bernard.

Houston Bernard's country roots run deep with a family tree that includes songwriters, touring musicians and an outlaw gunfighter nicknamed "Bitter Creek" who The Eagles recorded a song about on Desperado.

Born in Oklahoma, raised in Alaska, he's also an Army veteran who has now comfortably settled into life as a professional and popular independent country music recording artist, touring throughout the United States.

With musical inspirations that range from Bruce Springsteen to Dolly Parton, Houston

draws upon his family's rich country and rockabilly musical roots by bringing upbeat and relatable music with powerhouse vocals.

With original songs like "All We Are Is Memories," "People We Are," and "American Dream" Houston has garnered hundreds of thousands of streams across Spotify and YouTube, along with being featured on Country Rebel, CMT.com, The Heartland Network, and The Country Network.

He's also shared bills with many country superstars like Luke Bryan, Old Dominion, Granger Smith, Michael Ray, Montgomery Gentry, Marshall Tucker Band, and Clint Black.

One listen to his forthcoming new single "Hangover," produced by hitmaker Bill McDermott in Nashville's Omni Sound Studios, and it's immediately evident that they've recorded a country rocker fit for most any honky tonk on a Friday or Saturday night.

One thing is for sure... this young country cowboy rocker is doing in the music business what he's done throughout his entire life: movin' on up.

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File photos from 2021

Barrel racing is an exciting sport

Sports fans and athletes have a plethora of sports to enjoy in this country and around the world, and those options include equestrian events. Equestrian sports have a deep-rooted history and have inspired some avid fans, including those enamored with the sport of barrel racing.

Barrel racing originally was established as an event for women on the rodeo circuit. While men rode bucking broncos and bulls and competed in roping events, women displayed horse speed and stamina in barrel racing competitions. Today, barrel racing primarily is a female sport at both the collegiate and professional levels.

Barrel racing can be an entertaining experience for spectators and a rewarding one for riders. The goal of the barrel race is to complete a perfect pattern in the least amount of time, so the rider who completes the pattern the fastest wins the competition.

The pattern riders face is a complicated cloverleaf design. Riders can choose to enter the first barrel to the left or the right. They circle the barrel and proceed across to barrel number two, then finish out at the third barrel, where they will complete the pattern and exit the course. The approach to the first barrel should be carefully timed and executed to set the stage for the rest of the course.

An official distance between barrels exists for professional races. Riders cover 90 feet between barrel one and two. There is 105 feet between barrels one and three and between barrels two and three. Finally, 60 feet marks the distance between barrels one and two and the entry/exit "score" line.

According to Michigan State University Extension, barrel racing requires a mild-tempered horse with natural athletic ability. Horses need to be fast, agile and intelligent. A hot-headed horse is not a good choice because he may fight the rider and cause injury. Riders also must be in tune with their horses' movements and sit correctly in the saddle to allow the horse to feel the sides of each barrel. Riders need to be both physically fit and capable of planning ahead to accommodate their horses' speed.



Experts advise riders to run horses through repetitive drills to improve their performance. A horse learns by release and will think he's done a good job if a rider moves on to a new task. If riders are unhappy with a turn, they should return to the same barrel over and over until it is mastered, as riders need their horses to remember the good techniques. Horses can do drills running straight lines as well as circles. Soon both horse and rider should develop a feel for each other and move more intuitively together.

Although barrel racing has been around for a long time, one of the premier governing bodies of the sport was only established 66 years ago. The Girl's Rodeo Association was formed when 38 cowgirls came together in San Angelo, Texas, to create an organization dedicated to the promotion and advancement of women in the sport of rodeo. In 1981, the association changed its name to the Women's Professional Rodeo Association, and it remains one of the most influential sanctioning bodies in the sport. It also is the oldest women's sports association in the United States and the only one governed entirely by women.

In 2007, the WPROA instituted the My Horse's Choice Junior Division for girls ages 17 and under. The junior division introduces a whole new group of members to the ranks of professional competition and allows mothers and daughters to compete for world points at some of the same events.

Barrel racing is most popular in the western and southern areas of the United States and some parts of Canada. To learn more about a particular racing circuit or the sport of barrel racing, visit www.wproa.com.



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Stampede carnival offers fun for all

MONTE VISTA — The Wright's Amusements Carnival is expected to be at full capacity for 2022.

Based out of Elbert, Colo., Wright's Amusements has been in operation for over 50 years. The carnival is a part of Stampede tradition and features a variety of attractions from children's rides to newer varieties of thrill rides.

In 1962, Floyd Wright and his two brothers, Frank and Charles, launched a traveling carnival that put family fun first. A half century later, Floyd Wright's nephew, John Ring, runs the show in the same treasured tradition. "My life — my heritage — is all about making sure people have a great time," says Ring. "What better 'job' is there?"

There are several options that are available for purchasing carnival tickets. Pre-order armbands are available at the Ski-Hi Stampede Office. On Wednesday, July 20, the carnival will hold a canned food drive. Those who bring two canned food items can purchase an all-day carnival pass for \$25.

There will be fun for all ages at the 100th Ski-Hi Stampede and the attractions that Wright's Amusements provides will be no exception.



File photos from 2021



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Renowned rodeo champions

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association has produced its fair share of memorable performers over the years. One of the more prestigious honors a rodeo rider can earn is the PRCA All-Around Cowboy Champion, which is given to the rodeo competitors who are most successful in two or more events. The following are a handful of rodeo competitors to win multiple All-Around PRCA All-Around championships.

- Trevor Brazile: The record holder for most all-around titles, Brazile eclipsed former record holder Ty Murray in 2010 when he won his eighth all-around championship. The 2014 season marked the ninth straight year the Texas-born Brazile was named the PRCA All-Around Cowboy Champion.
- Ty Murray: Though Murray's record for most all-around championships has been

bull riding's most recognizable faces, having crossed over into popular culture with appearances on television shows such as "Walker, Texas Ranger," "WWE Raw" and "Dancing With the Stars."

- Lewis Feild: A member of the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, Feild is a three-time winner of the PRCA All-Around Cowboy Championship, with three consecutive wins from 1985 to 1987. Feild's son, Kaycee, is an accomplished rider as well.
- Tom R. Ferguson: The Oklahoma-born Ferguson is another legend of rodeo, having won six all-around championships during the 1970s. Ferguson was also something of a trailblazer in rodeo, as he was the first rodeo competitor to earn more than \$100,000 in the arena in a single year, a feat he accomplished in 1978.

- Larry Mahan: Upon winning the PRCA All-Around Cowboy Championship in 1970, Mahan became the first rodeo competitor to win five such championships in a row. Mahan's 1973 comeback even garnered him some acclaim and attention in an unlikely place: Hollywood. "The Great American Cowboy," a documentary film from Kieth Merrill, focused on Mahan's comeback and battle with Phil Lyne for the world championship. The film would win the 1973 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature.

- Jim Shoulders: The first competitor to ever win the bareback, bull riding and all-around events at the PRCA Championships, Shoulders also had a successful career outside of the rodeo arena, where he was a notable presence in print and television advertisements for jeans, boots and beer.



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Bull riders' gear protective and functional

Many fans of sports like baseball, basketball and football enjoy wearing jerseys of their favorite players when attending a game, watching at home or gathering with fellow fans to watch somewhere in public. While it's nearly impossible to attend a professional sporting event today without seeing someone decked out in the same attire as their favorite player, such sightings are less likely to occur within the sport of rodeo.

Unlike baseball and basketball uniforms, the gear worn by many professional bull riders has more practical applications, namely to protect riders as much as possible. The following is a rundown of the gear professional bull riders wear during competition.

* **Headgear:** While many professional bull riders are allowed to wear cowboy hats during competitions, the Professional Bull Riders, Inc., mandates that all new members who turned 18 years of age on or after Oct. 15, 2012, wear helmets. Those born before that date do not have to wear helmets, but some choose to do so to protect their heads from potentially threatening blows. In addition, bull riders can wear face masks to shield their faces and jaws from injury.

* **Vest:** A protective vest is worn by bull riders to absorb shock and dissipate any blows to the body. The vest also was designed to protect riders' torsos from punctures caused by direct contact with the bulls' hooves and horns during competition.

* **Glove:** Bull riders only wear one glove, which is on the hand they use to grip the bull rope. This leather glove makes it easier to grip the rope and offers some measure of protection to riders' hands and fingers.

* **Chaps:** Riders wear chaps on their legs, and professionals often wear chaps emblazoned with logos of sponsors. Chaps offer extra protection for a rider's legs against the hooves and horns of the bull.

* **Bull rope:** The bull rope, which is equipped with a handle braided into the rope, is a rider's only anchor during a ride. The rope is flat and braided from nylon or grass and goes around the bull's girth area behind the animal's front legs.

* **Boots:** Bull riders' boots include a special spur ridge on the heel, and this helps their spurs to remain in place. Some riders wear pull-on boots, while others prefer boots that lace up.

* **Spurs:** Spurs help bull riders stay in position once the ride begins. These spurs come equipped with dull rowels, which are the revolving disks at the end of spurs. The rowels are dull so they do not injure or cut the skin of the bull.

More information about bull riding is available at www.pbr.com.



File photos from 2021



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Mutton Busting, an unforgettable experience

MONTE VISTA — Nobody expects to break or ride a sheep, but it has a benefit. It's a chance for little kids to get a taste of adventure, a feel for what it's like to be a cowboy. They might get bruised and they'll definitely get dirty, but it's an experience they will never forget. Mutton busting is the sport of bareback sheep riding. Kiddie competitors challenge themselves and the sheep to see who can hold on the longest as they try for a qualifying time in the rodeo arena.

Mutton busting is similar to bull riding, except that the contestants wear more protective gear and are closer to the ground. A sheep is held still, either in a small chute or by an adult handler, while a child is placed on top in a riding position. Once the child is seated, the sheep is released and usually starts to run in an attempt to get the child off. Often small prizes or ribbons are given out to the children who can stay on the longest.

There are no set rules for mutton busting, no national organization, and most events are organized at the local level. However, children who begin as mutton busters could go on to be top Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) money winners or, at least, tops on the hometown rodeo circuit. The vast majority of children participating in the event fall off in less than 8 seconds. Age, height and weight restrictions on participants generally prevent injuries to the sheep and implements such as spurs are banned from use. In most cases, children are required to wear helmets and parents are often asked to sign waivers to protect the rodeo from legal action.

The practice has been documented as having been introduced to the National Western Stock Show in Denver, at least by the 1980s when an event was sponsored by Nancy Stockdale Cervi, a former rodeo queen. At that event, children ages five to seven who weighed less



File photos from 2021

than 55 pounds could apply, and ultimately seven contestants were selected to each ride a sheep for six seconds.

There are no statistics about the popularity of the sport, but anecdotal reports suggest thousands of children participate in such events every year in the U.S. Supporters consider the event both entertaining and a way to introduce young children to the adult rodeo "rough stock" riding events of bull riding, saddle bronc, and bareback riding, and they may liken its rough-and-tumble nature to the way youth sports such as football are played.

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While in the Valley

Sand Dunes

The Great Sand Dunes National Park features the tallest sand dunes in the United States. The dune field rising above the San Luis Valley is framed with the blue peaks of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range.

During the summer, park rangers organize a number of nature walks and interpretive programs exploring the dunes' geology, history and wildlife. For a more challenging walk, head into the dune field itself. Whether hiking, sliding, exploring in a dunes wheelchair — or simply playing — the Great Sand Dunes are a unique area for all to enjoy.

The visitors center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The center offers an inspiring film presentation, interactive exhibits, bookstore, first aid room and back porch with viewing scope.

A number of camping sites, ranging from car and RV areas to primitive backpacking sites on and off the dune field, are available.

For more information, call 719-378-6300 or log onto www.nps.gov/grsa/.



Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad

The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad was built in 1880 with three feet — narrow gauge — between the tracks instead of four feet, eight and a half inches, the standard in the United States.

The railroad's locomotives burn hand-shoveled coal pulling trains along the highest and longest narrow-gauge track in the United States from Antonito to Chama, N.M. The railroad gives passengers a unique view of the beauty of the San Juan Mountains, taking them on a twisty ride that crosses the Colorado-New Mexico border 11 times and carries them over 10,015-foot-high Cumbres Pass and through two tunnels.

The Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad offers daily scenic train rides from Chama, New Mexico and Antonito, Colorado, crossing at historic Osier Station.

Schedules and details about specials and all train rides are available at www.cumbrestoltec.com or by calling 1-888-Cumbres (286-2737).

Please see VALLEY on Page 22

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VALLEY

Continued from Page 21



Early Iron Festival

Hundreds of vehicles from America's "early" years in its love affair with the automobile arrive in Alamosa from all over the United States for their annual Labor Day weekend San Luis Valley Early Iron Festival, one of the San Luis Valley's largest events featuring more than 500 cars.

This year marks the 41st anniversary from Sept. 2-4. Early Iron welcomes a variety of vehicles including pickups, custom, street rods, classics and street machines. See www.earlyironclub.com/.



Creede Repertory Theatre

Creede Repertory Theatre is a professional theatre company located in the historic town of Creede. CRT's award-winning company produces the best of contemporary and

classic theatre from the end of May through September. Each year, CRT produces several plays in rotation, hosts numerous musical events and concerts, exhibits the best regional artists in its two lobby galleries, and offers exciting educational programming. This year CRT celebrates its 57th season and makes it return indoors. Tickets are available at the box office on 124 N. Main St., in Creede, calling toll free: 866-658-2540 or going to the web site: www.creederep.org.

Los Caminos Antiguos

Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic Byway connects many of the San Luis Valley's attractions, such as the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railway and the Great Sand Dunes National Park.

The journey begins on Highway 17 on Cumbres Pass. As Highway 17 descends into the San Luis Valley, it follows the Conejos River and several perfect fishing spots. The byway continues through Conejos, home of the oldest church in Colorado, then to the De Vargas petroglyph crossing site. It then leads to Manassa, the home of Jack Dempsey, and continues east through the foothills of the Sangre de Cristos.

The byway continues into San Luis, the first town in Colorado. The byway then journeys north to Fort Garland. As the byway follows the Sangre de Cristo mountain range, several natural wonders await: Zapata Falls; the Great Sand Dunes National Park; the historic Medano Ranch; and the San Luis Lakes State Park and Wildlife Area.

The byway then turns south near two of the Valley's more colorful attractions, the UFO Watchtower and the Colorado Gators, an alliga-



tor farm just north of Alamosa on Highway 17. The "ancient road" ends its journey in Alamosa.

Silver Thread

The Silver Thread Scenic Byway passes through some of the most scenic areas and towns in the San Juan Mountains. Leaving the town of South Fork, the byway begins its journey along the Rio Grande. The byway then enters the Rio Grande National Forest, where it travels through steep cañons of volcanic tuff before crossing an alpine valley, home to herds of deer and elk.

Miners built the town of Creede in the spirit of exploration. Outside the town, a driving tour of the area's mining heritage winds through the rugged geologic formations. Between Creede and Lake City, the highway passes The Slumgullion Earthflow, a geologic form that began 700 years ago. The Silver Tread ends at a second mining town, Lake City.

Fort Garland

The historic Fort Garland Museum takes visitors back in time to the era of Kit Carson, commandant of the fort from 1866-1867, and earlier commanders.

The museum features displays of the life of officers and enlisted men during the years the fort served southern Colorado.

Walk the parade ground of the fort and tour the adobe buildings, which feature a re-creation



of the commandant's quarters during Carson's time. Rich in military history, Fort Garland also highlights the folk art and culture of the Hispanic community in southern Colorado.

The Fort Garland Museum and Visitor Center is located in Fort Garland, 25 miles east of Alamosa off U.S. Highway 160. For more information, call 719-379-3512.

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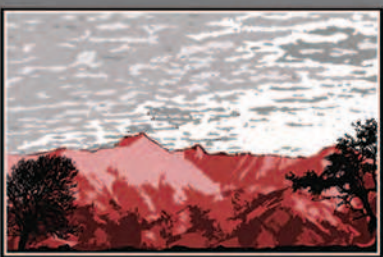
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With 11,000 years of documented human habitation, the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area is a crossroads of the centuries. Here a unique blend of Native American, Hispano and Anglo settlement is reflected in the diversity of the people, art and traditions. The geographic isolation of our high desert valley and the peoples' enduring ties to the land have given rise to a rich cultural heritage and ensured its preservation. The area's fertile cultural landscape is complemented by remarkable natural resources, including the mighty Rio Grande, majestic Rocky Mountain peaks, Great Sand Dunes National Park, National Wildlife Refuges, and the high mountain desert, all of which lend the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area an unparalleled beauty that offers a sense of retreat and a powerful source of inspiration for visitors.



LOS CAMINOS ANTIGUOS SCENIC & HISTORIC BYWAY



Take a trip through history on the Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic & Historic Byway. This majestic 129-mile route is located in south central Colorado, in the beautiful San Luis Valley. Translated as "the way of the ancients", the byway follows trails created by the first hunter-gatherers, Native Tribes, and then Spanish explorers looking for land to raise families and build communities. Experience the same journey some of the earliest settlers took on horseback and wagons as you wind your way through Colorado's oldest towns.



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Stampede Ticket Office, 852-2055

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Friday & Saturday, July 22nd & 23rd		
Family Day (July 22 ONLY)	\$8	\$8
Box Seats	\$23	\$25
Reserve Seating - Adult	\$22	\$24
Reserve Seating - Child	\$15	\$18
General Admission - Adult	\$20	\$22
General Admission - Child	\$15	\$15
Chute Seats Reserved	\$23	\$20
Country Western Dance	\$10	\$10
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Senior Citizen Day (General Admission - 65 & over)	\$12	\$12

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Wednesday, July 20

