

Saguache County declares 'Fire Hazard Emergency'

Implements Stage 1 Fire Restrictions

By MECHHEL MEEK

SAGUACHE COUNTY — Signs of Spring are found throughout the San Luis Valley and along with the warmer temperatures, also comes Red Flag Warnings and high fire risk.

The Saguache County Commissioners reactivated Resolution 2020-2.

Saguache County Sheriff Dan Warwick stated that "Resolution 2020-2 has been reactivated (Declaring a Fire Hazard Emergency) only applies to the East side of Highway 17 at this time."

The resolution declares the unincorporated areas of Saguache County under Stage 1 Fire

Restrictions and prohibits:

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, burning ditches, fence rows and trash, including household trash.
- Using explosive material, such as fireworks, blasting caps or any incendiary device which may result in ignition of flammable material.
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building.

• Welding or operating an acetylene or similar torch with an open flame.

The following actions are permitted:

- Fires including stoves within enclosed buildings or recreational vehicles and chainsaws which are equipped with adequate spark arresting screens which prevent the escape of sparks.

Please see HAZARD on Page 2A

Easter Egg Hunt gathers Center Community together



Photos courtesy of Center United Methodist Church

Easter celebrations were held throughout Center this past weekend. On Saturday, April 16, the Center United Methodist Church held its annual community wide Easter egg hunt. The event was attended by over 50 children and their families. There were egg painting stations set up inside, a collage art station and the egg hunt was held outside.

Shorts

SLVREC, Cielo board of directors meeting April 26

MONTE VISTA — SLVREC and Cielo will have the regular meeting of the board of directors at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 26, at 3625 US Highway 160 W, Monte Vista. Advance notice is required to attend the meeting, call Michelle Trujillo at 719-852-3538.

A treasure chest of great deals on quilt and craft items

MONTE VISTA — Quilters and crafters have carefully perused their cabinets, closets, drawers, bins, boxes and baskets to bring a treasure chest of deals on quilt and craft items, including fabric, notions, patterns, books, hand-crafted pieces and Stampin-Up products.

The San Luis Valley Quilt Guild is holding a "Stash Buster" Basement Sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 11, in Monte Vista.

Enter the sale from the north door of the Methodist Church located at 215 Washington St. Come and visit with skilled, passionate quilters and crafters who are ready to share a treasure chest of great deals on quilt and craft items.

PD stresses need for gun owners to be firearm safe

By MECHHEL MEEK

CENTER — The Center Police Department in a recent email stated it was concerned about irresponsible handgun use in the community.

According to CPD Chief Dale Meek, "We had an incident last week that concerns me and it involved a handgun. I am very outspoken in my belief in the 2nd Amendment and the right of those to possess guns."

"However, we must keep in mind

the purpose of a gun. Guns are created to be lethal weapons. Hunting and self-defense both involve the use of a gun to end life. Guns are not toys, they are not loud warning devices and they are not meant to be threats.

"One gun pulled in anger to scare could result in the death of the person pulling the weapon or an innocent party. I will repeat: guns are not meant to scare! If you pull a weapon and shoot rounds, you are responsible

for every bullet.

"The incident last week involved a person shooting a gun to scare a dog. This is not acceptable. Bullets shot into the air will come down. Simple rule of gravity. Bullets shot into the ground have the potential to skip or ricochet off into different, unexpected directions."

Meek explained that the four rules of firearm safety should be used as a guideline for all gun

owners. The four rules of firearm safety are just the beginning of responsible gun ownership. Anyone who is considering or already has a firearm should educate themselves regarding the responsibilities of ownership.

Meek continued, "Guns are a right that we have but guns are also a responsibility to ensure the safety of those we love and those who live in our community."

Spruce beetle remains most deadly forest pest

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

LAKWOOD — During their annual hearing before the Colorado General Assembly, State Forester Matthew McCombs and Regional Forester Frank Beum announced a report detailing the results of the 2021 aerial detection survey led by the USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region, and Colorado State Forest Service. Every year, the agencies aerially monitor forest health conditions on millions of acres across Colorado and work together to address continued outbreaks of insects and disease, including the spruce beetle, which remains the deadliest forest pest in Colorado for the 10th consecutive year.

"This report offers a snapshot of the dynamic landscape changes that continually affect our forest lands in Colorado," said Frank Beum, regional forester for the USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. "By monitoring the native tree pest populations

on an annual basis, land managers can better maintain healthy, resilient forests while providing timber, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities on public and private forest lands."

Impacts from Bark Beetles

In 2021, spruce beetle affected roughly 53,400 acres of high-elevation Engelmann spruce forests in Colorado. While overall activity of this native beetle is declining statewide, it continues to expand its impact to previously unaffected areas. Forests within Chaffee and Park counties and in and around Rocky Mountain National Park experienced new infestations in 2021, indicating spruce beetle has not fully depleted trees susceptible

Please see BEETLE on Page 6A

Beetle-killed trees on the Rio Grande National Forest.

Photo courtesy of Dan West, CSFS



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OBITUARY

Dr. Richard L. Brownrigg

Dr. Richard L. Brownrigg passed away on April 14, 2022, after a short illness. Dr. Brownrigg was born on Nov. 15, 1935, in Kansas City, Kan., to John and Emma (Jacobson) Brownrigg. He grew up in Kansas City, Kan., where he was a member of the Wyandotte County High School swim team.

He completed college and medical school at the University of Kansas, paying his way by working at the rail yards in Kansas City. Dr. Brownrigg practiced urology in Dodge City, Kan., Alamosa, Colo., and Pueblo, Colo., for over 50 years, often admitting that what he enjoyed most in life was practicing medicine. He also enjoyed skiing, hiking, and camping in the mountains as well as traveling both in the US and abroad.

Dr. Brownrigg is survived by his wife of 37 years, Vicki (Schinstock), his children Richard L. Brownrigg, Jr. (Amber), Rhonda Bateman, Stephen Brownrigg (Joette); his stepchildren Jami (Gordon) Lewis, Kimberley (Beau) Temple; 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; his brother, William Brownrigg, and sister, Mary Jane (Brownrigg) Rohner.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Margaret (Dixon), and brother Robert Brownrigg.

A funeral service will be held at



10 a.m. on Friday, April 22, 2022, at Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista. Interment will follow services in the Creede Cemetery in Creede, Colo. A visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday evening at the Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Kansas University School of Medicine, the Creede Repertory Theater in Creede, Colo., or the St. Mary-Corwin Hospital Foundation in Pueblo, Colo. To express condolences, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com.

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

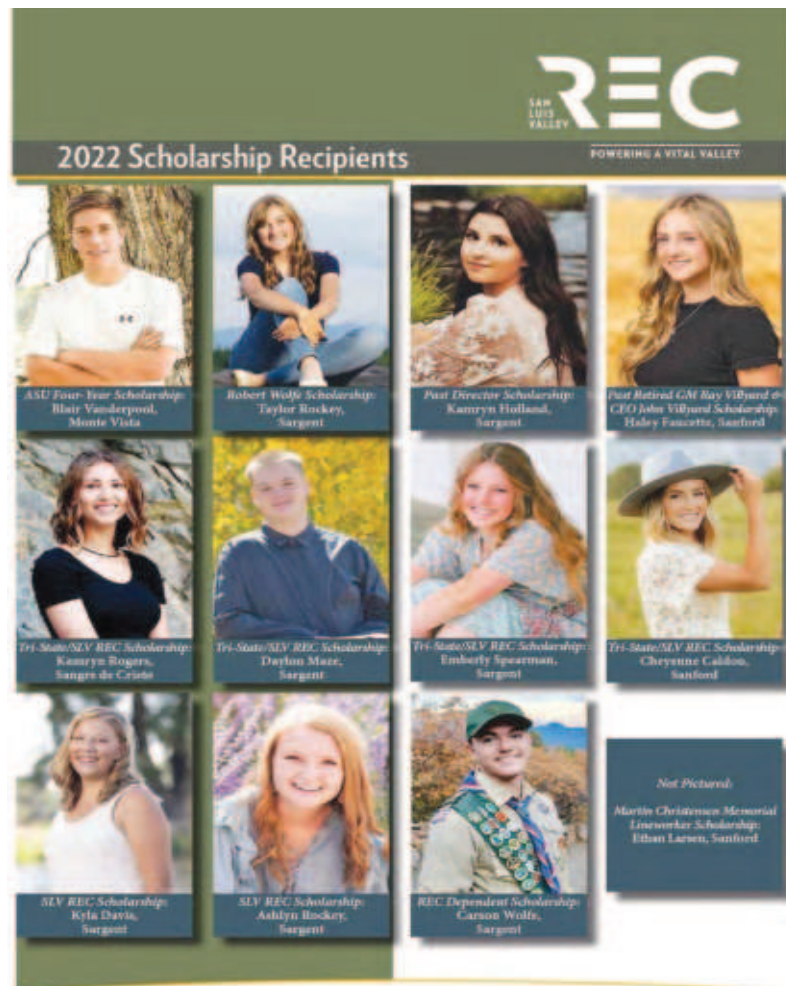
San Luis Valley REC announces scholarship recipients for 2022

By MECHEL MEEK

SANLUISVALLEY — San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative continues to award scholarships to local high school graduating seniors, with more than \$180,000 awarded in the past five years.

The board of directors have announced the 2022 scholarship recipients:

- SLV REC Adams State University Four-Year Scholarship: Blair Vanderpool, Monte Vista
- Martin Christensen Memorial Electric Lineworker Scholarship: Ethan Larsen, Sanford
- Robert Wolfe Scholarship: Taylor Rockey, Sargent
- SLVREC Past Director Scholarship: Kamryn Holland, Sargent
- SLVREC Past Retired GM Ray Villyard & CEO John Villyard Scholarship: Haley Faucette, Sanford
- SLV REC Scholarships: Kamryn Rogers, Sangre de Cristo; Daylon Maze, Sargent; Kyla Davis, Sargent; and Ashlyn Rockey, Sargent
- Tri-State G&T Scholarships: Emberley Spearman, Sargent and Cheyenne Caldon, Sanford
- REC Dependent Scholarship: Carson Wolfe, Sargent



Pictured are the 2022 San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative scholarship recipients. Photo courtesy of SLV REC

Community building events coming to Center, Saguache

STAFF REPORT
SAGUACHE COUNTY — The towns of Center and Saguache have community building events in April and May.

According to the Town of Center, “Interested in supporting your community and helping shape the biggest event in Center? Come to Center Town Hall Thursday, April 28 at 6 p.m. for the first 4th of July Bash volunteer meeting.”

Also of note is the Chili Cook Off in Saguache on May 7 during the Cinco de Mayo Festival. The cook off will be outside the Cozy Castle Cinema. You can sign up for this event by emailing

Mountain Valley School at knightc@valley.k12.co.us. The cost of the chili event is \$5 per bowl and the money raised will benefit Adventure Awaits.

Also in Saguache, is the Saguache Community Mural Event. This is hosted by GiGi Douglass and the Mountain Valley School Art Department and Business Class. It will be held on Sunday, May 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Otto Mears Park on Pitkin Avenue in Saguache. Everyone in the community is invited to attend this event which will feature music, food and art. The Saguache Sales Tax Grant and School Family Partnerships Grant was used to fund this community building activity.

Sen. Don Coram secures spot on GOP ballot

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — In a press release from “Coram for Congress,” it was announced last week that Senator Don Coram submitted a petition with enough signatures to the Secretary of State’s office to qualify for his name to be officially placed on the June Republican Primary ballot as a Republican candidate for Colorado’s Third Congressional District.

“This has been a true grassroots campaign,” Coram said in the release. “I am thankful for the great folks who signed my petitions and especially grateful to the extraordinary supporters who made this happen.”

The press release described Coram as critical of his opponent, Lauren Boebert, and “her lack of results for the 3rd District, her embarrassing juvenile antics on the national stage and her desire to be a right-wing celebrity pundit rather than a representative of the people she is paid to represent.

“To distract from her own record and ethical problems,” the release read, “Lauren Boebert and her supporters have pushed a narrative against Senator Coram filled with lies. As many voters have witnessed, dishonesty is business

as usual for Boebert.”

Coram was quoted as saying, “I look forward to setting the record straight on the lies Lauren Boebert and her supporters have peddled. I will make the case to primary voters as to why I am the most qualified candidate to represent them and their families. Enough is enough! Let’s make Lauren’s first term in Congress her last.”

Sen. Coram is a native of Montrose and has served at the State Legislature in both the House and Senate since 2011.

Coram was a victim of redistricting and was going to be a state senator without a seat after the 2022 election. Coram was drawn into the same district as Republican state Sen. Bob Rankin of Carbondale. Since Rankin was elected to his seat in 2020, he keeps the seat, leaving Coram without a chance to run for re-election in November, unless he were to move.

Instead, he’s running against Boebert, who toppled five-term incumbent U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton in the 2020 GOP primary in Colorado’s 3rd Congressional District.

Coram is the second Republican to mount a challenge to Boebert, joining first-time candidate Marina

Zimmerman, the Archuleta County industrial crane operator who has been running a low-budget campaign since last spring.

Six Democrats are running for the nomination in the sprawling 3rd CD, which leans Republican and covers most of the Western Slope and parts of southern Colorado, including Pueblo County and the San Luis Valley. Among the candidates: state Rep. Don Valdez, D-La Jara, and Pueblo community organizer Sol Sandoval.

HAZARD

Continued from Page 1A

• Mechanical stoves and appliances fueled by bottled or liquid gas which allow the operator to turn the flame on and off are permitted. Campfires that are maintained in an approved campfire ring.

• Agricultural burning will be permitted when a controlled burn is reported to the Saguache County Sheriff’s Office. All agricultural burning must be monitored at all times

by the owner of the property and no burning permitted on Red Flag days.

The Saguache County Department of Emergency Management has some resources for all emergencies that can be found on the County website, including a resource for residents to receive a free wildfire risk assessment. This program is part of the Firewise team, which also completes hazard mitigation projects for Saguache County residents.



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OPINION & EDITORIAL

God bless the broken road

By the time you all read this, you have likely made your annual sojourn to the big box store to fill up on chocolate goodies leftover from Easter — in quantities enough to embarrass even Mr. Nestle in his grave. And, hopefully, you also have satisfied Uncle Sam with his annual grab of your dollars in the tax scam he runs every year. Nothing like April with its promise of Spring to be ruined by the IRS and their insatiable thirst for what we have, is there?

Ol' Dutch had to finally get a qualified CPA to do his taxes as it just became too complex after splitting the sheets with the ex-wife and subsequent losses on some property that we owned. And the good part is the numbers crunching, visor-wearing, penny-pinching accountant has saved me a significant amount of money over the years. Of course, he gets his share out of that money, too, and that also seems to go up every year. And it's a good thing Uncle Sam has seen fit to return some of my cash as this past week has been a test of my good nature and wonderful steady resolve. No, I don't mean how I somehow put up with Miss Trixie day in and day out. For that is a miracle as most of you know.

No, this week was a plethora of errors and omissions mainly in the way of broken things occurring around the farm. First, the microwave went on the blink requiring that we reach in the cupboard with each use and unplug it, or our microwave our hand when opening the door. Now that might not seem like too bad of a problem, but it was just the tip of the iceberg, so to speak of things yet to come.

After Ol' Dutch retired, he decided to buy a backhoe. I don't know if any of you are familiar with Big Iron but any equipment like that can be pretty expensive to repair. We have already spent untold money on hoses for it so it's just part of the game I guess in owning one. Of late, the fuel pump was leaking diesel and so Miss Trixie got online and found out how to repair that. The parts arrived, we took it apart and replaced said broken piece. That was the easy part. Getting it back together took at least five attempts, but then success, almost. Ol' Dutch took one last quarter turn on the last bolt and yes, snapped it off. And of course, that little bolt is about \$16 on Amazon plus having to wait for it to arrive. One more thing.

Sitting down after that long dirty experience Ol' Dutch decided to watch some "Green Acres" on the television. Settling back in my chair



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

with my coffee in my hand and my computer on my lap, phone on the end table, I was ready for a nice evening of relaxation with Oliver and Lisa Douglas, Mr. Kimble, and, of course, Mr. Haney.

The remote came to my hand like a knight wielding a sword and with a quick flick of my finger, I turned on the TV. Well almost. It gave a red-light flash as it tried to start and to bring me joy but gave up the ghost mid-start and went to the great appliance death scrapyards in the sky. No warning, no lines on the screen telling of impending death. Just a pop and it was gone.

My son Bub came to the rescue with a television for us to watch but he cannot find the remote and any man without a remote is like a lost ball in the tall weeds at the local golf course. Pathetic.

I thought that maybe we had made it through a week without anything else going wrong but later while checking cattle in the truck, a flickering light on the heat and cool controls on my truck decided to appear. This after only 2,000 miles after the warranty period ended really aggravates me, even more, when I see the extended car warranty advertisements on the small TV my son gave me to use.

And, that makes it even worse as I cannot change the channel when the darn people are going on and on and on about it's not a matter of if but when something on a vehicle will break down. Miss Trixie and I did console ourselves with the last of the malted Easter egg candy and life was good once again as we watched another rendition of Geronimo on the tube. I wonder if he ever had to pay taxes?

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

Lyrid Meteor Shower

The Lyrid Meteor Shower is active from April 11-30. They peak on the night of the 21st and the morning of the 22nd, but they will be very active for 3 days. The full moon was April 16, but after a few days it rises later. The last quarter moon is on the 23rd and it will rise much later. So, you can observe them on the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd.

Meteor showers are named for the constellation they appear to originate from, although they really don't. The constellation just happens to be in the part of the sky where the meteors are. So, the Lyrids are named for the constellation Lyra the Harp. It starts to rise around 9-10 p.m., but with our mountains it won't become visible until it gets higher. That's why early

morning viewing is the best when it rises high in the sky. I would say that around 4:30 a.m. would be good.

They're not one of our highly active meteor showers, and we will usually only see 20 at the peak. Occasionally they have bursts of 60-100. That's not predicted for this year, but you just never know what's going to happen.

Each meteor we see is a bit of dust or rock shed by the comet. This one comes from Comet Thatcher which orbits the Sun every 415 years. In April, Earth plows through the comet debris trail, so even though we won't be crossing the comet, there's lots of dust and debris in its rotation. Then the debris enters our atmosphere and creates a meteor shower.

The debris leaves behind glowing



trails of ionized air which looks like shooting stars. That's how meteor showers are created. In the evening if you can see them at their beginning, you will probably see fireballs. Those are meteors low in the sky close to the horizon that are quite bright as they travel along the horizon.

The Lyrids are one of the oldest recorded meteor showers. They were first observed in 687 BC. So, they've been around a long time. When they're high in the sky they will shoot all over. So, this is going to be a fun year to observe them.

LETTER

Conejos County Weed Control District offers noxious weed cost share program

Editor,

It is time once again to begin controlling the noxious weeds on our property. There are over 400 different weed species in the state of Colorado of which 74 are considered noxious.

A noxious weed is a plant that is not native to the area; some are invasive and often take over an area and prevent natural plants from growing. Noxious weeds need water and nutrients to grow and, therefore, leave little nourishment for natural plants. Weeds can contribute to wildfires which destroy natural habitat for local animals, birds, insects and personal property.

Many noxious weeds are poisonous to animals as well as humans. Some weeds may contain

certain food value to animals but can also prevent grass and other crops from flourishing.

The Conejos County Weed Control District encourages all property owners to make an effort to control the noxious weeds on their property.

To help with noxious weed control, the Conejos County Weed Control District is offering to cost share with landowners in the unincorporated areas of Conejos County. Landowners who own property within the Weed District may be assisted at a rate of 75% paid by the Weed District and 25% paid by the landowner. The District will assist up to a maximum of \$400 per landowner. Those people owning property outside of the Weed District

may be assisted at a rate of 40% paid by the Weed District and 60% paid by the landowner. Again, the assistance will be up to a maximum of \$400 per landowner.

The Conejos County Weed Control District also has a 50-gallon weed sprayer and two backpack sprayers available for personal use on a loan basis. A small deposit will be required at the time of check out. The deposit will be returned to the landowner when the sprayers are returned in good working order.

To sign up for the cost share program or to use one of these sprayers, contact Myron Price at 719-588-2005.

*Myron Price
Conejos County*

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Cinco de Mayo Block Party May 6 in Alamosa

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA), San Luis Valley Brewing Company, City of Alamosa and Alamosa Marketing District present a free Cinco de Mayo community block party on May 6 to celebrate local culture, heritage, and traditions through music, dance, food, drinks, and great conversation.

On May 6, the block of San Juan Avenue between 4th and Main Street, located next to the San Luis Valley Brewing Company in downtown Alamosa, will be blocked off for a community celebration of Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area's Annual Cinco de Mayo Block Party from 5 to 11 p.m.

Also partnering at this event, the Zoila Gomez Si Se Puede (ZGSSP) Scholarship, community member Zoila Gomez and the ZGSSP Scholarship Committee will be taking the stage throughout the event to discuss the purpose and fundraising efforts of their scholarship which address the important and unmet need of educational equity in the community.

A handful of community members from different organizations, including The Colorado Trust, Boys and Girls Club, Adams State University, Immigrant Resource Center, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) and active community member Zoila Gomez created the Zoila Gomez Si Se Puede Scholarship for local undocumented and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students in the San Luis Valley.

After receiving several donations, including one for \$25,000 from CHFA, the ZGSSP Scholarship Committee provided a total of \$8,000 to four deserving students (\$2,000 each) to help them pursue their higher education goals for the 2021-22 academic year.

The ZGSSP Scholarship was created to support undocumented students pursuing higher education, as they do not qualify for federal financial aid. Education is paramount to breaking the cycle of generational poverty for students and their families. To continue their amazing efforts providing educational opportunities for students, the committee will have two booths where attendees can learn more and/or donate to this wonderful scholarship!

SdCNHA will open the event with a welcome at 5 p.m., Zoila Gomez Si Se Puede Scholarship from 5:15 to 5:30 p.m., Los Vecinos Bailadores, will be performing several traditional Spanish dances from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The Maestras Commemoration Committee will follow from 6:30 to 7 p.m. to speak about the progress of their project (the nation's earliest victory in the war against Hispano-Mestizo educational segregation took place in Alamosa), First Southwest Bank Fortaleza Fund 7 to 7:15 p.m.

Then from 8 to 11 p.m., returning from Taos, N.M., Lluvia Negra is excited to fill the street with the sound of Spanish Rock, and local favorites which will surely keep the crowd dancing through the night.

Outdoor seating will be available, but organizers encourage people to bring a folding chair and come early for the best seating for the live performances. Enjoy specialty drinks and food from the San Luis Valley.

Stop by the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area table will receive SdCNHA promotional items and a traditional commemorative Cinco de Mayo t-shirt while supplies last.

Sponsorships this year include Visit Alamosa, Alamosa County, Conejos County, Costilla County, Adams State University, San Luis Valley Federal, First Southwest Bank, Connect for Health Colorado, Skiball's, O&V Printing, L&M Auto, ACE Hardware, Bankshot, and Shultz Realty.

10 facts about Cinco de Mayo

- Not a celebration of independence

Cinco de Mayo is not a celebration of Mexico's Independence (which is actually Sept. 16), but rather a celebration of Mexico's victory in the battle at Puebla on May 5, 1862, during the Franco-Mexican war. It was an unlikely win for the Mexican militia who were heavily outnumbered by the French. The victory became a source of pride for the country and is the reason we continue to celebrate today.

- Mexico won the battle, but not the war

Although the Mexican Army won the battle at Puebla on May 5, 1862, the French went on to win the war, occupying the region for five years.

- Napoleon III had multiple motives on May 5

For the leader of France, Napoleon III, the battle at Puebla was an attempt at not only spreading his empire but at conquering a key



File photo

Mexican access point to the U.S., where he intended to lend support to the confederate army during the Civil War in an effort to keep the U.S. divided and consequently less powerful.

- Abraham Lincoln sympathized with the Mexican cause

Abraham Lincoln sympathized with the Mexican cause during the French occupation but was unable to lend direct support to the nation due to the U.S. Civil War, which was taking place at the same time. When the Civil War finally ended, the U.S. forced France to withdraw its troops from Mexico and their empire collapsed.

- Not a federal holiday in Mexico

Cinco de Mayo is not a federal holiday in Mexico and is a relatively minor holiday outside of Puebla, Veracruz and the United States. In Puebla and Veracruz, however, Cinco de Mayo is a very important state holiday celebrated with parades, festivals and reenactments.

- Roosevelt helped popularize Cinco de Mayo in the U.S.

Cinco de Mayo became a popular holiday in the U.S. after President Franklin Roosevelt enacted the "Good Neighbor Policy" in 1933 to improve relations with Latin American countries.

- Lots of avocados

According to the California Avocado Commission, Americans consume up to 81 million pounds of avocados on Cinco de Mayo every year.

- The world's largest Cinco de Mayo party is held in

Los Angeles, California! Other U.S. cities that throw big celebrations for Cinco de Mayo are Denver, New York, Phoenix and Houston.

- Some even celebrate with Chihuahua races

One U.S. city celebrates Cinco de Mayo with a Chihuahua race. Can you guess which city? It's Chandler, Ariz. Even Vancouver celebrates, marking the day with a

"skydiving boogie" that consists of aerial acrobatics and an air show.

Americans like their tequila According to the Daily Meal, the United States consumes twice as much Tequila as Mexico, where the spirit originated.

The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area preserves, protects and promotes the heritage of Colorado's first Hispano, agricultural and railroad communities and natural wonders. As stewards of this nationally significant location, SdCNHA aims to preserve and share the unique stories, cultures and landscapes of the San Luis Valley.

With over 10,000 years of documented human habitation, this is where Colorado began. In 2009 congress declared the counties of Alamosa, Conejos and Costilla along with Great Sand Dunes National Park, Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge, Alamosa Wildlife Refuge and Baca Wildlife refuge to be a National Heritage Area.

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CDOT to install fiber optic on US Highway 160, Pagosa Springs to Wolf Creek Pass

Enhanced technology will add safety systems for travelers

STAFF REPORT

MINERAL COUNTY — On May 2, the Colorado Department of Transportation and contractor Paonia, Inc. will begin a project to install fiber optic cable and additional dynamic safety signage on US Highway 160 between Pagosa Springs and the east side of Wolf Creek Pass. The work will be completed in May of 2023, with a winter suspension anticipated from late November through mid-February. The project duration dates are subject to change depending on weather conditions.

This \$7.9 million project was made possible, in part, through a \$4.4 million Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment grant awarded by the Federal Highway Administration. The fiber optic cable will connect with existing fiber that was installed in 2017 along a 16-mile stretch of the US 160 mountain corridor from Wolf Creek Pass east tunnel to the community of South Fork.

“These electrical and fiber upgrades will benefit surrounding communities, travelers, emergency service providers and CDOT’s traveler information systems by connecting new and existing equipment to the power and fiber backbone,” said Shoshana Lew, CDOT Executive Director. “Information gathered by highway closed-circuit cameras and weather stations uses this technology to further improve CDOT’s online communications for travelers. Enhanced information for road and

weather alerts and improved web camera images will be accessible to the public via CDOT’s traveler information site www.cotrip.org.”

The project will also include the installation of new and upgraded dynamic signs that will provide additional safety and warning messages to all Wolf Creek Pass travelers regarding road and weather conditions, lowered speeds and the westside hairpin turn.

During the project, crews will accomplish the following:

- Excavate a trench approximately six to 10 feet from the edge of east- and westbound US 160 and install conduit and fiber optic cable from west of CO Highway 84 to the western base of the pass at Treasure Falls, from Mile Point 144 to MP 159
- Cut the asphalt between the highway’s outer white line and the shoulder and install conduit and fiber optic from Treasure Falls to the ski area (MP 159 to MP 168); the majority of this work will be done on eastbound US 160, with a short section of work along the westbound lane from Treasure Falls east for 1.5 miles
- Upgrade the westbound US 160 downhill speed warning system at MP 167.34 approaching the westside hairpin curve
- Install a new variable message sign on westbound US 160 west of the ski area, MP 167.22
- Install six variable speed limit signs for westbound travelers and seven closed-circuit TV poles between the hairpin curve and the ski area, MP 160 to MP 167
- Install fiber optic between the snowshed and the eastern base of the pass, from MP 168 to MP 174, where existing conduit lies (the conduit was previously installed during the 2017 project, between the snowshed area and South Fork, MP 168.5 to 186)
- Add in-pavement detection

systems that detect longer loads and communicate with dynamic speed limit signs

Travel Impacts

Beginning in early May, crews plan to start work at MP 144.5 east of Pagosa Springs near the CO 84 junction and work their way east toward Wolf Creek Pass. Initially, work hours will be from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Depending upon the section under construction, US 160 may be reduced to single-lane traffic intermittently in either direction, throughout the duration of the project. When work is underway across any of the four bridges, in the valley east of Pagosa Springs, motorists will encounter single-lane, alternating traffic, with delays that could extend beyond 15 minutes, depending on traffic queues. The speed limit will be reduced through the work zones to 40 mph. Traffic fines in the construction zone will be doubled.

Project Information

For additional information about this project, contact the project team:

- Project website: www.codot.gov/projects/us160-wolfcreekpass-fiber
- Project information hotline: 970-363-5100
- Project email: us160fiberinstallwolfcreekpass@gmail.com

Governor appoints Alamosa County attorney to Conejos County Court

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER
CONEJOS COUNTY —

Governor Jared Polis appointed Jason T. Kelly to fill a vacancy on the Conejos County Court in the 12th Judicial District. This judgeship was created by the appointment of the Honorable Kimberly Cortez to the district court and was effective immediately.

“I am honored and privileged to serve the Conejos County community,” Kelly said. “I am grateful for everyone that has supported me and will do my best to continue the high standards that have been set by previous and current judges of the 12th Judicial District.”

Kelly has been the Alamosa County Attorney since March of 2008. After obtaining his undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs in 1998, he was awarded his juris doctorate from the William H. Bowen School of Law in Little Rock, Ark., in 2004. In 2006, Kelly opened a private practice in Colorado ultimately taking a full-time position with Alamosa County in 2011.

In his role as county attorney, he has represented all elected county officials and departments in multiple areas of the law, including employment, personal injury and disability, governmental immunity, contracts, domestic, land use, and general county law.

Kelly is a member of the Colorado Bar Association and the San Luis



Valley Bar Association where he has served as Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-President and President. For more than a decade, he has also been an active board member of the SLV Pro Bono Project and was recently named to the Colorado Diverse Attorney Community Circle (CODACC).

He serves on the Unmanned Aircraft Operation Advisory Board for Trinidad State Junior College and is an adjunct professor at Adams State University.

After being selected from thousands of applicants, Kelly also served as one of twelve commissioners on the Independent Colorado Redistricting Commission, which was created with the passage of Amendment Y by Colorado voters in the 2018 election and was charged with drawing Colorado’s congressional and state legislative districts in 2022.

Kelly said he plans to continue as the Alamosa County attorney.

Congratulations Class of 2022!

Valley Publishing will be printing the annual San Luis Valley Graduation edition on April 27th... don't miss this opportunity to wish the Class of 2022 congratulations!

This special edition will be included in the Center Post Dispatch, Conejos County Citizen, Del Norte Prospector, Mineral County Miner, Monte Vista Journal, South Fork Times and SLV Lifestyles.

<p>Investment:</p> <p>2 col.x2" - \$130 2 col.x3" - \$160 2 col.x4" - \$240 2 col.x5" - \$260</p>	<p>Deadline:</p> <p>Tues., April 19 Other sizes & prices available... Call your sales rep today!</p>
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Call Today to find out how you can be a part of the Great Section!

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Valley-Wide Welcomes
Andrew Russell, DO
 to our
 Edward M. Kennedy
 Health Clinic
 925 Second Ave, Monte Vista

Dr. Andrew Russell is originally from Utah, but has been living in New Mexico for several years. He believes every patient has the right to define what health is for themselves, and it is his role to respect and safely support the patient in their effort to find wellness. Dr. Russell welcomes patients of all backgrounds but has a special interest in buprenorphine therapy for opioid use disorder, and gender-expansive and transgender healthcare. In his free time, Dr. Russell enjoys skiing, hunting, great meals and listening to live music. He is excited about living in the San Luis Valley with his dog, his partner, and their chickens.

Call to set up an appointment with
 Dr. Russell today!
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BEETLES

Continued from Page 1A

to attack and the spruce beetle outbreak in those locations is still on the move.

Spruce beetle is causing more tree mortality than any other bark beetle in Colorado. The total acreage impacted by spruce beetle in the state since 2000 has reached 1.89 million acres of spruce-fir forests.

Another native bark beetle, the Douglas-fir beetle continues to cause significant tree mortality in the state's central and southern mixed-conifer forests, affecting about 8,000 acres of forests statewide last year. Douglas, Gunnison, Jefferson, Eagle, Pitkin and Custer counties have severely affected Douglas-fir stands and this beetle has depleted many of the largest trees in these areas over the past decade.

Spurred by Drought Conditions

Weather continues to play an important role in creating conditions that are spurring the activity of spruce and Douglas-fir beetles, as well as other bark beetles, in Colorado. As temperatures and precipitation levels change, so do the defenses within trees. Ongoing drought conditions continue to stress trees across Colorado, leaving them more susceptible to attack by bark beetles. Last year was also warm with above-average temperatures from June through December, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Spurred by these dry, warm conditions, piñon Ips beetle affected about 17,600 acres of piñon-juniper forests across Colorado in 2021, with significant mortality of piñon trees occurring in Delta, Montrose and Mesa counties. Other counties in the state are experiencing pockets of mortality that have increased in recent years.

Roundheaded pine beetle and associated native bark beetles are also thriving during prolonged dry conditions in southwest Colorado. They continue to expand in forests with ponderosa pine in La Plata, Montezuma and Dolores counties, and new infestations were identified in San Miguel County last year during the aerial survey.

Most Widespread Forest Pest

The aerial survey also revealed that western spruce budworm continues to affect more acres of forest than any other pest and is Colorado's most widespread forest defoliator. The budworm affected about 91,500 acres of forests statewide last year, with the most intense infestations in south-central Colorado. Saguache, Gunnison, Chaffee, Park, Teller and Fremont counties were among the most affected by the budworm in 2021. Over several years, defoliation from western spruce budworm may weaken a tree to the point where the Douglas-fir beetle and other bark beetles can easily overcome the tree



Photo courtesy of Dan West, CSFS

Roundheaded Pine Beetles in Pitch Tubes

and kill it.

"Years of persistent drought, an indicator of a warming climate, remains a key driver for outbreaks of bark beetles in our forests," said Matt McCombs, State Forester and Director of the Colorado State Forest Service. "Our partnership with the USDA Forest Service on the annual aerial survey offers another great example of shared stewardship in action, noting bugs don't know boundaries. With information from the survey, we can track the health of our forests, which helps focus our efforts where they are needed most."

The aerial detection survey exemplifies the continued support of the USDA Forest Service and Colorado State Forest Service for shared stewardship and the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2019, which establishes a framework for federal and state agencies to work collaboratively to accomplish mutual goals and respond to ecological, natural resource and recreational challenges and concerns for the 24 million acres of forest lands in Colorado. The USDA Forest Service and Colorado State Forest Service will continue to work together to create and maintain healthy, resilient forests in Colorado capable of delivering clean air and water, carbon sequestration, habitat for native fish and wildlife, forest products and outdoor recreation opportunities.

For more results from the 2021 aerial survey, including a map of insect and disease activity in Colorado, please visit csfs.colostate.edu/forest-management/common-forest-insects-diseases/.

To view 2021 Forest Insect and Disease Conditions in the Rocky Mountain Region, visit <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/f94c49f939104e31bb9a6b63f619060d>.

For more information on the insects and diseases of Colorado's forests, and support for landowners seeking to achieve healthier forests, contact your local CSFS field office or visit csfs.colostate.edu.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Colorado Gators Inc., 9187 Pyrite Circle, Mosca, Co, 81146, (719) 580-2306, has filed an application for a Construction Materials (112) Reclamation Permit with the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board under provisions of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Act. The proposed mine is known as Mystic Soil, and is located at or near Section 22, Township 41N, Range 10E, 6th Prime Meridian.

The proposed date of commencement is Summer 2022, and the proposed date of completion is, Fall 2032. The proposed future use of the land is industrial/commercial and rangeland.

Additional information and tentative decision date may be obtained from the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, Colorado 80203, (303) 866-3567, or at the Saguache County Clerk and Recorder's office; 501 4th St. Saguache, CO, 81149, or the above-named applicant. A complete copy of the application is available at the above-named County Clerk and Recorder's office and at the Division's office.

Comments concerning the application and exhibits must be in writing and must be received by the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety by 4:00 p.m., 20 days after the publication of this notice.

Please note that under the provisions of C.R.S. 34-32-101 et seq. Comments related to noise, truck traffic, hours of operation, visual impacts, effects on property values and other social or economic concerns are issues not subject to this Office's jurisdiction. These subjects, and similar ones, are typically addressed by your local governments, rather than the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety or the Mined Land Reclamation Board.

No. 1632 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, April 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2022.

Rhythms on the Rio moves to Del Norte location

Music festival Aug. 5-7 returns after 2-year hiatus

By R. SCOTT RAPPOLD

DELNORTE — Rhythms on the Rio, held annually in South Fork since 2006, is back this summer after a 2-year hiatus.

And this year the event will be just outside Del Norte, a new chapter for the venerable music festival, with three days of music Aug. 5-7.

The COVID outbreak forced the cancellation of the 2020 festival after organizers had sold some 2,000 tickets. Continuing pandemic concerns put a 2021 revival in doubt, and then the land a few miles east of South Fork where it was held was sold for an RV park, leaving festival organizers to wonder if it would ever happen again.

Rhythms on the Rio has evolved from a one-day concert in the parking lot of the Visitor Center in South Fork to a three-day camping festival, attracting music lovers from across Colorado for the family-friendly atmosphere, affordable prices and idyllic mountain setting.

"We were very concerned. We didn't really have a direction as far as another site," said Scott Stecken, president of the South Fork Music Association, founded in 2005 to use the festival's revenue to help connect local children with music instructors and instruments. To date, the organization has donated \$25,000 to San Luis Valley schools for music programs.

"All of us on the board were not too sure what we were going to do and where we were going to go," he said.

Then Kathy Willschau stepped in.

Her family owns 35 acres just across the river from Del Norte, the site of a former sawmill. They offered up the land for the festival, free of charge.

"I think it's going to be fantastic for Del Norte and the area," she said. "It's a great location for that."

Coincidentally, she's never been to the festival.

"But this year I'm going to be there," Willschau said. "I'm going to see this craziness go on."

She added she has no concerns about the impact of a couple of thousand people on the property.

Said Stecken, "It's a great property, heavily wooded and right on the river, so we get to keep the name."

While the South Fork location was usually a self-contained event, Stecken expects concert attendees will spread out to visit local restaurants and attractions, such as the river water park and the nearby trail network. They're encouraging it, delaying the start of music on Saturday so concertgoers can walk into town to enjoy the parade at Covered Wagon Days, another longtime event held the same weekend.

The new site is about 10 acres smaller than in South Fork, so the number of tickets with camping will be limited to 1,600. RV campsites sold out fast, though tickets for car and tent camping remain on sale. A three-day pass with camping is \$160 per person, and children 15 and under are free.

Tickets for Valley residents who don't want to camp will be on sale early this summer at [Rhythms on the Rio](https://rhythmsontherio.com). A price has not been announced.

A dozen musical acts have been

announced, including headliner Railroad Earth, and Stecken expects more to be announced in the coming weeks.

Asked why the festival remains so popular people will buy tickets without knowing who all the bands will be, Stecken said music lovers believe in the brand.

"Our festival is never going to be a festival where you walk in and start getting hit up by corporate sponsorships. Our goal is to put on great music at an affordable price for families and individuals to come and enjoy," he said. "Our lineup is stacked. We could have potentially 10, 12 Grammy winners."

Stecken hopes the festival will become an annual one in Del Norte, and that it will enhance the town's profile and put it on Colorado's musical map.

"Maybe people won't see Del Norte as such a traveling-through town," he said. "Concerts are a place where nobody cares about anything except what's going on in front of them and that's the music. Nobody cares about your political affiliation. Nobody cares about what clothes you have on. It's just the music and I want to see that continue in the future. I want my kids to have that ability. We just want to keep music going."

Other announced acts are the Bluegrass Generals, featuring Andy Hall and Chris Pandolfi of Infamous Stringdusters with a special guest to be announced; the Travelin' McCourys; Hip Abduction; The Texas Gentlemen; Pixie & the Partygrass Boys; Laney Lou & the Bird Dogs; Cole Chaney; The Jauntie; Branjae; and The Smelter Mountain Boys.

Discover the Person You're Meant to Be

Because I was sexually abused by my father throughout my childhood, I believed I was damaged goods and could only have a second-class life. I was so insecure and thought no one could really love me or accept me. I believed my worth was based on what I did; the only time I felt good about myself was when I worked hard and was productive.

But as I became serious about my relationship with God and began studying His Word more diligently, I discovered that my past didn't have to determine who I am or what my future would be like. Learning about God's love for me and who I am in Christ changed everything!

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) says, "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" And John 10:10 says Jesus came that we "may have life, and have it to the full."

If you have a poor self-image, you won't be able to fulfill God's plans or enjoy your life. Because you can't live with His peace and know your true value to Him if you are insecure and have a low opinion of yourself.

Discovering who we are in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) is the key to becoming who God created us to be and making a difference in this world. It's the key to really understanding the truth that the less we think about ourselves, the happier we will be.

Die to Self and Find a Life Worth Living

I remember when God dealt with me about my selfish, self-centered, "What about me?!" attitude. He spoke to my heart one day and said, "You're selfish. You've studied My Word about spiritual warfare, healing, having power and authority as a believer in Christ...but how much time have you studied about My love?"

It made me realize I would never be happy and have peace until I learned to love like Jesus loves.

When we know and experience God's love, we can share it with others. Imagine what the world would be like if everyone who calls themselves a Christian would really love each other with His love. Think about it: There would be no gossip, no judgment or criticism, no exclusive attitudes that make others feel rejected, and people's needs would be met much more than they are.

The truth is serving others is God's ultimate plan for our lives. And Jesus gave us very real, practical examples of how to love others like He loves us by serving them.

Loving Others "to the Highest Degree"

John 13:1 says Jesus "loved them... to the highest degree" (AMPC). In the following verses, He demonstrates what it means to love others like this.

In those days, there were servants who washed people's feet when they came to visit. It's likely they were considered the lowliest servants in the household. Now Jesus, the Son of God Himself, got up from supper, took the servant's towel, and proceeded to wash the disciples' feet. His message to them was to love one another by being a servant, because God wants His love to flow through us and touch other people's lives.

Love is not just a feeling or a theory; it's a decision we make and an action we take. It's so important for us to study what the Bible teaches about God's love so we can learn to love like Jesus—to be a servant who "washes feet" by helping others.

Loving Others Like Jesus Loves

Matthew 7:12 (NIV) says, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you..." Showing God's love means investing in the lives of others by giving them support, encouraging them, helping to meet their needs as we're able to do so.

It's easy to want to help people you like or those you want to impress, but



when it comes to doing something for someone you don't know or even your family, it can be a different story. We have to realize we're naturally selfish, and we must make a conscious decision to think of others on purpose or we'll miss many opportunities to serve them.

I want to encourage you to read John 13 and pay close attention to what Jesus did and what He said. Spend some time studying scriptures about God's love and pray for Him to show you ways you can serve the people in your life. You'll probably find it's easier and more simple than you thought it would be to help make someone's life better.

God wants us to enjoy our lives, and the key is to die to self, get over being the center of our world, and focus on helping someone every day. When you do this, you'll discover you're actually more secure, content, peaceful and happy than you've ever been in your life!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's teaching resource *Knowing Who You Are in Christ*. 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.

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

ASU awards writing scholarships to local high school students

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University English, Communication and Media (ECM) Department celebrated the winners of the first High School Writing Contest alongside Capstone Creative Writing Major Shawn Vasquez on Tuesday, April 19, at the Xperimental Theater on the Adams State campus. Students were expected to be joined

by Pueblo, Colorado Poet and Educator Juan Morales, who was expected to read from his book “The Handyman’s Guide to the Apocalypse: Poems,” among others. Morales is also the publisher and editor of the literary journal Pilgrimage.

Contest winners were:
 • Grand Prize, Mayra Cristobal — Alamosa High Schools — Creative Nonfiction — “The Unique San Luis

Valley”
 • First Prize, Aden Howell — Del Norte High School — Poem — “A Sorrowful Ghazal”
 • Second Prize, Keaton Gregg — Monte Vista High School — Poem — “Fair”
 • Third Prize, Lexi Maez — Antonito High School — Fiction — “Anger”
 Winners receive a scholarship to

Adams State University, publication in the school literary journal The Sandhill Review, and an opportunity to read their work on Tuesday night. Writing was judged by EMC faculty and ASU creative writing students.

“We wanted to give our Valley students an opportunity to not only share their voices but to also join other ASU and Valley students in celebrating the resilience of the past two years,” Michelle LeBlanc, English and Creative Writing Instructor and contest organizer, said. “Support came from all corners of campus to welcome these young people into the literary world.”

The event was open to family and friends as well as the public. Light refreshments will be served.
 The contest was announced last fall and gave students an option to submit their fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, literary analysis, and digital visual narrative on the themes of resilience and the unique San Luis Valley. Supporters of the event include the Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Associated Students and Faculty Campus Impact Fund, Pen & Inkwell Writing Guild, and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.
 For more information, contact LeBlanc at mleblanc@adams.edu.

Tu Casa adds SANE Program

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

ALAMOSA — Tu Casa, Inc. is proud to announce the addition of the Tu Casa SANE Program. This year, Tu Casa, Inc. was given the opportunity to house the adult SANE services for the entire San Luis Valley.

SANE stands for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner and its purpose is to provide medical exams and DNA evidence collection for survivors-victims of sexual assault. Anyone who provides SANE services must obtain and maintain a special certification.

Tu Casa, Inc. accepted the opportunity knowing that without these vital services anyone who experienced a sexual assault or sexual abuse would have to be referred to Pueblo or Salida. These additional services were a welcomed addition to the continued services provided within the existing pediatric SANE program that was part of the Children’s Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley (SLV CAC).

There is currently one nurse, Sarah Herrera, who is available to perform exams at all times, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tu Casa, Inc. is so proud to have Herrera on its team. She is a compassionate provider who wants the people she examines to feel safe, supported, and heard.

The program recently welcomed Dr. Patrick Thompson as well. Dr. Thompson

will lend his medical expertise as needed or requested. Dr. Thompson will serve as the medical advisor to the program and oversee any orders required for care. He will also participate in peer review for quality assurance.

The program provides exams to acutely assaulted victims of sexual abuse as well as “wellness exams” for children with a history of sexual abuse. Acute exams are scheduled within 96 hours of an assault, while wellness exams are scheduled around forensic interviews, family advocacy, and the convenience of the family.

Wellness exams are a valuable service because research has shown that there are physiological benefits to a child who hears from a medical professional that there is nothing physically wrong with their body.

This program relies heavily on the support of local law enforcement not only to refer people, but to assist with security as needed. Wellness exams are offered to every child who is referred to the SLV CAC regardless of if there is a disclosure of sexual abuse.

The SLV CAC first started providing sexual assault exams in 2014, primarily to children (0- 17) and adults with disabilities. In June of 2021, Tu Casa, Inc. started offering services for adult survivors/victims as well and has provided 10 adult SANE exams.

All pediatric SANE exams require referrals from law enforcement agencies and or the Department of Human Services. Adult SANE exams do not require a referral from anyone.

Anyone who has experienced a sexual assault can call the hotline and request the service. The services of the SANE program are one part of an integrated system that involves other agencies (i.e.: law enforcement, child welfare, the San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group, The SLV Immigrant Resource Center, and the District Attorney’s Office) to provide a multidisciplinary approach to care and investigation.

A focus on the health and wellness of the victim is the number one priority for the Tu Casa, Inc. SANE Program. Tu Casa, Inc. offers a 24/7 hotline, 719-589-2465. An advocate will answer and reach out to the necessary resources in the event of sexual assault or child sexual abuse.

Tu Casa, Inc. is here to serve people who have experienced sexual assault and child sexual abuse. All services offered at Tu Casa, Inc. are free to anyone who has experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, stalking, and human trafficking. If you are a nurse and have an interest in becoming a certified SANE, contact Theresa Ortega at 719-589-2465.

Adams State Career Fair is April 28-29

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

ALAMOSA — Spruce up your resume and attend the free two-day Adams State Career Fair and Hiring Event from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 28 and Friday, April 29, in the Plachy Hall Field House.

Adams State University provides a wide spectrum of career and employment opportunities. Positions currently available include professors of performing arts, business, sciences, and education.

Start your dream career in administration at Adams State in business and finance, grant management, admissions, student life, Upward Bound, or student support services. Classified positions include custodial and bus drivers.

Hosted by the Adams State Office of Alumni Relations, the focus on Thursday, April 28, will be strictly Adams State departments and day

two will include Adams State along with partner businesses looking to hire.

Now is the opportunity to learn about and apply for a position at one of the San Luis Valley’s most highly regarded employers. Great health insurance benefits, vacation and sick days that accumulate monthly, and a professional atmosphere with personal connections make the University an ideal institution to begin your professional career or share your experience and expertise. Anyone seeking a career change or new opportunities throughout the community is invited to attend. Proper business attire is recommended along with up-to-date resumes.

For more information or to register, contact visit adams.edu/alumni.

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Interactive Services: ADT Command Interactive Solutions Services (“ADT Command”) helps you manage your home environment and family lifestyle. Requires purchase of an ADT alarm system with 36-month monitoring contract ranging from \$45.99-\$59.99/mo. with QSP (24-month monitoring contract in California, total fees ranging \$1,103.76-\$1,439.76), enrollment in ADT EasyPay, and a compatible device with Internet and email access. These interactive services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Command equipment. All ADT Command services are not available with all interactive service levels. All ADT Command services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the interactive service features you desire.

General: Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. System remains property of ADT. Local permit fees may be required. Prices and offers subject to change and may vary by market. Additional taxes and fees may apply. Satisfactory credit required. A security deposit may be required. Simulated screen images and photos are for illustrative purposes only.

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DF-CD-NP-G421

SLV Housing Coalition presents housing survey results to URGED

By LYNSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — The Upper Rio Grande Economic Development meeting was held at the Windsor Hotel in Del Norte on April 12. The keynote speaker was Dawn Melgares, Executive Director at San Luis Valley Housing Coalition.

Melgares gave a brief presentation on the 2020-21 housing study that was done for the entire San Luis Valley and gave some insight into what the coalition plans to do based on the study.

Melgares said that the housing coalition has a broader view of the housing needs in the San Luis Valley and will be working with communities throughout the region on five-year plans to address the lack of affordable housing.

“When I looked at the data we have collected so far, I actually had to take a moment because it was so much worse than what we first imagined,” she said. “We have an idea of what will work moving forward but it will have to be through several partnerships to make it work for each community and the region as a whole.”

Focusing on Rio Grande County, Melgares said that on average each community, including South Fork, Del Norte and Monte Vista, would have to increase housing by a significant amount in the recommended five-year period to meet the needs of each community. Melgares explained that for instance, Del Norte would need to expand housing by 60 to 65 homes that would sell for less than \$200,000 by 2027 to meet the need in the community. “The total homes needed in the San Luis Valley is 1,885 in order to meet the current need with each community meeting specific attainable goals in a recommended five-year period,” Melgares said.

Melgares said that the surge of second-home buyers flooding the market in 2020 played a major role in why prices have skyrocketed in the last two years. The average home in Rio Grande County is selling for \$615,000 which is an exponential increase from previous years, Melgares said.

“Rio Grande County makes up 24 percent of housing in the Valley and 25 percent of the jobs available here,” she said. “The high number of second-home buyers coming to the area in recent years is taking available housing away from local buyers and driving the costs of the housing market up. In order



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Executive Director for the San Luis Valley Housing Coalition, Dawn Melgares, gave a presentation during the Upper Rio Grande Economic Development meeting on Tuesday, highlighting the housing needs throughout the San Luis Valley and the plans of what the organization will be working on moving forward.

for it to level out, the material costs of construction would also need to level out in order for the market to level out.

“Our strength lies in our ability and willingness to form partnerships with key organizations throughout the San Luis Valley. Our next step once the housing study is complete is to meet with local officials, commissioners, and other entities to begin to create individual community plans as well as one for the San Luis Valley as a region,” Melgares said.

As of right now, there are nine projects in the works to create housing in several communities, including Alamosa with the Boyd School rehabilitation, Rancho Creede in Mineral County, and the old Underwood School in Del Norte. These projects will create additional affordable housing for these communities, but more is needed, she said.

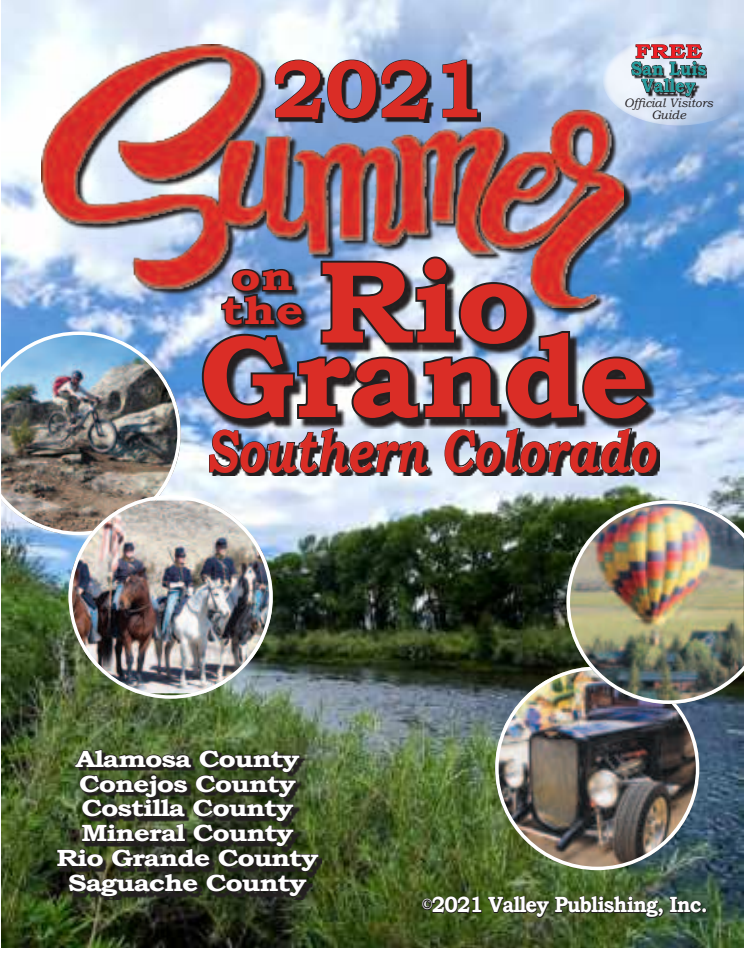
Melgares said that grant funding opportunities are growing, and more resources are coming available every day.

“Being a non-profit we can be so much more flexible with first-time home buyers who are willing to look at homes that have been deserted or need a lot of work,” Melgares said. “Our programs are being funded through several grants and the money is here, we just need a plan of where to start.”

The housing study and more information are available on the San Luis Valley Housing Coalition website at www.slvhc.com.

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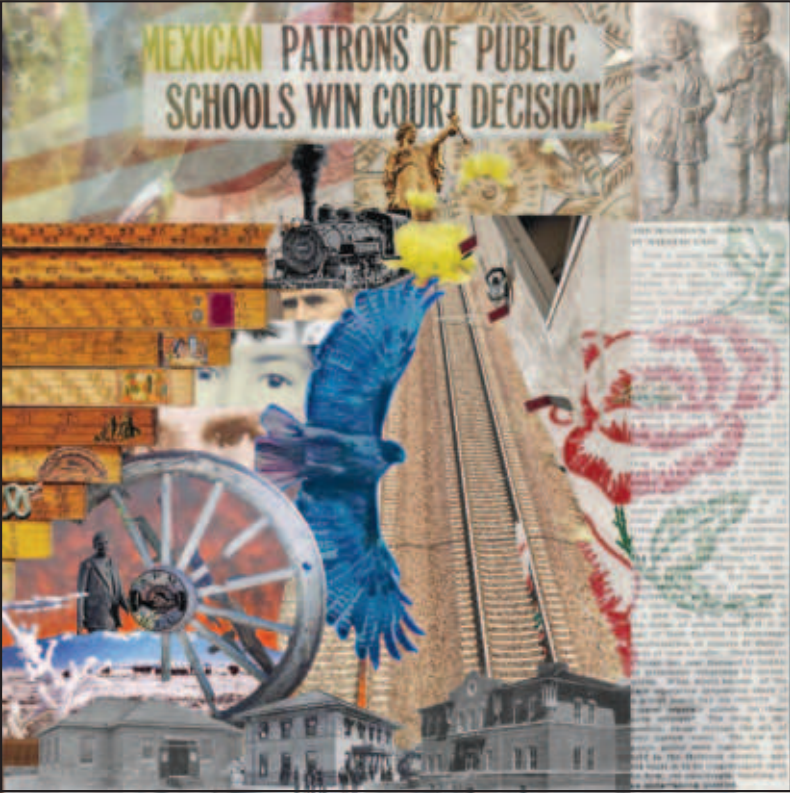
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Maestas Case tribute tour at State Capitol

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

DENVER — The Maestas Case Commemoration Committee unveils Cruzando Los Traques (Vias) (Crossing the Tracks) at 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, on the ground floor of the Colorado State Capitol. Colorado Senators Cleave Simpson and Robert Rodriguez and Colorado Representatives Donald Valdez

and Alex Valdez will deliver a joint tribute in chambers.

The traveling art history exhibit honors the Maestas Case, believed to be America's first successful Hispanic education desegregation lawsuit taking place in Alamosa from 1912 to 1914.

A one-of-a-kind statue and digital **Please see MAESTAS on Page 8**

Adams State alumna Rebecca Junge Reimagines the Classroom – and realizes a \$25,000 Milken Educator Award

STAFF REPORT

SANTA MONICA, CALIF. — It's an escape room! It's a circus! It's a polling place! Actually, it's Rebecca Junge's fourth grade classroom. At Journey Elementary School in the Natrona County School District, Wyoming, Junge (pronounced "Young") has set new expectations for lesson plans that capture the attention and creativity of her students.

Examples include translating their favorite games like "Super Mario" and "Among Us" into practical skills. Junge, Adams State University Class of 2016, received a Milken Educator Award for broadening her students' horizons.

The national recognition includes an unrestricted \$25,000 cash prize. Junge will join a national network of more than 2,800 Milken Educator Award recipients across the U.S. She is among more than 60 educators coast-to-coast who will receive the Award during the 2021-22 school year.

Hailed as the "Oscars of Teaching," Milken Educator Awards inspire and uplift with the unique stories of educators making a profound difference for students, colleagues and communities. The Awards are not designated for lifetime achievement. Recipients are heralded while early



to mid-career for what they have achieved — and for the promise of what they will accomplish given the resources and opportunities inherent in the Award.

The first Milken Educator Awards were presented by the Milken Family Foundation in 1987. The awards provide public recognition and individual financial rewards of \$25,000 to elementary and secondary school teachers, principals and

specialists from around the country who are furthering excellence in education.

Recipients are heralded in early to mid-career for what they have achieved and for the promise of what they will accomplish. The initiative was created by the Milken Family Foundation, which celebrates 40 years of elevating education in America and around the world. Learn more at MFF.org.

Anticipating an E-bike Film at Future Mountain Film Tours

I had the pleasure of attending the Mountain Film Tour at the Vali 3 Theater in Monte Vista last weekend. It was a well-organized, well-attended event that inspired me, just as our host, Fred Bunch, predicted it probably would. OK the turtle film *Snowy* didn't really provide any inspiration, but it was professionally produced, and it was, in fact, very entertaining.

The film *Why I Ride* was a short, really fun story about a young woman that had just taken up dirt bike riding. She joked about how terrible of a rider she was. She still had trouble even starting her bike! But she was committed to her new passion. This made me think of current trends in outdoor recreation and how there are so many more folks trying new outdoor activities. Stand up paddle boarding has boomed in the last few years and E-bikes are growing in popularity as a way to explore the outdoors, not just to commute.

Back to the films. I'm not reviewing, I'm just asserting how they apply to me. I found the film *Eric*

and *the Bees* inspiring as Eric talked about his path transitioning from a full-time soldier into civilian life. How he helps others is to be highly commended.

Also inspiring were *Motherload* and *You and That Thing You Love*. How can they not be when you see people thriving in spite of serious events such as death of loved ones and blindness that drastically altered their lives?

The sustainability of the Antarctic communities was inspiring in *A very Short Guide to Union Glacier Camp* and it made me think of how low impact living can be accomplished if we just create the infrastructure for it.

And of course, *One Star Reviews: National Parks* and the mountain biking film *Sibling Rivalry* were a complete hoot.

As many of you know, mountain biking is a passion of mine and watching *Born From Junk* was simply wonderful. It featured a few of the mountain-biking-as-we-know-it pioneers from the 1970's and 80's

Land, Water and People

BY GREGG GOODLAND

Crested Butte and the steps they took to have some fun that eventually served to shape the course of the industry.

The Pearl Pass Tour began in 1976 on equipment that we wouldn't dream of riding up there today. A couple years later, a group of mountain bike pioneers from California trekked all the way to Crested Butte to join the fun and test their newly designed bikes. I don't remember if they mentioned who "won the race" or if it even was a race. I do know that it was a pretty good party. But the idea of mountain biking had taken hold and with today's valuation of the global industry at 7.4 billion US dollars in 2018 and rapidly growing, I'd say the party is still going. Now THAT is inspiration!

The day after attending the Mountain Film Tour, I was out riding my bike and ran into someone on an E-bike, the

newest party to be taking the nation and world by storm. This rapidly growing industry is evolving with fast advancing technology that is hard to keep up with. My prediction is that it will keep evolving, just as mountain biking has over the past 40 years. With industry growth and technology advances, we can expect to see some changes in how folks will operate their equipment, especially on public lands.

The Forest Service recently issued new guidance on E-bikes that defines them as their own class of motorized vehicles. Also referred to as an electric mountain bike (eMTB), they are a type of motor vehicle with two or three wheels, fully operable pedals, and an electric motor of not more than 750 watts. E-bikes are allowed on all Forest Service roads and trails that are already open to motorized vehicles. Basically, if the road or trail is open to motorized vehicles,

an E-bike can ride there.

E-bikes provide yet another option for users to visit the national forest. Like all user of the forests, they too have an obligation to use the forest responsibly. Knowing where their equipment is allowed is as simple as checking the Motor Vehicle Use Map of the Ranger District that you will be riding on.

While e-bikes may make the ride less strenuous or take you further, a regular old pedal bike can still provide lots of fun on the trails like the bikers from Crested Butte or the siblings from *Sibling Rivalry* where a brother and sister were constantly battling to top one another through awesome mountain terrain. I won't be surprised to see a similar film about E-bikes in the coming years. In fact, I'll look forward to it.

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

Spring AGRICULTURE in the San Luis Valley Inside Today's SLV Lifestyles!

Adams State University receives Attainment Network planning grant

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The Attainment Network is excited to announce the next round of investments in partners and communities to support the development of career-connected pathways.

The Attainment Network funding includes a \$25,000 planning grant to Adams State University, in partnership with school districts in the San Luis Valley.

The planning grant includes technical assistance to develop healthcare pathway programs

serving rural communities in southern Colorado.

According to Renae Haslett, director of special projects for Adams State Extended Studies, the planning grant will explore ways to expand opportunities for local high school students who plan to pursue careers in the healthcare industry.

“Adams State will work with Valley school districts with the vision to develop a plan for a fully functional program by year’s end,” Haslett said.

The Attainment Network,

originally the Denver Education Attainment Network, connects partners and drives collaboration to build education to workforce systems that support every learner on their path to earning family-living wage employment and economic opportunities.

Founded in 2014, the network mobilizes K-12, postsecondary institutions, state agencies, local municipalities, nonprofit, private sector partners, and learners to ignite and accelerate systems change.

Colorado Congreso de Acequias is May 21

SAN LUIS — The Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association’s 10th Annual Colorado Congreso de Acequias is on Saturday, May 21.

Acequia irrigators and their families are encouraged to attend but all are welcome.

Congreso will be held in San Luis at Centennial School in San

Luis from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will include coffee, snacks, and lunch.

The event is free to attend, and activities will be provided for children over 3 years of age.

The event will focus on land water rights opportunities for today and engaging the next generation.

An election will be held for the

Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association Board of Directors during lunch.

Organizers are asking people with digitized historic or sentimental photos of land, family or community, send them to sangredecristo-acequia@gmail.com to be shown during Congreso.

MAESTAS

Continued from Page 1

video display honoring the judge’s historic desegregation decision will remain at the Capitol for the remainder of the legislative session before traveling to other Colorado and New Mexico locations.

The exhibit tour culminates with a celebratory event honoring the Maestas Case in Alamosa on Oct. 8.

The Maestas Case Committee is forging awareness of this important time and experience in American history, tied deeply to the regionalism of southern Colorado’s Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area.

Better known as home to Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, the San Luis Valley includes Colorado’s oldest towns, water rights, and Hispanic pastoral communities, whose cultures date back centuries to origins in New Mexico’s adjoining Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area.

Alamosa (Spanish for Cottonwood), the largest town in the San Luis Valley, is tucked away in the trees that line the Rio Grande. Founded as a railroad town two years after the State of Colorado was formed, it was here in 1912

that Hispanic community members came together to fight separation of schools based on race.

After failed attempts including petitions, unions, resolutions, contacting the Colorado State Superintendent and an educational boycott, Francisco Maestas sued the Alamosa School Board in 1913 on behalf of his young son, Miguel, who crossed the busy railroad tracks twice daily to attend the “Mexican School” across town, passing the “White School” on his way.

In a lengthy trial, prosecuting attorney Raymond Sullivan contended racial prejudice was a driving force behind the school’s segregation efforts. The Colorado Constitution prohibited discrimination based on race, and therefore, Sullivan argued, the district could not deny Miguel access to the other school because of his race.

The school district argued that the Hispano students were Caucasian and therefore the district was not discriminating based on race. Instead, they said, students were put in a separate school to support an English language deficiency.

Raymond Sullivan proved them

wrong when he put students on the stand, and they answered questions in English. District Court Judge Charles Holbrook ruled in favor of Francisco Maestas.

“In the opinion of the court ... the only way to destroy this feeling of discontent and bitterness which has recently grown up, is to allow all children so prepared, to attend the school nearest them,” Holbrook stated in his 1914 decision.

To learn more about the Maestas Case, visit www.Maestascase.org or follow along on Instagram @maestascase.

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Sexual Assault Awareness: Building Safe Spaces together

BY JENNIFER HANNA

Every 68 seconds, someone is sexually assaulted in the United States, and every 9 minutes, the person who experiences the assault is a child (Rape Abuse and Incest National Network).

Take a moment to digest these numbers; this means just in the US, over one minute of every single day a person over the age of 18 is sexually violated, and more than 6 children every hour experience sexual violence.

With the staggering statistics, it's safe to conclude that everyone has someone in their life who has experienced sexual violence.

Unfortunately, the experience is often more complex than a one-time horrific isolated incident, demonstrated in findings such as, "girls who have been sexually abused are more likely to experience additional sexual violence and violence types, and becomes victims of intimate partner violence in adulthood" (Center for Disease Control). And the avenues by which someone can be sexually harassed, assaulted or abused can be anywhere, including online.

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center says, "For too long harassment, cyberbullying, and sexual abuse and exploitation have come to be expected as typical and unavoidable behaviors online."

NSVRC is the nation's largest sexual assault resource, and they encourage us to engage in this year's theme of prevention for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which is Building Safe Online Spaces Together.

"Building Safe Online Spaces Together is possible when we practice digital consent, intervene when we see harmful content and behaviors, and promote online communities that value respect, inclusion, and safety."

Mineral County 4-H invites students to Friday Funday

BY LYNDIE FERRELL

CREEDE — Third to eighth grade students from across Mineral County are invited to attend a Free Friday Funday at the Creede Underground Mining Museum on April 22 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This educational program will be hosted by the Colorado State University San Luis Valley Area Extension office and the Mineral County 4-H Club. The event is designed to introduce all third-eighth grade students to a variety of activities that they can explore on their own or through 4-H. Students do not have to be enrolled in 4-H to participate.

"We have a fun morning of activities planned for the kids and are lucky to be able to do this at the Underground Mining Museum. I'm especially excited for the main event — geocaching. This will be a high-level introduction to GPS and then we will move outside for treasure hunting. Geocaching is a great way to learn about our own beautiful county and to explore new places," said Sunday Cook, Mineral County Program Coordinator for the SLV Area Extension.

Students can do a craft project, a cooking project and have the option to take an audio tour of the Mining Museum.

For more information, contact the Program Coordinator's office at 719-378-4612 or register online at tinyurl.com/4kt3p8f9.

NSVRC says.

Always remember, when considering the impact of trauma, every person reacts differently to experiences and therefore there are no "levels" of victimization (as in, no one type of experience should be considered "more traumatic" than another), and there is no certain "formula" for healing.

If someone tells you they have experienced a violation of sexual consent, allow them the space to have autonomy over their story and their healing, and refer them to a community based Sexual Assault resource such as Tu Casa, Inc. for confidential, free and 24-hour specialized support.

Tu Casa, Inc. has Advocates who are highly skilled at meeting a client where they are and reflecting and building upon the survivor's strengths, to walk alongside them in their journey towards empowerment.

Tu Casa, Inc. Advocates have both

internal and external resources to offer clients safety physically and emotionally, and to provide the space for survivors to harness their inherent capacity to heal.

"The roots of resilience...are to be found in the sense of being understood by and existing in the mind and heart of a loving, attuned, and self-possessed other," says Diana Fosha, founder of Accelerated Experiential Dynamic Psychotherapy (AEDP).

If you, or someone you know has been impacted by child sexual abuse, sexual violence, or sexual assault you can call Tu Casa, Inc. and the Children's Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley at 719-589-2465 to speak with an Advocate.

If the victim is a child, you must report the abuse to both the Colorado Child Abuse Hotline 844-CO-4KIDS (844-264-5437) and or law enforcement in your local area.

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| ANNOUNCEMENTS
01 TICKETS
02 CARD OF THANKS
03 MEMORIALS
04 LOST & FOUND
05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
06 PERSONALS
EMPLOYMENT
07 HELP WANTED
08 WORK WANTED
09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
FOR RENT
10 APARTMENTS
11 ROOMS
12 HOUSES
13 MOBILE HOMES
14 BUSINESS PROPERTY
15 WANTED TO RENT
16 VACATION
REAL ESTATE
17 REAL ESTATE
18 LOTS & ACREAGE
19 FARM & FARMLAND
20 BUSINESS PROPERTY
21 MOBILE HOMES
22 PROPERTY WANTED | MERCHANDISE
23 LAWN & GARDEN
24 GARAGE SALES
25 AUCTIONS
26 ANTIQUES
27 APPLIANCES
28 HOUSEHOLD GOODS
29 MUSICAL ITEMS
30 ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS
31 HEALTH
32 FUEL & HEATING
33 BUILDING MATERIALS
34 OFFICE EQUIPMENT
35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT
36 MISCELLANEOUS
37 WANTED
38 MACHINERY, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
39 SPORTING GOODS
40 AUTO PARTS
FARMER MARKET
41 FARM EQUIPMENT
42 FEED & SEED
43 FARM PRODUCTS
44 FARM SERVICES | ANIMALS
45 ANIMAL BREEDING
46 PASTURE FOR RENT
47 HORSES & CATTLE
48 PETS & SUPPLIES
49 ANIMAL CARE
50 LIVESTOCK
RECREATIONAL
51 BOATS & EQUIPMENT
52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT
53 TRAILERS
54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S
55 R.V.'S/CAMPERS
R.F.V.'S/CAMPERS
56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
57 INVESTMENTS
TRANSPORTATION
58 MOTORCYCLES
59 VEHICLES WANTED
60 CLASSIC CARS
61 4X4'S
62 VANS
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64 AUTOS FOR SALE
SERVICES
65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
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05 Notices

Saguache County Landfill – Free Landfill Dump Days! 2022 Landfill Dump Days Schedule Friday, April 22nd from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. EXTENDED HOURS on Saturday, April 23rd from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Who Can Participate Saguache County residents can bring most large items, debris, and recyclables to the Saguache County Landfill AT NO CHARGE. **IMPORTANT:** Be ready with valid identification to show proof of residency to cashier (driver's license with picture ID or utility bill); NO ELECTRONICS (computers, monitors, TV's etc.) are accepted at the landfill; APPLIANCES will only be accepted with proof or certification that Freon has been removed; All Burnable, (untreated wood, branches, etc.) Tires*, and Metals must be separated from other debris; **ABSOLUTELY NO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS;** All loads are subject to inspection; All loads must be covered and secured for transport. *CRS 30-20-1408 – Saguache County Residents will be permitted to dump NO MORE than 9 tires per load – ALL COMMERCIAL HAULERS will be charged at the regular per tire rate. **Saguache County Landfill Location, The landfill is located off of County Road 55 on 25125 Kelly Road, Saguache, CO. Telephone: 719-221-1956 Hours:** Sunday and Monday – Closed Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.(4/20) **For information on meetings for**

ALANON NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS AND ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Please visit slvaa.org or call 719-937-5083.

07 Help Wanted

Rio Grande County is looking for a Health Equity Program Specialist who can commit to 40 hours/week. This is a time-limited position through June 30, 2023. This position will involve a wide range of activities to support racial and health equity-focused work, some of which will be rapidly moving and partnership-driven, and other activities that will necessitate attention to detail and strong organizational skills. The main responsibilities will be to provide logistical and materials development support to COVID Response Coordinator. Pay range is \$20.55 - \$21.28. Associate (preferred Bachelor)'s degree in a public health or related field. Experience in community-based program development, grassroots organizing, and knowledge of racial/ethnic minority groups preferred. Must have excellent interpersonal skills and ability to communicate effectively including good group process, facilitation, negotiation and presentation skills. Pre-employment drug screening, including testing for marijuana, will be required. Applications are available online at www.riograndecounty.org, or pick up and submit to Human Resources 925 6th Street, Room 200 Del Norte, CO 81132

Colorado Works Eligibility Technician needed for Rio Grande County Department of Social Services. Re-

quires High School Diploma or GED. Proficient in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. Pre-employment drug screening, including testing for marijuana, will be required. 37.5 hours per week/starting at \$17.98 per hour plus full benefits package included. Application and job description available online at www.riograndecounty.org or pick up and submit to Human Resources 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132 (4/27)

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Cent Oversight Committee. The One Cent Oversight Committee consists of persons residing in the City of Monte Vista who have been appointed by the Monte Vista City Council. One Cent

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Interested applicants please send letter of interest to uvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us or 95 West 1st Street Monte Vista, CO. 81144 no later than April 28, 2022. Please make sure that your letter of interest contains your email address, as this will be a main source of communication. City Council will appoint members at the May 19, 2022 City Council Meeting. (4/20)

RG BANK is now accepting applications for the position of FULL TIME TELLER. The job is primarily in Monte Vista, but work in Alamosa is also required at times. Interested parties can see more and download an application at: <https://rgbank.bank/contact-us/#employment> (4/27)

Help Wanted- Landscaping Top pay/Paid weekly Seasonal with possible year-round employment 40 hours weekly guarantee plus bonus Must have dependable transportation Located in Creede 719-588-0838.

“S Lazy U Trout Club located between Creed and Lake City desires Caretaker for the summer season, serious inquiries only to rocknredfish@yahoo.com” (4/13)TFN

Driveline is Hiring in our area. For more Information visit www.driveline-retail.com (4/27)

Ecodynamics Inc is hiring a pump technician! This includes, but is not limited to, pulling & resetting water well pumps, shop time, cleaning & maintenance. Valid driver license and drug free are non-negotiable requirements. Call 719/852-2662 for more info, prefer drop off of resumes in person at 5492 US Hwy 160 E, east of Monte Vista.(4/27)

12 Houses for Rent
Del Norte Country House 3-bedroom, 2-bath, wood stove, appliances, W/D included. \$1250/Month, 1-year lease. NO PETS! Call Mark at 719-873-1078. (4/20)

23 Lawn and Garden
Sprinkler repair. Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593.

24 Garage Sales
58 Pioneer Road April 22,23 8-2. 3-Cream Cans, Cooler, 2-Come Alongs, Portable air Tank, Patio Set 6 chairs with Glass top table, Metal Seats, several tool boxes, and a 16" McCulloch chainsaw, Duck Decoys, Window Shutters, Tools, Books, antique radio, 4-15 " Tires, 4-17" tires, Irrigation Boots, 16 Gallon Shop Vac, Dishes and other miscellaneous.

32 Fuel & Heating
NEED FIREWOOD? Call Elam at Cozy Glo LLC, 719-480-5047, Delivery Available. (6/22)

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Please read your ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes notify us **IMMEDIATELY**. We will make changes for errors and adjust your credit **but only if we receive notice on the first day the ad is published.** We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper which reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser and not the newspaper is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. All classified advertising must be pre-paid.



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36 Miscellaneous

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Dining Room Furniture by American Drew, Large table 74X45 6 (padded chairs) with 2 14" leaves 2-piece hutch with level glass door 82" Tall x 60" wide doors. Show room condition call (719)580 4400. (5/11)

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43 Farm Products

Attention Farmers and Ranchers:
Seal your leaking livestock tanks, ponds and reservoirs with bentonite. Call 719-580-6652. (5/17)

48 Pets and Supplies

Bunnies for sale, very cute \$15 each OBO, County Rd 16 Antonito call 719-843-0252. (4/27)

50 Livestock

For Sale Non-GMO Feeder Pigs. Call Marvin Yoder 719-849-5252. (5/11)

59 Vehicles Wanted


Wanted to Buy: Used car, good running condition. Must be 8+ years or older. Under 50,000 miles, no wrecks or off road use. Front, AWD, 4WD needed. Any year, make, model, appearance. Call 719-852-5124. (4/20)

65 Professional Services

LICENSED PLUMBER does all types of plumbing repairs and plumbing remodels at reasonable rates. Quick service. Call anytime, available weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (04/27)TFN

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Upper Rio Grande Animal Society

www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org

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Open Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sat. & Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m.
Monday & non-business hours by appointment only
2825 Sherman Ave. • Monte Vista

Visit Our Facebook Page



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



Adam is an American Staffordshire Terrier, about 1 year old, dog friendly! He hasn't met a person, child, or dog that he hasn't liked, and we're currently working on cat testing with. Adam has the sweetest smile and personality, great for anyone or any family!



Xena is a book you cannot judge by her cover! She's going on 3 years old and is a Shepherd chow mix who's just looking for her forever home! Good with other dogs, Xena just needs a moment to express her excitement before calming down to play mode. She's a strong young lady who needs room to burn all that energy, but can't wait to curl up and get her lovins!

Malenko is a 9 and a half year old brindle Staffordshire Terrier with a heart of gold. He did great in his cat tests, loves making new canine friends, and hasn't met a person he doesn't want pets from yet! Mild mannered, yet still very playful, Malenko will make a great addition to any home!



Teddy, another dog friendly love-bug, is a Chocolate Lab going on 5 years. He came to Conour with a recent fracture to his front leg, but that doesn't stop him from enjoying play time and quality walks! Come meet him today so he can steal your heart away!



Copper is almost 3, a Red Nose Pitbull with an amazing smile that will melt your heart. He does well with most dogs, but would be best in a home without cats. Great with older kids (he just doesn't know how big and strong he is), and is a great cuddler! Come down and meet him today!

Please note we are on a first come first serve basis.

All breeds & ages of animals are a "best guess" and are not guaranteed to be accurate. Adoption fee includes: neuter/spay, vaccinations, de-worming and micro-chipping. This ad space donated by Valley Publishing Inc.

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Directions:
Turn east on county road AA north of Moffat then North on county road 61.



<p>Tack</p> <p>Hiser saddle 16" Corriente roping saddle 2 kids saddles 15" saddle Frontier Barrel saddle Horse Driving Harness Saddle pads</p>	<p>Feed</p> <p>1 semi load of good grass hay 3x3 1 load of 3x4 (cow hay) 1 Load of nice Oat hay tested 3x4</p>	<p>Miscellaneous</p> <p>Metal Building Pallet forks Walk behind vibratory compactors Bundles of lumber Evergreen Trees (20) New containers of various oils Oxy Acetylene torch with bottles Shop air compressor Gas engine air compressor Cherry picker hoist Welder Table saw Stihl and Husqvarna chain saws Ladders Wood Laminate flooring 250 gallon polly tank Ford puck system 5" wheel B&W 5" wheel hitch Axles and springs Snow plow Aluminum semi headache rack Lots of used gates and railroad ties Trailer load of plumbing supplies (new) Lots and lots of other items</p>	<p>TWO AUCTION RINGS!</p> <p>Equipment & Trailers</p> <p>John Deere 690B Excavator (rebuilt engine) John Deere 4450 John Deere 4020 with loader John Deere 8630 all-wheel drive articulating tractor all new tires John Deere G Model new OH John Deere B Gehl 6640 Skid Loader (nice) Earthforce 4x4 Backhoe Cub Cadet Original lawn tractor (1961 or 62) Terramite Tractor loader Backhoe Light plant/Generator (diesel) Myers v-ditcher Semi-trailer for storage Caterpillar 22 Tractor(good undercarriage gas) Kubota tractor International Disk Claus 2500 disk Great unit 4 bottom John Deere Plow 6 Bottom John Deere plow (needs work) 2 Navigator 3 point guidance Hitches 2 18.4x46 jd tires rims good 2 380/90r50 jd tires rims good Pull type scraper 1441 New Holland Discbine Rhino RC 456 rake Clark Motor Grader 1978 Mack superliner Dump Truck 1985 GMC Mini pumper 4x4 fire truck Massey 1155 needs work International 966 Kuhn FC 303 RGL mower 6180 Massey Tractor with Loader (2800HR) New Holland 216 Rake 580 New Holland Baler 8630 Ford Tractor with Loader 1200kv 480 3phase generator</p>
<p>ATV/Lawn and Garden</p> <p>Ez-go golf cart Electric with new batteries and controllboard (very nice) 2000 Koyker side by side Troybuilt 46" riding lawnmower like new Several lawn mowers riding and push some good some for parts Like new craftsman snow blower Shovels Axes 4 wheelers Roto tiller Husqvarna rolling string trimmers Weed eaters electric and gas Several small trailers with title</p> <p>Routers Skill saws Handtools and tool boxes Furniture</p>	<p>Reloading/ Outdoors</p> <p>Dillon 450 press Reloading dies Powders Primers Bullets Brass Lots of ammo (various and assorted) Ammo cans Binoculars Camp stoves Tents Sleeping bags Bows Bow cases Clay targets Gun Racks Shooting Bench</p>	<p>Reloading/ Outdoors Cont.</p> <p>Bow cases Clay targets Gun Racks Shooting Bench Lots and lots of fishing tackle Boat with inboard motor Elk Foundation Print matted and framed Hand Made Knives Many many items</p>	<p>Vehicles</p> <p>2006 Dodge 3500 with new flatbed/toolboxes 2006 Ford Explorer</p>

Auctioneer's Note: This is a partial listing! Additional items being consigned daily. Call Brady for any additional information at 719-588-2573.



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Mechanical engineering program on Adams State campus receives federal funding

STAFF REPORT
ALAMOSA — The Colorado State University/Adams State University mechanical engineering program has received federal support. US Senators for Colorado Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper secured \$1.1 million to help launch the new degree.

Matt Nehring, director of the Adams State School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, said the federal funds will primarily be spent on lab renovation and lab equipment in Porter Hall, the Adams State STEM building.

“We have committed to replicating all components of the CSU Mechanical Engineering curriculum so that students on the Adams State campus will have the same educational experiences as their Fort Collins counterparts,” Nehring said.

Christian Puttlitz, head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at CSU, agrees.

“The goal of the program is to replicate the experiential learning mechanical engineering experience that students have on the Fort Collins campus,” Puttlitz said. “At the core of this experience is the world-class labs and equipment

CSU students use and have access to for their engineering projects.”

The federal dollars will ensure the Adams State facilities match the CSU-Fort Collins mechanical engineering labs and equipment and therefore provide an equal academic experience for students at the rural institution.

Starting in Fall 2022, students can enroll in the Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering program on the Adams State campus. The first two years of the program will be taught by Adams State faculty, and the second half, which includes the senior design capstone project, will be taught by CSU faculty in-person on the Alamosa campus. Adams State will also offer an associate’s degree linked to the successful completion of the two years of lower-division courses.

The funding was part of a \$121 million for Colorado projects in the Fiscal Year 2022 omnibus funding bill.

“This investment will help meet the needs of rural students and strengthens the local economy,” Bennet said.

For more information on the CSU/ASU mechanical engineering degree, visit adams.edu/csume.

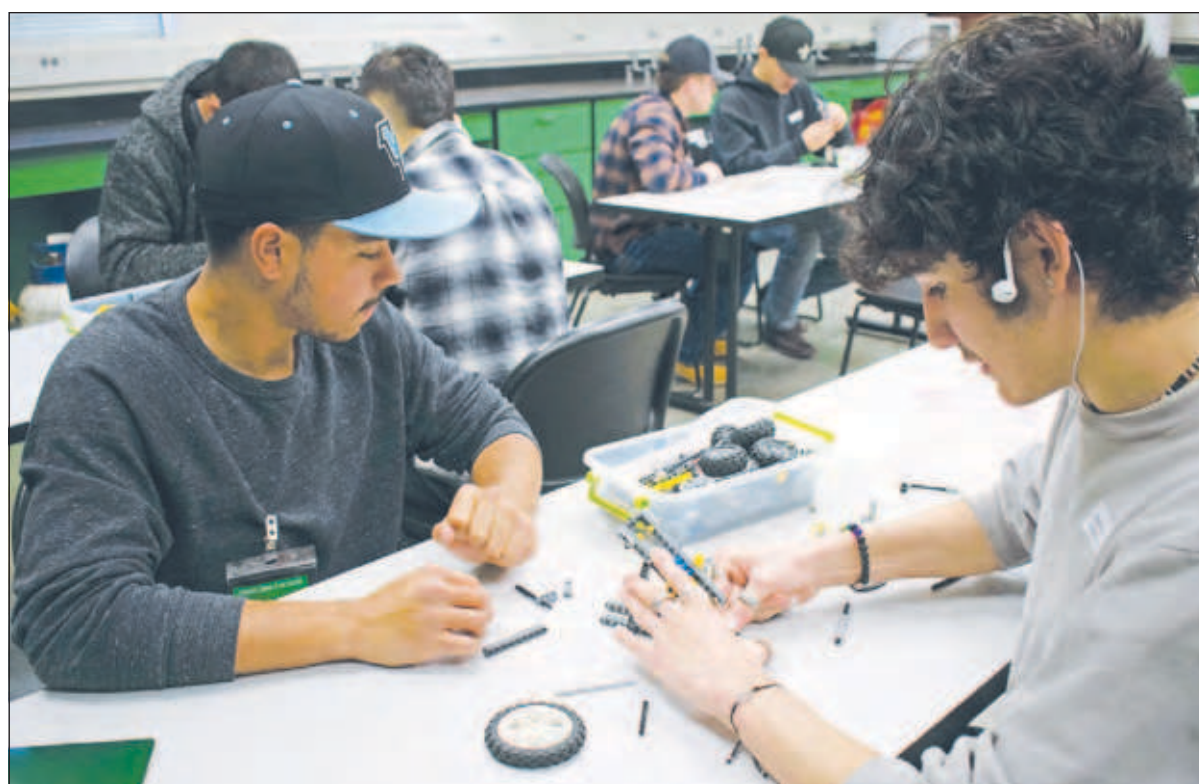


Photo courtesy of Adams State University

Prospective CSU/ASU mechanical engineering students visit the Adams State campus during Discover Day on March 5. The program recently received federal funding.

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Loud cheer
 5. Defensive nuclear weapon (abbr.)
 8. Type of cell
 11. Oblong pulpits
 13. Pitching statistic
 14. Uncommon
 15. Liabilities
 16. Thin, straight bar
 17. Oh goodness!
 18. Competitions
 20. __ Jima, WW II battlefield
 21. Professional assn. (abbr.)
 22. Italian mountain range
 25. Taking possession of
 30. Used in cooking and medicine
 31. Water (French)
 32. Parent a child
 33. Sun-dried brick
 38. One point south of due east
 41. Female fashion accessory
 43. A way of making a copy of
 45. A way to debilitate
 47. Wings
 49. Social insect
 50. Dull brown fabrics
 55. Indian musical pattern
 56. N. England university
 57. Portable stands for coffins
 59. Iranian district
 60. Envision
 61. Passerine bird genus
 62. Container

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11			12			13			14		
15						16			17		
	18				19		20			21	
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32									33	34	35
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		45	46								
47	48					49			50	51	52
55						56			57		58
59						60			61		
62						63				64	

63. Falter
64. Tunisian city
28. Midway between east and southeast
29. Et __: indicates further
34. Insecticide
35. Luke Skywalker’s mentor __-Wan
36. Cast out
37. Breakfast food
39. By reason of
40. One who makes thread
41. Baseball stat
42. Breezed through
44. Frothy mass of bubbles
45. Tony-winning actress Daisy
46. Made of fermented honey and water
47. Member of a Semitic people
48. Monetary unit of the Maldives
51. Run batted in
52. Makes publicly known
53. Disagreement
54. Soluble ribonucleic acid
58. Single-reed instrument

- CLUES DOWN**
1. Cool!
 2. Passover offering
 3. Swedish rock group
 4. Collegiate military organization
 5. Large nests
 6. Beloved baked good
 7. 1980s pop legend
 8. Finger millet
 9. Hillside
 10. Surrender
 12. Midway between south and southeast
 14. Long, narrow strap
 19. Discount
 23. A type of cast
 24. Large, tropical lizard
 25. Half of “Milli Vanilli”
 26. Single
 27. Big truck

Solution to last week’s puzzle

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

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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SOLD



\$658,000 MLS #785486
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April 20, 2022

ASU agribusiness students attend Farm Bureau conference

ALAMOSA— The Adams State University agribusiness students attended the American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference from Feb. 24 through March 1, 2022, in Louisville, Ky. Senior Mattea Klein competed in the collegiate discussion meet. She represented the state of Colorado at the national meet after placing first at the state conference in November.

Sophomore Taylor Lewis served as the social media ambassador for the conference. Adams State Agribusiness Club members Wyatt Barton, president; Chasey Blach, vice president; Christian Santistevan, Katie Dalsaso, and club advisor Zena Buser, Ph.D., professor of business, also attended the national conference.

The club attended group dinners, conference break-out sessions, visited Church Hill Downs, Kentucky horse farms, and job fairs. “As we reflect on our trip, with new experiences and knowledge from the agriculture industry, we strive to develop our future goals in continuing our passion for agriculture,” Lewis said.

The Adams State Agribusiness

Club meets biweekly throughout the academic year. Currently, the club is hosting a drawing for a side of beef and selling hats with the club logo as fundraisers. For more information about the club or the fundraisers contact Barton at 970-520-9679, or email Bartonwc@grizzlies.adams.edu; Lewis at 970-759-8673, or email Lewistl@grizzlies.adams.edu; or Blach 970-630-5566, or email blachr@grizzlies.adams.edu.

“We are always finding ways to promote and expand our small but mighty club around campus and participate in campus activities while, having many of our members doubling as student-athletes, or having full-time jobs,” Lewis added.

Adams State was well represented at the national Farm Bureau conference. Pictured, Agribusiness Club members Wyatt Barton, advisor Zena Buser, Mattea Klein, Taylor Lewis, Chasey Blach, Katie Dalsaso, and Christian Santistevan.

Photo courtesy Adams State University



Colorado Agriculture Commissioner salutes SLV Agriculture

To celebrate National Agricultural Day, Valley Courier News Editor John Waters reached out to Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture Kate Greenberg and asked her to share her thoughts on agriculture in Colorado and the San Luis Valley.

Kate Greenberg was appointed to serve as Colorado’s Commissioner of Agriculture by Governor Jared Polis in December 2018. As Commissioner, Greenberg provides leadership and direction to the Colorado Department of Agriculture and its 300 employees. Commissioner Greenberg has worked in agriculture for more than 12 twelve years, from boots-on-the-ground experience to advocating for family farmers through two federal Farm Bills.

Here is a transcript of what Greenberg has to say that has been edited slightly for brevity and clarity:

For Ag week, we are hosting a number of events to celebrate and uplift the role of agriculture in Colorado. Next week, we will have staff in Denver meeting with legislators. We will be holding a virtual drought panel to address the drought the state is facing. We will celebrate our wine production with a wine tasting. We are also partnering with the ag council for events. We do this kind of work all year and Ag week is a time where we expand the message.

Ag is an essential part of our state, it always has been and it will continue to be in the future. Agriculture is a part of all 64 counties and is an important part of our culture and communities.

Agriculture continues to be a driving force in the economy of Colorado. What our producers, processors and small businesses have done during the pandemic has been remarkable. It has not been easy, but we have stayed open for business since day one.

The San Luis Valley is such a unique region; I was just travelling abroad and got to talk about agriculture in the valley. Potatoes, barley, alfalfa, hemp and quinoa. The innovation that is happening in the valley to keep Ag in business while the valley tangles with the water constraints it is up against.

The San Luis Valley is a leader in so many ways, how to support Ag through times of adaptation. Climate change is driving a lot of changes in our environment; the aquifer and ground water situation and the targets the valley has to meet are all real con-

straints. What I see coming out of the valley is this incredible drive towards innovation and how to keep supporting family ag with less water. That means thinking about new crops, new production, thinking about how you keep the next generation in business and how you do that while thinking about the environment and all of that is being driven in the valley.

We have three big goals at the Department of Agriculture; the first is diversifying and strengthening economic opportunities for Ag; the second is advancing voluntary stewardship, especially solid, water, climate; and the third is supporting the next generation and making sure we are reducing or eliminating barriers for young people to get into Ag, whatever that looks like.

We’re actually looking at how we can bring in supply chain partners and we are recruiting businesses that have sustainability targets and they compensate producers for their stewardship work.

We’ve been building a soil health program and have about \$8 million to pay producers and conservation

districts to advance voluntary soil health work. Our work is to get those consumer dollars back to the producers. That is an emerging market for stewardship.

We are seeing a lot of opportunity for value added higher premium. Hemp is one place where we are trying to expand and diversify market opportunities. It seems limitless what can be done. We have to make sure the market is maturing and becoming a stable place for producers to sell into and there is certainly momentum there.

Cultivating a relationship between Ag and consumers is so important. We operate Colorado Proud brand, our local food promotion program. We have thousands of businesses that are part of that program and use that label that show consumers that they are local farmers and ranchers.

The relationship that we have and can strengthen with each other is really critical to the future of agriculture to producers and consumers. We have food produced here and the beautiful landscape that Ag preserves and we get to know and understand



each other. This is fundamental and we put our money behind our food choices that benefit our Ag and our state.

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What's Up - and Coming With Your Local CSU Extension

BY LARRY BROWN AND MORGAN YOUNG, SLV AREA AGENTS:

SAN LUIS VALLEY— It seems like 2022 barreled in at ninety miles an hour and it hasn't slowed down yet. CSU Extension agents and program coordinators deliver community education that fosters healthy youth and families, prosperous farms, ranches, and businesses, and strong, resilient, proud communities.

Just since the first of the year we had our Ag Conference for producers, Youth Ag Fest for fifth graders, Ag Business Workshop projecting budgets for barley and potato crops, and 4-H steer weigh-in. We had a booth at Crane Fest and we've been signing up 4-H members like crazy. 4-H Enrollment deadline was March 15 and we now have more than 420 members and volunteers enrolled, an increase of almost 30% over last year.

Morgan has started a Clover Buds 4-H group for children ages 5-7. They had their first meeting last week and made bird feeders while discovering the habitats that birds live in and prefer. She has also started training two livestock judging teams as well as coaching 4-H Public Speaking. We have more than twenty 4-H members traveling to participate in two leadership conferences this month. It is time now for our youth to start their project work in earnest. We are anticipating more project exhibits at this year's fair in foods, cake decorating, robotics, leathercraft, rocketry, and more. And it is time for the livestock exhibitors to be selecting their lambs, pigs and goats, all of which will weigh-in and

be tagged May 7th.

Sunday Cook, Jordyn McMaster Neely, Caleigh Payne, and Barbra Macias, our youth program coordinators for Mineral, Rio Grande, Alamosa, and Saguache counties respectively, along with Jennifer Norris our office manager, are step-in-step with Morgan, rebuilding our youth education and leadership. In addition to helping our traditional 4-H members, these coordinators and Morgan are also reaching our youth in schools, and in afterschool programs such as, the Boy's and Girl's Club and the Del Norte Community Center.

In Morgan's future plans for the summer months, she will be creating a youth summer camp for both those who are and are not in 4-H, which focuses on outdoor survival and outdoor recreation. She will also be working with other organizations with Conservation Camp. Morgan will also be helping 4-H members complete their projects through Project Help Days.

On the agriculture front, Larry now has available the most recently developed enterprise budgets for barley and potatoes. With this excel spreadsheet tool, along side last year's actuals, any producer can enter their own, best-guess, projections for this year's crazy fluctuating operating expenses, yields, and prices. With or without Larry's assistance, in your office or mine, you are welcome and encouraged to use this financial management tool.

Larry has also secured two CSU interns for the summer to help run two projects. The first is a "Low Water Use Alternative Crop and Forage" trial in conjunction with the CSU Research

Farm in Center. The

other is a demonstration trial on "Revitalizing Pastures and Controlling Weeds Through Soil Health", in conjunction with our CSU regional range specialist. We will also begin monthly "Rancher Roundtable" meetings on pasture revitalization in April. Also be watching for an announcement on the rescheduling of the Jim Gerrish Grazing Workshop, which will be of interest to not only ranchers, but also to farmers who are growing cover crops and want to implement grazing into their system.

And we are making progress on rebuilding our staff as well. In early April we will be interviewing applicants for a second 4-H agent. This new agent will lead a specialized program called "Juntos 4-H", designed to increase our youth's high school graduation rates and increase participation in post-secondary training and education. We are also hiring a new Family Consumer Science Agent. That job announcement is now open for applications, so if you know someone who would be a good addition to our new team, please encourage them to apply. And finally, we believe we will be able to hire our last two, youth program coordinators for Conejos and Costilla counties by July.

If you have any questions about our educational programs, or about the job opportunities we are creating, please come in for a visit, call 852-7381, or email: Larry Brown, SLV Area Director and Ag Agent, L.Brown@colostate.edu ; and Morgan Young, SLV Area Youth Development and 4-H Agent, Morgan.Young@colostate.edu .

CSU announces new potato breeder for San Luis Valley Research Center

BY MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — According to Colorado State University's San Luis Valley Research Center welcomed a new potato breeder — Jessica Chitwood-Brown.

"We are pleased to have her join the potato research team as the new potato breeder," CSU San Luis Valley Research Center officials stated.

Chitwood-Brown will be working closely with David Holm on the transition of the important and impactful breeding program.

This transition will happen over the next several months. Holm retired after almost 44 years as the head of the potato breeding program at the SLV Research Center.

Chitwood-Brown is formerly a research scientist from the University of Florida and is originally from Arkansas.

Chitwood-Brown earned a doctorate in horticulture from the University of Florida and specializes in implementing molecular tools in a breeding program.

While her focus in Florida was mainly on tomato crops, she stated that she was excited to focus on potato disease resistance, water use efficiency, and the impact of genomics on breeding.

"We wouldn't have civilization in the way that we do without established agriculture. For thousands of years, people have been selecting plants that make better crops to feed and clothe people. Genetics are the underlying cause, the blueprint," stated Chitwood-Brown in an interview by Sarah Ehrlich in the March issue of Potato Grower Magazine.

The SLV Research Center has been searching for a successor to Holm since he announced his decision to retire last year.



Jessica Chitwood-Brown

Keep Your Bovine Feeling Fine

Pain management in cattle

Unlike many animals that vocalize their discomfort, cattle tend to suffer in silence—making it all the more important for an owner to recognize the subtle signs of pain. Whether from age, injury, or illness, early detection of pain is an important step in bringing an animal back to health.

Cattle are like most prey species in that they tend to hide their pain, says Dr. Jenna Funk, a clinical assistant professor & beef cattle veterinarian at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences' Veterinary Education, Research, & Outreach campus.

"When pain reaches the threshold where it starts affecting behavior, one of the first signs will be reduced feed intake," Funk said. "If it hurts to move, they will be reluctant to move. Cattle will also grind their teeth when they are uncomfortable; you can hear it when they grind them hard enough."

If the pain is associated with a single limb, they may limp to reduce the amount of weight placed on that leg. If the source of pain is in the abdomen, cattle may tuck their bellies up by standing with all four feet close together.

Depending on the cause of the pain, there are several options a veterinarian may suggest for treatment. The most common pain management medications are non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), which can come as injections, oral pills, or a pour-on liquid.

"Steroids can also be used for pain management in short-term situations,"

Funk said. "While long-term use of steroids is not recommended because of the negative impacts they can have on the immune system, short courses can be very effective at reducing swelling and relieving pain."

There are also several non-medication options that can help relieve pain in cattle, including acupuncture and chiropractic manipulation by licensed practitioners.

"Pain associated with the feet can often be managed with corrective foot trimming," Funk said. "Making sure that all four feet have proper confirmation (structure and alignment) will allow the animal to evenly distribute their weight and reduce the chances of secondary musculoskeletal injury from favoring a painful or misshapen foot."

To prevent painful injuries from occurring in the first place, owners can commit to low-stress handling techniques, such as using pressure points to move cattle instead of noise and fear.

"Move slow and never surprise cattle. This will reduce the likelihood of cattle running and pushing each other, which can lead to injury," Funk said. "In addition, animals recovering from injury should be kept on solid, surefooted ground and with only a few herd mates to prevent potential re-injury from shoving and pushing."

Maintaining clean and well-lit facilities can also reduce the likelihood of injury.

In addition to the ethical reasons for reducing pain in cattle, owners will likely notice other benefits when herds are kept happy and pain-free.

"Well taken care of animals perform better," Funk said. "Controlling pain will increase production and help make the animal more efficient,

which, in turn, is more profitable for the producer."

Whether owners keep cattle as pets or production animals, reducing pain should be a top priority. By keeping an eye out for subtle behavioral differences, you can help make sure your cattle experience as little pain as possible.

Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University. Stories can be viewed on the web at vet-med.tamu.edu/news/pet-talk. Suggestions for future topics may be directed to editor@cvm.tamu.edu.

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Quinoa continues to be a top rotation crop in the SLV

White Mountain Farm leads the charge

By KEITH R. CERNY

MOSCA— In 1987, White Mountain Farm became the nation's first large-scale Quinoa operation and has since continued to grow some of the best tasting certified organic Quinoa and potatoes. With White Mountain Farm and several other local Quinoa producers, the San Luis Valley could be the nation's largest producer of the ancient grain.

According to White Mountain's website, "The farm has been in the family since the 1930's. In the late 1970's and early 1980's, the main crops were organically grown wheat, alfalfa, and sheep."

In 1984, owners Ernie and Paul New started experimenting with Quinoa and in 1987, White Mountain Farm was incorporated, named after Mount Blanca, and started growing certified organically grown Quinoa and potatoes. Since then, they have added rye and a variety of vegetables to their crop rotation.

Paul New said there is currently a bit of glut in supply of Quinoa in the San Luis Valley and partially blamed the COVID pandemic.

"Food manufacturers are not developing new products right now while they try to keep grocery store shelves stocked with what they're already producing," New said. He

added that they will not be encouraging more growers in the SLV for the next year or so.

New said White Mountain will be growing primarily for seed development the next year or so.

Quinoa is said to be the "Mother Grain of the Incas" and has been grown in the Andes of South America for centuries. Quinoa is a small seed about the size of millet. It is high in protein and is closer to the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) ideal balance for amino acids than any other common cereal grain.

"Quinoa is high in essential amino acids: lysine, methionine, and cysteine, which are particularly important for vegetarian diets and in correcting deficiencies in legume diets," according to the farm's website. "Quinoa is high in calcium, phosphorus, iron, vitamin E and some of the B vitamins. "Colorado-grown Quinoa has a rich, delicate, nutty taste and can be substituted for nearly any grain in almost any recipe."

Quinoa is an annual herb that has been cultivated for thousands of years in the west Andes Mountains of South America. It was a staple food for the ancient Inca Indians and their empire.

Said to be hardy and drought resistant it grows well in the arid climate of the San Luis Valley. Plants bear seeds in a cluster at the top and during the fall the color of the plants can



Courtesy photo

Quinoa plants bear seeds in a cluster at the top and during the fall the color of the plants can range in color from bright oranges to vivid reds and unique purples.

range in color from bright oranges to vivid reds and unique purples.

The seeds are coated with a saponin which has a bitter taste but can be removed by washing in water or

by a dry polishing process. It is recommended to wash the seeds before consumption to remove any saponin dust that may remain on the seeds. Quinoa is quick and easy to prepare and expands about three times when cooked. All White Mountain Farm's Quinoa orders come with free Quinoa recipes.

The farm offers both standard organic Quinoa starting at \$4.99 per

pound plus shipping and organic black quinoa at \$5.99 per pound plus shipping. Larger quantities are available at a discount.

Black Quinoa was developed at White Mountain Farm and uniquely stays crunchy after it has been cooked.

Gift baskets and a unique "Quinoa Quookbook" by Elizar Cross are also available on the website.

Master Irrigators class part of a master plan come to life

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

MONTE VISTA – Leah Clark had had a rough twenty-four hours when she agreed to a conversation about her experience as a participant in the Master Irrigators class sponsored by the Rio Grande Water

Conservation District. She and husband, Peter, had been tending to two calves who had fallen ill - both bull calves, which is a big deal on the 7LDiamond Ranch, specializing in registered Sim Angus cattle bred for seed stock. At that time, they

had lost one calf and the other was at the vet's with only a 50/50 chance of pulling through.

"It's pretty hard, but that's just part of it," she says, with a tired half laugh.

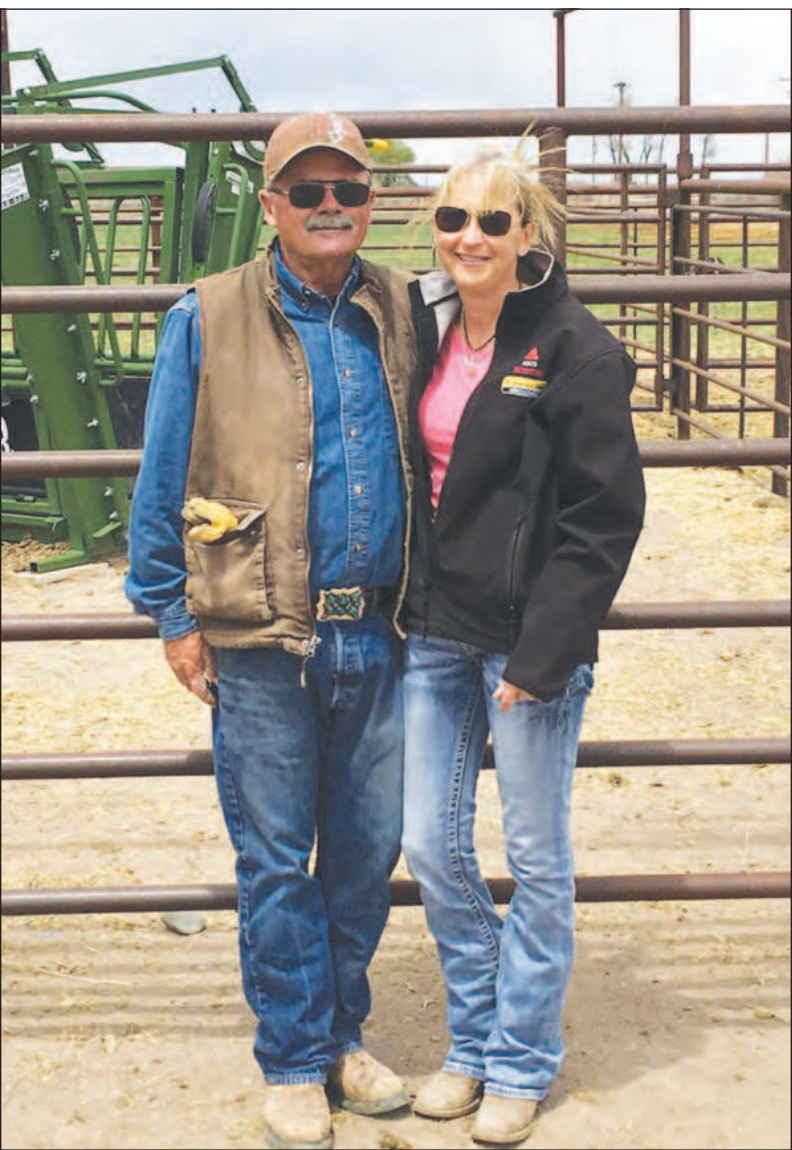
Clark didn't grow up planning to run a cattle ranch. Raised in Arlington, Virginia "about ten minutes from the White House", the idea of raising Sim Angus bulls in the San Luis Valley was...not even an idea. But as a lifelong lover of natural sciences and "being outdoors", the seeds for what would become her life were planted early on.

After getting her degree in biology, Clark got her master's in forestry, which led to an eight-year stretch spent working for the United States Forest Service. It was during that time that she met and married her husband, Peter, and their dream of owning agricultural land one day was formed.

They had the opportunity to move to the San Luis Valley and, after the birth of their son in 1998, the family moved to the area when Peter was hired as supervisor of the Rio Grande National Forest. Within several years, their dream came to fruition when they bought property "with just a sprinkler" and, using their combined knowledge and experience in biology, natural sciences and range management, turned it into what would become the 7LDiamond Ranch.

As she describes her life, Clark has always had a passion for learning, whether it was in homeschooling her son up to the tenth grade or studying the genetics involved in raising high quality seed stock bred for specific characteristics. But it

Please see CLASS on Page 6



Peter and Leah Clark

Courtesy photo



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This San Luis potato farmer tends to his crops.

CPAC: Strong potato prices could be eaten up by war in Ukraine, inflation

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

MONTE VISTA — The 2021 potato season for San Luis Valley was “better than expected,” says James Ehrlich, executive director of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee.

Unfortunately, any gains could be short-lived in 2022 due to the war in Ukraine and inflation.

“Well, as far as last year’s crop goes, we had an average crop,” Ehrlich says, “but it turned out better than we expected. And prices are strong right now. They are better than they were last year because nationally, there is a little bit of a shortage of potatoes.”

A heatwave in the summer of 2021 impacted potato yields in the Pacific Northwest, specifically Washington, Ehrlich said. Washington primarily produces processed potatoes for French fries.

“Their yields were way down,” Ehrlich says. “So, they went out and tried to buy fresh market potatoes in Idaho to fill that void.”

And that created more demand for fresh potatoes from the San Luis Valley.

“It’s all supply-and-demand driven, of course,” Ehrlich says.

While strong prices are welcomed, growers will see those gains go toward increased costs of doing business, Ehrlich says.

The United States Agriculture Department Economic Research Service estimates that nearly all farm input costs — seed, electricity, fertilizer, fuel and oil, repairs and maintenance, labor, interest, and rent — will be higher for the 2021-22 crop year than the previous crop year.

The war in Ukraine has made this situation worse, according to industry analysts.

Russia is a major supplier of fertilizer to countries around the globe. Since the conflict began, fertilizer prices are considerably higher than a year earlier — as much as 167 percent higher in some instances.

“Even though, it’s probably

some of the strongest prices I’ve seen in the 16 years I’ve worked here,” Ehrlich says, “we are not optimistic because of the challenges from the crisis and inflation. It is just going to get eaten up by the rising costs to do business.”

On top of the expected increase in costs, water is always an issue in the Valley. Growers have been making progress in becoming more efficient with water resources, but Mother Nature has not favored the region in recent years. The lack of water could limit future expansion of acreage, Ehrlich says.

“We’re pumping 30% less water than we did in 2000,” he says, but the lack of wet years has slowed efforts to recharge the aquifer.

Look back at 2021

The San Luis Valley has about 150 growers and about 75 farms. The region has 17 potato warehouses and a handful of marketers. The region is the nation’s number two fresh market potato supplier, trailing only Idaho. Potatoes are planted in April or May and harvested between September and November.

Planting went well last spring in the San Luis Valley; however, the region was hit with multiple hail events affecting random fields at different times throughout the summer.

Overall, day temperatures were warmer than average with cool night temperatures, making it ideal for potato production.

Certified seed growers began killing vines in late July and continued through early- to mid-August, limiting the potential spread of virus by late-season aphid flights. By Oct. 20, 2021, all certified seed potato acreage had been harvested in Colorado.

Overall, crop yields hovered around average to slightly below average, depending on potato variety grown and severity of hail

See POTATOES on Page 6

Proximity brews up malt

SAN LUIS VALLEY — When Proximity Malt first revved up the engines on its new malthouse and roaster at the brownfield potato processing plant in Monte Vista in 2017, they had 17 employees and a handful of prospective brewing customers in Colorado. Now, 5 years later, they employ 27 to work at the malthouse in everything from barley receiving to malting and roasting, to packaging, logistics and sales administration. They currently ship over 40 malt and grain products — from Pilsen Rye to Chocolate Wheat and Crystal Rye — to over 150 breweries and distilleries in Colorado alone. Beyond Colorado, their malt can be found in hundreds more breweries and distilleries in dozens of states around the country.

But Proximity’s success isn’t just about the customers. Proximity Malt has been working since Day One to create supply chain resiliency through working closely with local growers, seed companies and international breeders. The San Luis Valley had grown malting barley for brewing for more than 50 years and Proximity chose this location to take advantage of this consistent malting barley supply. The result is a shorter physical supply chain from barley field to malthouse to brewer, which reduces costs and increases reliability. The improvements to malt’s supply chain doesn’t stop there. Proximity Malt has reinvigorated the Valley’s barley future by sourcing and selecting premium grain varieties, and by engaging local growers to ensure the best possible local supply. Working locally also creates innovation in the supply chain from field to glass, bringing the latest improvements to agricultural practices, which reduces negative environmental impacts.

Proximity Malt’s advanced malting and roasting technologies also improve the quality, performance and flavor of malt. By investing in the latest malt roasting technology, including the revolutionary grain roaster, and by building a leadership team with deep experience in procurement, malting and roasting, and market development, Proximity has become a go-to domestic option to the many imported sources of malted grains that previously dominated the craft brewing market.

Proximity Malt works closely with growers to embrace regenerative agricultural practices and to produce varieties of barley and other grains that



Photo courtesy Proximity Malt

Proximity Malt in Monte Vista employs 27 and ships malt to over 150 breweries in Colorado and hundreds more across the country.

are both ideal for craft brewers and distillers, but also beneficial for the soil, and ultimately, the environment.

“We’re really proud of supporting local farmers who are growing the barley and supporting all of the jobs Proximity brought to the San Luis valley, but we’re equally proud of the malt they are providing,” said Steve Breezley, COO of Ska Brewing. “While we have

numerous great suppliers in the industry, Proximity is doing some really fun, unique roasting, as well as supplying us with great base malts.”

Proximity Malt operates malthouses in two locations—Monte Vista, CO and Laurel, DE— making them the first and largest regional malt company dedicated to the unique needs of craft brewing, distilling and culinary businesses.

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Surprising facts about lean beef

MYTH #1: Beef consumption should be limited because it's bad for your heart and raises cholesterol.

FACT: Research consistently shows that a heart-healthy diet and lifestyle including lean beef, even daily, can reduce risk

factors for heart disease. A randomized-controlled trial found that participants who consumed lean beef, as part of a dietary pattern that was rich in fruits and vegetables, low in saturated fat, and included low-fat dairy, experienced a 10% decrease in LDL cholesterol and a moderate decrease in blood pressure, both markers of lower heart disease risk.^{3,4} Another study found that subjects who followed a healthy, higher-protein, weight-loss dietary pattern, combined with physical activity, and consumed lean beef four or more times a week, saw reductions in total cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, triglycerides and systolic and diastolic blood pressure.⁶

In addition, evidence has shown that lean beef consumed in the context of an overall heart-healthy diet pattern rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy maintains blood lipid levels similar to other lean proteins like poultry and fish.⁷ The current body of evidence provides convincing support that eating lean beef, as part of a healthy dietary pattern and lifestyle, can support a strong heart.

MYTH #2: Americans already consume too much protein.

FACT: Although the American diet has evolved over time, Americans have not increased their percentage of calories from protein in 30 years.⁸ On average, Americans (age 2 years and older) consume 5.7 oz from the Protein Foods group each day (meat, poultry, eggs, fish/seafood, nuts, seeds and soy products), which is at a level consistent with the recommendations of the 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs).⁹ Including

high-quality protein, like beef, in a healthy dietary pattern can help Americans meet their protein needs, improve satiety and preserve lean muscle mass.

MYTH #3: Americans consume too much red meat, especially beef.

FACT: On average, Americans consume 1.7 ounces of beef daily, well within the recommended amount of 5.5 ounces from the Protein Foods group per day.^{9,12} The fact is, beef is a natural source of essential nutrients with relatively few calories,¹ which makes it a great lean protein option that Americans can enjoy at any meal.

MYTH #4: Beef is the primary source of fat in the diet.

FACT: Beef contributes approximately five percent of total calories and ten percent or less of saturated fat and total fat to the American diet.¹² Many people are surprised to learn that half of the fatty acids in beef are mono unsaturated - the

same heart-healthy type of fat. found in olive oil.¹ Furthermore, approximately one-third of beef's total saturated fat is stearic acid, which has been shown to be neutral in its effects on blood cholesterol levels in humans.

MYTH #5: It is difficult to find lean cuts of beef in the grocery store.

F A C T :

Thanks to advancements in cattle breeding and feeding, today's beef is leaner than ever as approximately 65 percent of the whole muscle cuts sold through the supermarket meat case are lean when cooked and visible fat is trimmed.^{1,14} In fact, many beef cuts qualify as "lean" including some of the most popular cuts at retail like Top Sirloin, Tenderloin, Strip Steak, Flank Steak and 93% lean ground beef and leaner.

MYTH #6: Beef is difficult and time-consuming to prepare.

FACT: Beef is a nutrition powerhouse that can be easy to prepare by using common ingredients and matching the right cooking method to the right cut. By planning ahead, you can also save time in the kitchen when preparing recipes made with beef. Beef pairs well with other healthful foods like fruits,

vegetables and whole grains, and many cuts of beef are available in the marketplace. Therefore, you have an endless amount of culinary possibilities to create a delicious, satisfying and healthy meal. Find beef recipes for all meal occasions, cooking tips and nutrition information at BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com.

Myth #7: Grass-finished beef is more nutritious than

WHAT DOES 'LEAN' MEAN?

According to USDA, a cut of cooked fresh meat is considered "lean" when it contains less than 10 grams of total fat, 4.5 grams or less of saturated fat and less than 95 mg of cholesterol per 100 grams (3 1/2 oz) and per RACC (Reference Amount Customarily Consumed), which is 85 grams (3 oz).

grain-finished beef.

FACT: The variety of beef choices available to you, including grain-finished and grass-finished, are delicious and nutritious. Most people don't realize that cattle spend the majority of their lives grazing on pasture. On average, over their lifetime, grain-finished cattle consume less than 11% of their diet as grain and close to 90% of their diet as forage (e.g., grass and hay) and other human-inedible plant leftovers (e.g., dried distillers grains).¹⁶ In general, all varieties of beef are equally nutritious as all are a natural source of more than 10 essential nutrients, like protein, iron, zinc and many B vitamins.¹ While grass-finished beef tends to be a little leaner, a number of other variables contribute to leanness, including breed, age, grade and cut.

POTATOES

Continued from Page 5

damage during the summer months.

In 2021, Colorado certified seed potato acreage for sale and grower plant-back was down from 8,504 acres in 2020 to 7,784 in 2021. The 2021 accepted certified acreage after summer field inspections was 7,631 acres.

Over 120 different potato varieties were entered into Colorado's certified seed program last year. Rejections were primarily the result of blackleg, with a few rejections caused by potato virus Y/mosaic and variety mix.

Total potato acreage, both certified and commercial, in the San Luis Valley was 48,265, down from 50,923 acres in 2020.

Mexican market still limited

Ehrlich says Colorado's biggest potato markets include Texas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Arizona.

The state is well-positioned to export to Mexico, and the long-awaited potential expansion of sales to Mexico beyond the 16-mile border zone would be a big boost to

Colorado potato marketers.

Ehrlich is doubtful it will happen in his lifetime, despite, a critical Mexican Supreme Court decision last year that should have allowed U.S. potatoes full access to Mexico. Little has changed since the ruling due to a variety of factors but mainly because Mexico's potato industry continues to oppose it.

"Right now, we can still only ship to the first 16 miles in the border region. That is, it," Ehrlich says.

During the 2020-21 season, Ehrlich said about 9% of the San Luis Valley potato crop was sold to Mexico.

"We had a little bit of success last year," Ehrlich says.

U.S. potato industry estimates that if the United States can export fresh potatoes into the entire country, it would provide a market potential of \$150-\$200 million per year in five years.

Almost a year ago, the United State potato industry was celebrating the Mexican Supreme Court decision. On April 28, 2021, that court ruled 5-0 to overturn a 2017 lower court

decision that prevented the Mexican federal government from implementing regulations to allow for the importation of fresh U.S. potatoes throughout the entire country.

The Mexican government in 2011 agreed to allow U.S. potatoes full access to that country beginning in 2014. However, Mexico's potato industry — the National Confederation of Potato Growers of Mexico (CONPAPA) — sued its government to prevent that from happening and that case ended up before Mexico's Supreme Court.

Ehrlich and others in the U.S. potato industry continue to meet with United State Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack and Congress in Washington, D.C., urging them to keep pressuring Mexico to honor the ruling and stop the roadblocks.

"I think something might happen. But I have also made the comment that I will be dead before we have full access," Ehrlich says.

This article is a condensed version of the article that ran in the Valley Courier on March 18.

CLASS

Continued from Page 4

was not until her son was older that she had the time to pursue learning with the vigor she had had all her life.

One day, Peter - who serves on the board for Subdistrict 6 and is part of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable - told her about the Master Irrigators class, and it was exactly what she had been looking for.

"Water is such a big deal, and I had been picking up bits and pieces from Peter, but I wanted to know the information, myself. The class was a great opportunity to have the whole history of water in the valley presented at one time by people who were so knowledgeable, like David Robbins. He explained it like it was a story, and it was nice to have it all told in one place and put into perspective."

The Colorado Master Irrigator program offers farmers and ranchers advanced training on conservation- and efficiency oriented irrigation management practices and tools. The goal of the program is to provide producers with the knowledge needed to evaluate strategies of

implementing water and energy efficiency methods to facilitate conservation, soil health while maximizing profitability.

Clark also enjoyed the presentations from different entities, like the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District and others. "It helped to see how they're all so different but very interrelated. It gave me a much better understanding of the issues in the valley and how they're being addressed."

Information was made available on state and federal agencies with programs available to farmers and ranchers, and Clark has already taken advantage of programs with Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) and Farm Services. She is also acting on a program offered by the Colorado Energy Office where she has applied for a free energy audit, after which, if accepted, the Clarks will be matched up with NRCS for cost sharing projects to improve efficiency.

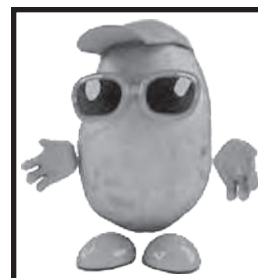
In addition to all the knowledge, Clark was especially appreciative of

the interaction with fellow farmers and ranchers facing the same challenges and searching for different solutions. "There were two days of panels with people from the valley - like Erin Nissen - and they shared their stories. I work full time on the ranch, and it gave me the opportunity to share experiences and ideas with others working in ag that I may not have otherwise had the opportunity to interact with."

Being part of those cohorts, for even just a few days, was of deep significance to Clark both for what she learned and the chance to learn it in the company of others like herself.

Even at the end of a long, grueling and - in some ways - heartbreaking day, Clark is still happy with the life she lives on 7LDiamond Ranch.

"I get to wake up every morning and see Mount Blanca out my window. I get to be outside all day, working with our cattle. I get to watch the elk that come from the refuge and all the waterfowl that come here in the spring and fall. I have everything I've ever wanted."



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Valley efforts aim for better snowpack picture and refined streamflow forecasting

By MATT HILDNER

SAN LUIS VALLEY—San Luis Valley water officials have spent over a decade building on past work to measure snowpack and refine streamflow forecasting. During that span, they've added more measuring devices, a new Doppler radar for the region, and the incorporation of an additional stream forecasting model. The aim of those efforts, which are ongoing, is to improve the accuracy of predicting Rio Grande Compact Delivery requirements.

While accurate streamflow forecasts matter across regions for a variety of reasons, the nature of the Compact gives them added importance in Colorado.

The state has an annual delivery obligation under the Compact that varies according to the yield of streamflows. In wet years, Colorado is required to send more water down the Rio Grande and the Conejos River and its tributaries to New Mexico. In dry years, the state keeps a greater share of the flows.

If forecasts overestimate a wet year and the Colorado Division of Water Resources sets a large curtailment on surface water diversions, irrigators are left watching runoff surge past their headgates during early season high flows. Conversely, if forecasts underestimate flows, water users are curtailed late in the season when water is already limited.

Division Engineer Craig Cotten said his office traditionally used streamflow forecasts from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the National Weather Service. He suspects factors such as fire and beetle kill have impacted the accuracy of the forecasts over the last 15 years.

Since 2001, bark beetles and wildfire have combined to kill hundreds of thousands of acres of trees, especially in the high-elevation parts of the basin that accumulate the largest snowpack.

The effort to diversify the forecasts available to DWR led Valley water officials to the Weather Research and Forecasting Model-Hydrological (WRF-Hydro). Scientists at the

National Center for Atmospheric Research hatched the model in 2002. Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Chair Nathan Coombs said the late Joe Busto, a researcher at the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), helped link valley officials to the scientists who run WRF-Hydro.

Coombs, who also manages the Conejos Water Conservancy District, said the model has the ability to take in a greater range of factors that might influence snowpack and, hence, streamflow. "WRF-Hydro contemplates beetle kill, soil moisture, fires — all of that," he said.

Cotten said if all three forecasts vary widely, settling on one streamflow figure to meet delivery requirements is difficult. If two of the forecasts align and one remains an outlier, his office goes with the former.

"That's been helpful to have different viewpoints, he said.

Local water managers have also worked to increase the data available to forecasting models.

Prior to 2015, local snowpack had been measured by the 17 Snow Telemetry snow gauges, known as SNOTEL sites, and nine snow courses where NRCS and DWR officials take and record measurements by hand.

By 2015, the CWCD and Coombs had added six snow gauges and five stream gauges to increase the local data available to WRF-Hydro.

The CWCD, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District and the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District (SLVWCD) then pushed to add radar to the region. Previously, the basin had been covered by radars in Pueblo and Grand Junction.

With catalyzing support from CWCB and added funding from Alamosa County and the Colorado Department of Transportation, both of which wanted the radar for travel management, the \$1.1 million radar was installed in 2019. The data from the new radar is used by both the National Weather Service and scientists working on the WRF-Hydro model.

SLVWCD Manager Heather Dutton said the new radar, which sits at



Photo By John Waters

In this March 2, photograph of the Blanca Massif, the snowpack is extremely light.

San Luis Valley Regional Airport, provides a fuller picture of storms, especially up the Conejos drainage and the low-laying country in the Rio Grande mainstem. "The radar has helped immensely because it allows us to fill in the holes between the SNOTELs, the snow courses, and the added SNOWLITES," she said.

Efforts to increase the types and amount of data and forecasting accuracy are not limited to local action. Cotten said he just met forecasters and water managers from outside the state, and he's hopeful it could lead to enhanced forecasting for the entire Rio Grande Basin.

In November, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation submitted a report to Congress focused on new snow-measurement technologies that could be deployed over the next five years. The report noted new technologies can aide better water supply forecasts, spur research and development and, in some instances, be used

directly by water managers. In the meantime, water managers in the Valley are looking to increase coverage and density of snowpack measurement data.

The Conejos and SLV conservancy districts plan to add six to eight more SNOLITE gauges, depending on construction costs. While specific sites still need to be nailed down, the south end of the Conejos drainage, the upper Saguache Creek drainage, and areas in the upper Rio Grande above Rio Grande Reservoir and near Snow Mesa are all candidates.

Lastly, water officials across the state are looking for funding for statewide Light Detection and Ranging flights. LiDAR, as the technology is known, uses lasers to measure the topography from the air in the dry

season and to provide a snapshot of snowpack during a subsequent winter or spring flight.

"We need everything," Dutton said. "I don't think that LiDAR is a silver bullet since it only shows snowpack at a point in time, but it's part of the picture."

This article was brought to you by the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable. The roundtable meets the second Tuesday of each month. We are meeting in-person at the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101. Due to Covid we are also offering a Zoom option. We welcome your attendance and encourage checking the Roundtable website at www.rgbrt.org prior to the meeting to ensure you have the correct link.

Tips for safer farming

Tractor accidents, grain entrapment and injuries from ornery livestock are just some of the dangers agricultural workers face every day. In fact, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health says agriculture is one of the most hazardous industries in the United States.

In 2016, the agricultural industry had a rate of 21.4 deaths per 100,000 workers, and each day agricultural workers experienced 100 non-fatal, lost-work-time injuries.

Agricultural dangers are not limited to North America. In Ireland, farm accidents have increased by 13 percent in the last five years and by 31 percent in the last decade, according to a national survey of farm accidents conducted by the Teagasc National Farm Survey. Furthermore, 97 percent of all farm accident victims required medical treatment.

Farms are dangerous places, and while carelessness can and



Courtesy photo

does contribute to many incidents, accidents also take place during routine, seemingly safe activities. These farm safety guidelines can help lower the risk of injuries.

- Know farm equipment. Read and follow all instructions in the equipment operation manuals. In addition, attend local farm safety

workshops to learn more about specific equipment and products.

- Conduct routine safety checks. Look around buildings and grounds for obvious hazards, such as fire hazards and hazardous materials, including farm chemicals that are not stored correctly.

Please see SAFER on Page 8

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INVEST Where YOU EAT

Support our local food producers by “giving” them money

SAN LUIS VALLEY— SOIL Sangre de Cristo, established in March, 2020, supports farmers, ranchers and food producers. Financial support is in the form of 0%, no-interest loans to help provide supplies, equipment and improve operations. During the first two



years SOIL Sangre de Cristo, a nonprofit has raised over \$70,000 and loaned out \$41,000.

With this grassroots support for small farmers, ranchers and food producers a greater awareness is spreading of the critical connection from soil to table, growing the local food shed, and reducing this area’s dependence on a distant supply chain.

SOIL Sangre de Cristo is dedicated to accelerating the flow of capital to local food systems, connecting investors to the places where they live, and promoting new principles of fiduciary responsibility that “bring money back down to earth.”

Other benefits of supporting the local food producers are seen in the use of less packaging and fuel for shipping. Members in the community get to know their food producers and where their food comes from. Without the need to pay back interest, 100 percent of the farmer’s loan award can be put to work, producing healthy food.

How is the money raised for the 0% interest loans? Members of the community contribute to a revolving loan fund, becoming investors in the organization. Except for a small amount (less than 1% percent) for operating expenses to run the all-volunteer organization, all contributions are put into the fund.

SOIL Sangre de Cristo is a member-driven organization. There are now 72 members pooling their money in support of our local food

chain. The investor members vote and award the loans.

The 0% interest loans fund is a crucial factor, helping ensure the awardees’ success. In the just the first year, SOIL Sangre de Cristo loaned a total of \$20,000 to: a farmer to improve her storage and refrigeration capacity, a rancher for a small, used tractor to help with manual labor and, a goat cheese dairy to assist in the expansion of their retail sales area.

These loans are paying back on time, making more money available for the next loan award cycle.

This month, another \$21,000 was awarded by the investor members to four awardees:

Elements Mountain Compost for expanding the business to include more commercial and residential customers;

Rocky Mountain Garlic to purchase a tilther

Fungus Among Us to improve their growing shed, lengthening the growing season in its high altitude location and,

Elevation Farm & Orchard, helping Tiffany and Armando Vigil to establish a vertical growing system based on living soil.

SOIL is the acronym for SLOW OPPORTUNITES FOR INVESTING LOCALLY

SOIL Sangre de Cristo has a region that spans a wide area of South-Central Colorado. This includes Chaffee, Saguache and Alamosa Counties, as well as Conejos and Costilla Counties. It also includes parts of Fremont and Rio Grande Counties.

SOIL Sangre de Cristo is one of 4 SOIL regions in Colorado. All have the same mission to unite communities by improving food security through support of our local farming and ranching communities.

The farmers, ranchers, and food producers involved in SOIL Sangre de Cristo are committed to good farming practices and help-

ing their communities. Their use of regenerative farming practices sustain healthy soil, water, and air. This protects our climate for the next generation of farmers and consumers. The food they produce is healthy and full of flavor! – and it is LOCAL.

The model for SOIL Sangre de Cristo is based on the principles of Slow Money Institute established by WoodyTasch over 15 years ago. Slow Money Institute is the fiscal sponsor for SOIL Sangre de Cristo, and shares a 501(c)(3) status with them. All contributions are tax deductible.

The Loan Process

When loan applications are reviewed by the local vetting committee a scoring rubric is used to determine the applicant’s utilization of ethical business and land practices. The committee also looks at commitment to community and examples of collaboration with others.

The loan application is kept simple, on one page, requesting just basic information about the applicant. The scoring rubric is also explained. During the time when applications are accepted, it is available on the website in both English and Spanish.

The next round of open loan applications is December 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023. SOIL Sangre de Cristo members will vote the first Sunday of March, 2023 for the new awards. Loan payments are tailored to accommodate the farmer’s cash flow requirements and ability to payback within a reasonable horizon.

Check www.soilsangredecristo.org to find out more about the organization and to become an investor member. Now is the time to take action to reconnect with the land where we live and with each other.



Courtesy photo

Armando Vigil of Elevation Farm and Orchard tends to his basil seedlings.

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Pasture Grass Seed	Pasture Mixes
Turf Grass Seed	

We understand CREP mixes and have seed in stock to make them

SAFER

Continued from Page 7

- Practice cleanliness. Maintain clean and neat work areas with tools stored properly and out of the way after use.
- Be mindful of your clothing and hair. Many accidents involve a power take-off system, or PTO, which is a common component of large rotary mowers, tractors and forage choppers. Clothing can easily get caught in an engaged but unguarded PTO stub. It’s easy for laces or coveralls to become wrapped around a spinning stub shaft. The PTO driveline and other protrusion points also can be dangerous if people do not pay attention.
- Use rollover protection structures. ROPS can be used on tractors and other equipment to prevent injuries. In addition, wear seat belts and employ other safety equipment as advised.
- Avoid extra passengers. It can be tempting to take the kids for a spin, but do not allow additional passengers to ride on agricultural

- equipment.
 - Exercise caution when handling chemicals. Take extra precautions when handling any chemicals, including pesticides.
 - Wear protective gear. Wear appropriate gear and equipment as outlined by NIOSH or the Mine Safety and Health Administration. Make sure the skin, feet, ears, eyes, and hands are protected at all times.
 - Employ lock out/tag out control. This is a process where one can work on equipment only after every energy source has been controlled, such as hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, and electrical, according to Rural Mutual Insurance Company. Turning off equipment and using certain controls or locks on devices can prevent equipment from restarting before it is safe to do so.
- Farm safety should be a priority for owners, their families and employees so that agricultural injuries can be reduced.

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