

Shorts

Gardening workshop at La Jara Library on March 19

CONEJOS COUNTY — Mark your calendars for March activities at the Conejos Library District. The first is a gardening workshop presented by guest gardener-educator Antonette Trujillo. She will share her expertise in successful seed germination, and how to plant and harvest microgreens. It will be on Saturday, March 19 from 10 to 11 a.m.

The Tiny Tour presented by the Creede Repertory Theatre is an engaging interactive performance designed for our youngest learners, ages 5 and under. It will be held Thursday, March 31 at 3 p.m.

If you would like additional information, call the La Jara Library at 719-274-5858. Both events will be at the La Jara Library.

City having logo design contest for new event center

MONTE VISTA — The City of Monte Vista is holding a competition for a business logo for the new Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex.

Submissions are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 4. Email to skih@ci.monte-vista.co.us

The winner will be announced on Friday, April 8, and the winner will receive a \$100 prize.

For more information, contact City Events Manager Stephanie Ruybal at 719-490-9670.

Movie night food drive is March 11 in Center

CENTER — Center High School junior Samantha Arellano has organized a family movie night food drive at 5:30 p.m. on March 11 at the school's auditorium. The movie is "Luca."

The cost to watch the movie is one can of food per person. Snacks will be available and cost a can of food.

The event is part of Arellano's capstone project. The canned food will be donated to the Monte Vista Food Bank.

Youth Basketball Camp registration is open

MONTE VISTA — Registration for Youth Basketball Camp through the City of Monte Vista is open. The camp is Aug. 2-4 at Monte Vista High School gymnasium and is for boys and girls in grades 7-12. Register now and save 20 percent by calling 719-852-8287.

DA Payne charges former DA Willett with embezzlement

Charge filed the day after city council considers recall campaign

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Twelfth Judicial District Attorney Alonzo Payne has filed a charge of embezzlement against former District Attorney Robert Willett.

In a court document obtained by the Valley Courier from the Alamosa County Clerk, DA Payne

ties the charge of embezzlement to the salary of a district attorney in the state of Colorado, citing a Colorado Revised Statute that "the compensation for his or her services [those of the District Attorney] will be no less than \$130,000 per annum," and "any amount in excess of this shall be set by the board or boards of the county commissioners."

According to the document, no such amount of excess was set by the boards of county commissioners for the six counties that comprise the San Luis Valley.

Payne then alleges that Willett "unlawfully, feloniously, and knowingly converted, on Dec. 16, 2020, the public monies or property to his own use or to a use other than the public use authorized by law."

The document lists embezzlement of public property as a class five felony.

No additional information or explanation related to the charge was included in the charging document or, according to the clerk, contained in the file available to the public such as a description of

Please see DA on Page 2A



Photo by Keith R. Cerny
Former District Attorney Robert Willett

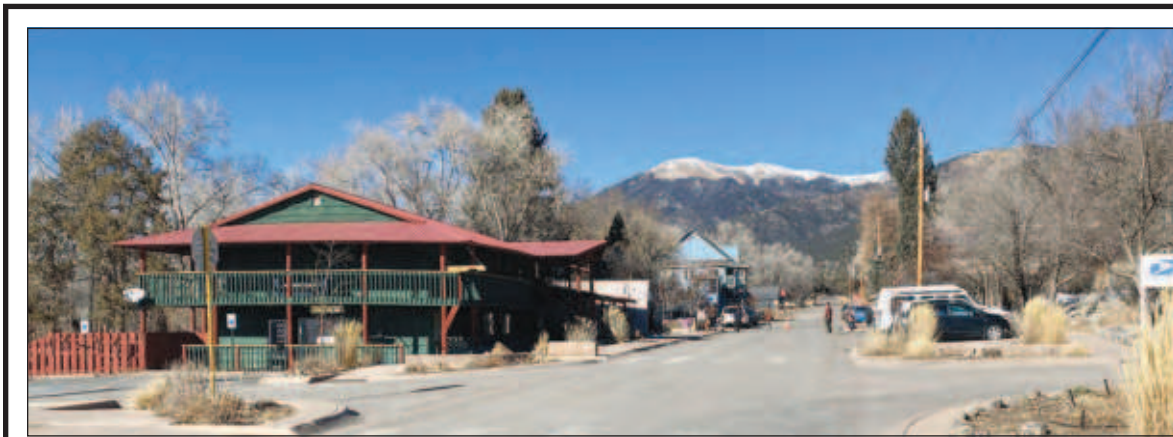


Photo by John Waters

The small town of Crestone, population of about 90 residents is located in Saguache County, population 6,600. The area could experience as many as 20,000 music loving visitors if music promoter Live Nation prevails with their plans of bringing the Seven Peaks Music Festival to the county.

Seven Peaks music festival moves to Valley after 2021 COVID cancellation

After canceling the event in 2021, this year's 20,000-person Labor Day festival will be the largest event in Saguache County history

BY JASON BLEVINS

The Seven Peaks Festival has found a new home.

The world's top concert promoter,

Live Nation, last summer canceled its 20,000-person Labor Day weekend country music concert in Buena Vista after Chaffee County commissioners refused to raise coronavirus-related capacity limits. Saguache County commissioners last week approved a special use permit for Live Nation to host as many as 20,000 concert-goers in the San Luis Valley, just outside the tiny hamlet of Villa Grove.

"Villa Grove and the business owners here are thrilled," said Jamie Williams, the owner of Villa Grove Trade, a restaurant and general store that first opened in 1882. "I've got a few neighbors who are not so excited, mostly people who are concerned that this might not fit with our slow town, but hey, it's only one weekend."

It will be the largest event in the

Please see FESTIVAL on Page 6A

CPD arrests suspect for attempted burglary

BY MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — A man was arrested on

March 4 for allegedly breaking into an elderly woman's home while she was inside,

the Center Police Department reported.

On Friday, March 4, CPD received a call from an elderly woman who said that someone was trying to break into her home through the screen door.

Center Police Department officers and the Saguache County

Please see ARREST on Page 2A



Patrick Silva Jr.

Crane Festival has new format for viewing

STAFF REPORT

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The cries of hundreds of sandhill cranes have returned to the San Luis Valley. Every year, the large birds can be seen returning from their winter grounds in the south to the assorted wetlands of the Valley.

The sandhill cranes are a draw for visitors, researchers, and bird enthusiasts from around the world. Many people come every year to Monte Vista during the Crane Festival to view these birds, listen to experts speak, and enjoy the craft show. The Crane Fest is March 11-13.

The Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge will be open one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset for viewing.

Please see CRANES on Page 4A



Photo by Mechel Meek

Sandhill cranes are seen in a barley field in the San Luis Valley. The birds are making their annual Spring migration. The Monte Vista Crane Festival is set for March 11-13.

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OBITUARIES

J. Ryan McClure

Jonathan Ryan McClure, 48, was born in Del Norte, Colo., to John Raymond and Suzanne McClure on Sept. 15, 1973, and passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 26, 2022, near Center, Colo.

Ryan was predeceased by his great-grandparents George and Elizabeth Kroenert and grandparents Cynthia Kroenert Neely, Albert Amidon, and John and Charlotte McClure.

He is survived by his parents John Raymond and Suzanne McClure; siblings Megan (Joel) Moffitt and Kara Hart (Michael Messervy); nieces and nephews McKenna Fillmore (Austin Steir), Jace Fillmore, Cayden and Dylan Hart; and great-nephews Hazen and Rhyatt Steir.

Ryan graduated from Central High School in Pueblo, Colo., in 1991 and returned to his beloved hometown of Creede, Colo., shortly thereafter. Ryan made his living as a painter, keeping Creede's many small businesses and log homes in pristine condition during the summer

months and sweeping chimneys in preparation for winter.

He was a master at small engine repair as proven by his vast collection of dirt bikes. He was an avid outdoorsman and marksman, mastering the art of hunting, antler shed gathering, searching for arrowheads, and traversing the beautiful mountains surrounding Creede.

He loved music and played in various bands over the years — The Beatless, BLAD, and most recently The Boothill Scoundrel. He even had a short stint as a professional snowboarder in his younger years.

One of his favorite memories was when he was ice fishing at Road Canyon Reservoir and a bald eagle swooped down to take his largest fish. He lived life on his terms and lived it to the fullest.

He always stopped to help a friend or neighbor in need whether it was gathering wood for the winter, chopping firewood, or lending an ear.

His talents were endless as he



could even cook a gourmet meal on a woodburning stove, including dessert. When he wasn't busy painting, riding dirt bikes, or playing in his band, you could find him under his Aunt Cindy's spruce tree enjoying the finer things in life.

A Celebration of Life will be held on June 11, 2022, at the Creede Community Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Richard 'Rich' Alan Forrest

A man who lived by the motto, "no risk, no reward".

Richard Alan Forrest, 73, lost his life on Jan. 11, 2022, at UC Health Memorial Central in Colorado Springs, Colo., after a brief battle with gallstone pancreatitis.

Rich was born Feb. 9, 1948, in Queens, NY to Richard and Anna Forrest. He was the youngest of two children. In early childhood, Rich and his family relocated to Torrance, Calif., where he went on to graduate from high school in 1965 (one year ahead of schedule).

Rich went on to Colorado College in Colorado Springs and graduated with a double major in theology and geology. Rich then attended the University of Montana, Butte (also known as Montana Tech) and obtained his master's degree in Geology.

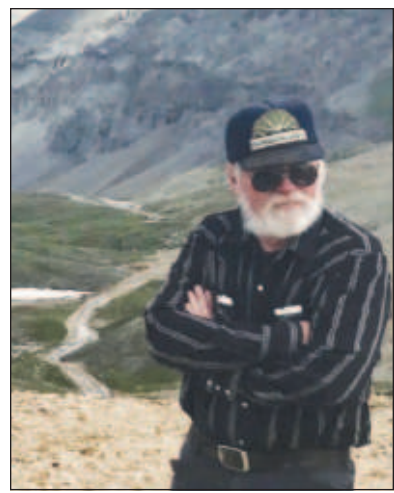
Rich spent many years as an active geologist in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Colorado, Argentina, and Chile, to name a few. He was also a founder of a joint venture mining company, Horizon Gold.

In 1990, Rich met his late wife Jan after placing a personal ad in the Evergreen newspaper. Rich and Jan purchased their first elk in the early 90's. Eventually the couple procured a ranch in 1997 in Del Norte, Colo. By 2001, the ranch housed over 450 elk and a small elk meat store.

In 2001, the ranch experienced a positive chronic wasting disease (CWD) case from an animal that had been purchased from northern Colorado. Many people would fail at this point, but it lit a new fire in Rich. He went on to be a strong and influential advocate in the elk industry regarding government regulations and CWD testing.

Rich also served on various boards for the North American Elk Breeders Association and the Colorado Elk and Game Breeders Association.

With the couple's entrepreneurial drive undiminished, Jan and Rich grew their meat production. At one point they had the largest elk meat distribution business in the United States. Always looking for new opportunities, they



were among the pioneers in the antler chew business.

In 2013, Jan passed away from cancer.

Rich was alone for a time but met his new wife Sandy in 2018. Their time together was precious but cut short. With her, Rich was happy.

Rich is survived by his wife Sandy; daughters Elaina Forrest of South Fork, Colo., and Christina (Shawn) Beach of Seattle, Wash.; stepdaughters, Morgan (Jeremiah) Cummons of the home/ranch, Jessica (Kelly) Knowles of Genesee, Colo., and Sandy's children. He is also survived by his sister Carol Baum and her daughter Jennifer of Torrance, Calif., as well as his grandchildren: Alyssa, Alex, Ethan, and Natalie.

Rich was preceded in death by his late wife, Jan and his parents, Richard and Anna Forrest.

A celebration of life will be held at the family elk ranch on March 19 at 2 p.m. The ranch is located at 19612 US Hwy 160, Del Norte, Colo. Food will be served following the service. Please come and share memories of Rich.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to the "Fund for CJD Research". Rich and its founder, Dr. Bastian, were working together to raise funds for a live-animal CWD test that is being developed. Donations can be sent in honor of Rich to: 1132 Periston St., New Orleans, LA 70115.

ARREST

Continued from Page 1A

Deputy Sheriff's Office responded to the call.

According to CPD Chief Dale Meek, at 3:11 p.m. Center Police Dispatch received an emergency call from an elderly lady that a subject known to her as Patrick Silva Jr. was attempting to break into her house.

The woman observed Silva Jr. inside her screen door, which had been locked, and he was trying to open the inner door.

Meek continued, stating that

CPD Officer Adam Fresquez located the described suspect near the victim's home, where he was detained.

CPD collected evidence at the residence that connected the suspect to the crime.

Meek also stated that the suspect had been seen on the doorsteps and yards of other homes in Center in the recent past and had been caught on camera.

Silva Jr. who was placed under arrest for attempted second-degree

burglary, criminal mischief, and crimes against and at-risk adult (victim over 70 years old). The suspect was booked into Saguache County Jail, with a stated bond of \$20,000 cash or surety.

After appearing in court, the bond was reduced to a \$2,500 personal recognizance bond. A PR Bond is a signature bond that involves no money or property if the defendant appears at all future court dates.

The defendant's signature acts as a promise to appear in court.

DA

Continued from Page 1A

an investigation or statement of probable cause.

The date stamped on the charging document was March 3.

On March 2, the City Council of Alamosa unanimously approved on first reading an ordinance allowing the city to participate in a recall campaign of DA Payne, following an extensive list of concerns presented to the Council by the Chief of Police for the Alamosa Police Department and the Alamosa City Manager.

Should a recall campaign be successful, voters would have the opportunity to recall Payne and vote in a new district attorney.

Willett has been rumored to be interested in running for his previous office, something he confirmed with the Valley Courier on Tuesday, stating, "You may indeed say that I would be interested in running if a recall

came about."

When asked for a response to the charges, Joe Maher, counsel for Willett, stated, "The decisions and actions of DA Payne are stunning. This is a political prosecution, and my client is looking forward to the full set of facts coming out."

Maher is a law partner with the law firm Maher and Maher, a practice comprised of former prosecutors.

Payne challenged the incumbent Willett in the Democratic primary held in June of 2020 and, in an upset, won the Democratic nomination. Since there was no Republican opponent listed on the ballot in the general election, Payne was announced the winner of the election in November and was sworn into office the following January.

Willett is currently serving as the Deputy District Attorney for

the Fourth Judicial District in Colorado Springs.

The Valley Courier reached out to Payne with questions related to the charge but did not receive a response prior to going to press.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

ASU asks Douglas County to opposes RWR proposal

Dear Douglas County Board of County Commissioners,

The Board of Trustees of Adams State University respectfully submits this letter for your consideration and asks you oppose the Renewable Water Resources proposal. We are privileged and honored our great University calls the San Luis Valley home, and we recognize the conservation, protection, and use of water resources of the Rio Grande basin are vital to the continued economic and cultural prosperity of the San Luis Valley and of Adams State University.

The exportation of water resources from our community poses a direct existential threat to

our University and jeopardizes the economic and cultural well-being of not only the current, but future generations of San Luis Valley residents, including our students and employees. The exportation of our valley's water will decimate our region's agricultural industry, which serves as a foundation of our rural economy. The repercussions of such a short-sighted effort will be felt in every other sector of our economy. Further, the removal of massive amounts of our water resources will harm our local ecosystem, causing ripple effects that will be felt throughout our region.

As an institution celebrating its 100th Year

Anniversary, we have spent the past year envisioning and planning for the next 100 years, with hopes for the continued success and growth of our University and community. However, this can only be achieved if we are good stewards of our region's fragile natural resources, which we have diligently strived for over our 100-year history. It goes without saying, water is essential to our community and the preservation of this precious resource is held close to heart by many in the community. We, as Trustees, are faced with this reality and take it into consideration with many of our own decisions. As such, we understand and

empathize with the challenge you face and offer our support in finding alternatives.

We thank you for your time and consideration and invite you to reach out if we can be of any help.

The Adams State University Board of Trustees,

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Let's all celebrate March

They say the older you get the faster time seems to go and that certainly seems to be the case for Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie. And poor Mr. Cooper, the Yorkie, really sees it fly by as one dog year is the equivalent to seven human ones.

But regardless of if you are measuring yours in human or dog times, this past week seemed to fly by. And here we are faced with Saint Patrick's Day and Easter staring us down like our Jr. High math teacher Mrs. Girdle who earned her name for showing just a tad too much foundation in the classroom.

Of course, Mardi Gras came roaring by last week, celebrating Fat Tuesday when you are supposed to eat up all the good stuff in the house in preparation for Lent and its fasting time ahead.

From what I can see, however, most people celebrated it by consuming large quantities of liquor and losing their clothes, which I guess the latter does at least show more fat for all the world to see.

Not a winebibber myself, I was told that it is to be consumed to cleanse the palate between different courses of a meal. That way the next bite you take is clean and you can thoroughly enjoy it. But from what I can see, it may be the reason that people invented 12-course meals so they can imbibe more of the liquid grape.

The issue seems to be that soon people just do away with the eating part of the whole process and begin to just cleanse their palates liberally. This then leads to them shedding clothes displaying copious amounts of skin and padding and suddenly a new meaning is given to Fat Tuesday.

But if that doesn't seem to interest you there are myriad other important dates to be celebrated in March including such things as — Asset Management Awareness Month, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Endometriosis Awareness Month, Irish-American Heritage Month, Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month, National Athletic Training Month, National Brain Injury Awareness Month and last but certainly not least, National Breast Implant Awareness Month.

I am not sure how people get those things on a list to be honored and/or celebrated but about every day of the year is taken up with some kind of cause or awareness date. And after reading through the list of those dates



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

there are certainly some of those worthy of our attention of the plights of others who suffer from disabilities or illnesses.

And as you know, Ol' Dutch ever the caring and concerned person that he is, is always willing to lend a hand to those in need so this month I am volunteering to help out with the National Breast Implant Awareness celebration. Nothing like lending a hand to something so important is what I say. And Ol' Dutch is so concerned about this particular cause he may just lend two hands to help out the needy.

I am not sure if it's a celebration akin to Mardi Gras, but I think they have maybe joined together to bring attention to that frontal feature from the looks of things on the TV.

I don't know about you but having just gotten past National Cheetos Day on the 4th, as soon as I can get rid of these orange fingers, I am going to help out those poor women in need of attention to their blossoming plight.

Miss Trixie has been quick to point out that she does not need any help in that department to the disappointment of Ol' Dutch but the eye-rolling she is afflicted with has started again.

Maybe she needs a day of her own for Eye Rolling Awareness Month. I am sure there are millions of suffering women out there who are afflicted with this same disease. There has to be as there are that many married women out there.

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

LETTERS

SLV Rocky Mountain Farmers Union hits the ground running

Editor,

Last fall the San Luis Valley chapter of Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (RMFU) elected officers, and they have come out of the gate in 2022 excited to get back together. Secretary Liza Marron, Treasurer Kris Steinberg, Vice President Patrick O'Neill, and President Kyler Brown are this year's officers. We are proud to have Emily Brown continue to represent District 5 on RMFU's Board.

RMFU appreciated the invitation to speak at this year's Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show.

Dan Waldvogel, Director of External Affairs for RMFU, spoke on SB87, the farmworker bill of rights, and how that new law would affect farm operations and their employees. If you need more information on this law and how wages, work conditions, ability to file grievances and other aspects of the regulation please reach out to Dan at daniel.waldvogel@rmfu.org.

Dan also ran the "Firing on

All Cylinders" workshop at the conference letting producers know about how to address farm stress and mental health. More information can be found at Agwell.org. RMFU and the SLV chapter hosted a booth at the conference sharing the benefits and initiatives of this great agriculture advocacy organization serving Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming.

The SLV chapter of RMFU was proud to send three delegates this year to the National Farmers' Union (NFU) 2022 Convention recently in Denver. Two hundred delegates from around the country descended on the Grand Hyatt Hotel for 3 days of policy and elections.

The RMFU delegation met with Kate Greenberg, Colorado Commissioner of Ag, as well as Gov. Jared Polis. The body heard from notable speakers such as, President Joe Biden, Sen. John Tester of Montana, Sen. Micheal Bennet of Colorado, and the Secretary of Agriculture Tom

Vilsack. The SLV chapter brought many policy proposals forward and voted them into national policy.

RMFU will be having its legislative drive-in up in Denver on March 14. This is a great opportunity for members and the ag community to engage with members of both state houses as well as the administration to talk over issues. Farmers Union is always ready to engage politicians with the hope of getting them to better understand ag issues and rural communities.

The three foundational pillars that the Farmers Union is built on are education, legislation, and cooperation. RMFU is a great family-centered advocacy organization; the SLV Chapter welcomes new members and hosts barbecues, discussions, and other fun and educational events. If you have any questions about how you can be a part of the excitement at RMFU, please contact Kyler Brown at kowboykjb@gmail.com.

Kyler Brown
President of RMFU

President Biden deserves our support

Editor

It's been stunning to see the speed with which hardballs have been thrown at President Biden since his 2021 inauguration.

He's been hit with attacks on the legitimacy of his Presidency, an insurrection before his inauguration, a continuing pandemic, consistent misinformation on social media platforms, highly negative media coverage, a withdrawal from Afghanistan that did not go smoothly, severe global supply chain problems, rising energy prices, high inflation, high levels of partisanship in Congress that are slowing and stopping his goals, and

uniform Republican opposition to just about everything he proposes, with help from Senators Manchin and Sinema. Add to that now the tragedies unfolding in Ukraine.

Throughout the negativity and naysaying about President Biden's performance, I continue to see primarily positive effects of his leadership. COVID vaccines have been made widely available, though there are still too many unvaccinated people. He's gotten an infrastructure bill passed after many years of dithering by Congress and the past president. Were it not for the blockades put up by Manchin and Sinema, it is

likely he would have gotten major social infrastructure and climate legislation passed by now. He is poised to raise to the Supreme Court the first black woman — now, that is a big deal. He has brought NATO and EU countries together to try to slow and stop Russia's push to take over Ukraine, a country with a democratically elected President.

Yes, there is still much undone — immigration, strong climate legislation, and much more. But we are still early in his presidency. He deserves our support. A small part of that will come from me.

Marianna Young
Monte Vista

CENTER POST-DISPATCH

THE CENTER POST-DISPATCH (USPS 775-900) Published weekly (every Thursday) by Valley Publishing. (719) 852-3531 at 835 First Ave., Monte Vista, Colorado 81144-1423. Official newspaper of the Town of Center, and a legal newspaper in Saguache County.
Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144
Main office, Want ads and Subscriptions: (719) 852-3531
Periodical postage paid at Monte Vista, Colo., 81144
POSTMASTER: Send change of address to P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144
Subscriptions: \$45 one year in the San Luis Valley; \$40 one year seniors (65 and older) in the San Luis Valley; and \$55 one year out of the San Luis Valley. (719) 852-3531
News Media Corporation website: <http://www.newsmediacorporation.com>

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Photos by Mechel Meek

CRANES

Continued from Page 1A

The Crane Festival Arts and Crafts Fair returns to the Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista on March 11 and 12. This year the annual Home and Garden Expo is combining with the Crane Festival Arts and Crafts Fair.

According to the Monte Vista Crane Festival website, mvrcranefest.org, "In 2022, we are hosting a hybrid festival. We will not be using buses or gathering indoors. Instead of Crane tours, you will drive yourself to meet-up locations on the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge and learn from experts interesting facts about sandhill cranes from Refuge staff and volunteers. Individual tickets are purchased by selecting an event on the website. Please select one Crane Sandhill Crane Orientation Meet-up for the entire weekend to attend, we have limited availability this year because of COVID. If you wish to take a second tour to locations outside of the Refuge, again please select one meetup for the entire weekend. For 2022 speaking events, we asked our experts to record their presentations. You can watch the videos on-demand for free from March 11 through March 20. We hope you enjoy! The videos contain interesting information about wildlife use of abandoned mines along the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Flammulated Owls at

the Hot Creek Research Natural Area in the San Luis Valley, raptor education by Hawks Aloft and more. The Craft Fair will be taking place for the entire weekend."

The ecosystem of the San Luis Valley is vital to many birds, not just the iconic Sandhill Crane. The San Luis Valley is a unique microcosm that many different types of migrating birds rely upon. The multifaceted system is comprised of several different types of wetlands, agriculture, and the most endangered wetland, the riparian wetland.

The strength of the stopover habitat is dependent on water, which highlights the importance of thoughtful management of water resources throughout the Valley. These migratory birds are a vital part of the local ecosystem, as they distribute seeds, pollen, and food chain balance which helps the overall health of this complex and inter-reliant system.

As the migratory birds ingest a large amount of energy to migrate, the health of the wetland areas is vital to their populations. Over 400 different bird species depend on the various Valley wetlands to make their semiannual migrations from Canada to the Gulf Coast.

The sandhill crane depends heavily on the San Luis Valley to support its migration north in the Spring and south in the Fall. The plentiful

areas set aside in the various wildlife refuges provide needed breeding areas and plentiful food for these majestic wanderers.

The availability of waste grain from farm fields is also a boon to these birds, especially during the early Spring.

"Upon reaching the SLV, they scatter themselves throughout barley fields, lakes, wetlands, and the Rio Grande, feeding on high-calorie grains and nutrient-dense aquatic invertebrates. Each Spring and Fall, thousands of feathers slice through the brisk San Luis Valley (SLV) sky, alerting resident wildlife, local farmers, and eager birders to the change of season. Ranging from shorebirds to songbirds, a myriad of avian species visits this high-elevation desert as they migrate along the Central Flyway to their breeding and wintering grounds. Nurtured by the Valley's mosaic of wetlands, riparian corridors, and agricultural fields, the SLV is a critical stopover for these determined travelers," stated the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council in an article titled "The San Luis Valley as a Critical Stopover During Bird Migration."

The Monte Vista Crane Festival is a collaborative effort by Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce and City of Monte Vista.

Two Monte Vista men arrested for burglary

Police recover over \$50,000 in stolen property

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — Two men were arrested on suspicion of burglary Sunday, Feb. 27, after being found with over \$50,000 in stolen property, reported the Monte Vista Police Department.

At approximately 6:30 p.m., MVPD officers were notified of a burglary in progress in the 700 block of Monroe Street. When officers arrived, two men fled into a neighboring residence and would not come out. Officers attempted numerous times to get them to come out.

Officers secured the scene and

applied for a search warrant for the residence. Upon executing the search warrant, Raul Martinez, 47, and Monic Medina, 41, both of Monte Vista were arrested.

Officers recovered over \$50,000 in stolen property from their residence. The suspects had broken into the victim's home while the owners were at work.

Martinez and Medina are facing charges of suspicion of second-degree burglary (Felony 3), theft (Felony 4), first-degree criminal trespassing (Felony 6) and criminal mischief (Felony 4). Both were booked into the Rio Grande County Jail.

The Monte Vista Police Department was assisted by Center Police Department and the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office.



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San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2021-2022

GIRLS REGIONAL BASKETBALL CLASS 1A

Sierra Grande 40	.....	Kim/Branson 28
South Baca 64	.....	Centennial 49
Cheyenne Wells 57	.....	Sierra Grande 23
Sangre de Cristo 45	.....	Springfield 33

#4 Fleming vs #5 Sangre de Cristo
Thursday @ 4pm
Budweiser Event Center in Loveland

CLASS 2A

Sanford 42	.....	Burlington 25
Dayspring Christian 38	.....	Center 31
Sedgwick County 51	.....	Monte Vista 30
Del Norte 39	.....	Soroco 40
Dayspring Christian 37	.....	Sargent 27
Sanford 50	.....	Akron 26

#1 Sanford vs #8 Wiggins Thursday 7pm
At UNC-Greeley

BOYS REGIONAL BASKETBALL CLASS 1A

Kim/Branson 36	.....	Mountain Valley/Moffat 29
Sierra Grande 54	.....	Kim/Branson 35

#1 Sierra Grande vs #8 Dove Creek Thursday 5:30pm
At Budweiser Event Center in Loveland

CLASS 2A

Sanford 44	.....	Telluride 29
Thomas MacLarin 54	.....	Del Norte 49
Sanford 61	.....	Holyoke 39

#3 Sanford vs #6 Peyton Thursday 5:30pm
At UNC-Greeley

CLASS 3A

Centauri 67	.....	The Pinnacle 29
Salida 66	.....	Alamosa 51
Centauri 57	.....	Salida 36

#4 Colorado Academy vs #5 Centauri Thursday 8:30pm
At University of Denver-Hamilton Gym

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Photos courtesy of Center Vikings wrestling

Center High School wrestlers shined at the Freshman and Sophomore State Championships. Three Vikings won their weight classes.

Vikings wrestler invited to CHSCA All State Games

Players named to All Conference and coach is Coach of the Year

BY MECHEL MEEK
CENTER — Center High School senior Omar Hernandez was invited to the CHSCA All State Games, according to Center High School wrestling coach Rodney Mondragon.

“Congratulations to Omar Hernandez,” Mondragon said.

“Following his outstanding career, we are excited to have the opportunity to invite him to participate in the 2022 CHSCA All State Games for wrestling. We look forward to having Omar participate in this great event in June and represent Center High School one last time.”

He continued with the news that the Southern Peaks League All Conference selected eight Center wrestlers, the most of any school. Six wrestlers were named to the first team, Jordan Duran, Aaron Valadez, Lorenzo Trujillo,

Andree Meraz, Martin Palma, and Hernandez.

Francisco Villa and Jesus Valadez were honorable mention selections and Coach Mondragon was named Coach of the Year.

Also of note, at the Freshman and Sophomore State Championships, Center had three state champs. Results were as follows in their respective weight classes — Jordan Duran, first, Francisco Villa, second, Jesus Valadez, first, Martin Palma, first, Chayse Bouet, sixth, Lorenzo Trujillo, sixth, Aaron Valadez, fifth, and Nick Palma, fifth.

RGNF announces that spring road closures underway

STAFF REPORT

MONTEVISTA — The Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) announced Monday, March 7, the annual spring road closures have begun across the Forest.

Each year, as late winter temperatures rise and cause snow melting, forest roadbeds soften and are at increased risk of damage from vehicle traffic.

Wheels can cause ruts in roads that can increase water run-off velocity and cause subsequent erosion. Increased silting into local water sources can be damaging to both the waterway and the aquatic life within.

Conversely, vehicles on soft roads can also cause large mud holes. To avoid these problems, roads are closed for short periods of time, to allow for drying and hardening of the roadbed.

“We urge the public to respect the seasonal road closures,” said Andy Kelher, deputy forest supervisor for the Rio Grande National Forest. “Road

closures are necessary to protect the resource that we love so much.”

Kelher recognizes that restricted access to your favorite locations can be frustrating but encourages the public to understand that damaged roads cause costly maintenance and resource damage that can have widespread effects.

Closed roads are opened as soon as it is determined that the roadbeds will not be damaged by heavy vehicles. Often, roads may appear to be dry in lower elevations but may remain closed until the higher sections of the roads are also appropriately dry enough for vehicle use.

Current road conditions can be found on the RGNF’s home page by navigating to the individual ranger district’s “road conditions” link on the right side of the page.

All travel on the RGNF is regulated by the Motor Vehicle Use Maps that can be found online.

A glimpse of what’s possible in their future

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Close to 700 students from 12 high schools across the valley attended the San Luis Valley Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) spring career and academic fair on Monday.

With information booths ranging from welding to wildlife management and nursing to the Colorado National Guard, more than 50 different agencies, organizations and businesses had booths staffed with people working in their respective fields, providing students with an idea of the various options waiting for them in the future.

“The event was created to help schools in getting ICAPs (Individual Career and Academic Plan) in place for students. Each student is expected to have an ICAP before they graduate,” says Olivia Arreguin, BOCES counselor and organizer of the event.

Describing the event as “an exploration piece of that process,” Arreguin said it was a partnership between BOCES, Workforce Development and the Colorado National Guard.

This is the 10th event that has been held since the first in 2012, and the second such event held this year.

The One Thing That Beats Stress Every Time

If you’ve been alive in this world very long, you know there are different kinds of stress that can affect our lives. There’s nutritional stress, relationship stress, financial stress, and the list goes on and on.

We’re all affected by stressful situations at times, from minor inconveniences like traffic, long lines at the grocery store or losing your keys to more extreme issues such as chronic illness, the death of a loved one or divorce. But if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, then you are equipped to face and defeat stress.

The Best Stress Buster

On my personal journey to learning about stress and how to defeat it, I discovered the importance of establishing practical boundaries, like having healthy eating habits, getting good rest and exercising consistently. As I applied these changes to my life, I started to feel good again.

But Psalm 27:4-6 (NIV) reveals something that’s even more important to do: “One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.... For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me....”

In these verses, David is saying, “Here’s how you can help yourself when you’re in trouble: Seek the Lord — it’s the one thing that is more important than anything else!”

Notice that verse 6 says “Then my head will be exalted above the enemies that surround me.” So when do we get help? After we’ve spent time with God.

God’s Word contains the practical instruction we need to have peace, real joy and happiness. So spending time with Him in prayer and Bible study is the main key to defeating stress in your life.

Recognize the True Source of Stress
Proverbs 14:30 gives us an amazing promise from God. It says, “A calm and

peaceful and tranquil heart is life and health to the body, but passion and envy are like rotteness to the bones” (AMP). This scripture shows us that anything other than a calm, peaceful mind creates stress. And when we worry, overthinking our problems, wondering what we’re going to do, we’re actually causing stress to grow in our soul.

If you’re thinking, “But Joyce, I can’t help it! I can’t stop worrying,” then I want to tell you that you *can* help it. Anything God tells us in His Word to do, He gives us the ability to do it. So we *can* learn how to have a calm, peaceful mind — through Christ — if we choose to trust Him and ask Him to help us do it.

First Peter 5:7 says to cast “all your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully]” (AMP). The best thing we can pray when we’re struggling with worry is, “God, I’m not smart enough to run my life by myself. I need Your wisdom, grace and strength to do the right thing. Please help me.”

I really want you to get this: Your ability to defeat stress is determined by what’s going on *inside* of you, not by what’s going on *outside* of you in your circumstances.

Peace That Trumps Stress Every Time

In John 14:27, Jesus says, “Peace I leave with you; My [own] peace I now give...to you. ...Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. [Stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed; and do not permit yourselves to be fearful and intimidated and cowardly and unsettled]” (AMPC).

As a born-again believer in Jesus, you already have His peace in your spirit. In this verse, He’s saying, “Here’s My part and here’s your part: I’m going to leave My peace with you, and because you have My peace, when stressful things happen, you don’t have to get upset on the inside.”

I’ve learned that when I feel myself starting to get upset, if I remember that



John 14:27 tells me to “stop allowing yourself to be agitated and disturbed,” then I can “talk myself off the ledge.” In other words, instead of jumping into a problem that is emotionally driven, I remind myself, “Calm down. Don’t say something you’ll regret or that will make things worse. Get God’s perspective of this situation and choose to believe the best of the people involved.”

Knowing God’s Word and trusting Him completely are the keys to living in peace. I want to encourage you to study scriptures like Matthew 11:28-29, which says Jesus will ease, relieve and refresh your soul when you come to Him and let Him take care of you. And 2 Timothy 1:7, which says God hasn’t given us a spirit of fear but of power, love, a calm well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control.

Spend time seeking God above all else, and you *can* learn how to use everything He’s given you to defeat the stress in your life!

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s four-teaching CD series **Unplug, Unwind & De-stress!** 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.

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FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1A

history of Saguache County, a rural valley with a population of about 6,600 people and four municipalities, one of which, Bonanza, has three residents.

“This has never happened before,” said Amber Wilson, the county’s land use administrator. “It is exciting.”

Live Nation, which is working with the unnamed owner of about 1,600 acres between Villa Grove and the Sangre de Cristo Range, filed a land-use application last month and presented its plan to county commissioners last week.

“This is all new to us but they presented a good case. We didn’t really have any issues,” Saguache County Commissioner Tim Lovato said. “As long as they meet certain guidelines, we are fine. They have their own concessionaires, their own security, their own clean-up crews. They crossed all their t’s and dotted all their i’s and have everything in order.”

The concert promoter and musician Dierks Bentley hosted the inaugural Seven Peaks festival in 2018 on a private, 277-acre farm just outside Buena Vista. The second, running over Labor Day weekend in 2019, drew more than 10,000 concert-goers. The 2020 event was canceled due to COVID.

Live Nation began planning the third Seven Peaks in late 2020, filing applications and meeting with Chaffee County commissioners in a long approval process for what would be its fourth permit for the event. The promoter began marketing the festival and selling tickets for the Labor Day weekend concert in June, before county commissioners had granted final approval to Live Nation’s permit.

Vista venue complained about noise and traffic during the three-day event, and then in July, when the commissioners declined to raise a 5,000-person cap on events, Live Nation abruptly announced it was canceling Seven Peaks and looking for a new home.

A report commissioned by Live Nation in November 2019 showed the three-day 11,404-person festival that year created a \$13.6 million economic impact and supported 144 jobs, delivering \$1.25 million in state and local taxes.

When Live Nation announced it was seeking a new venue for Seven Peaks, several communities across the state reached out to the concert promoter, hoping to lure the three-day event that delivered millions of dollars to local businesses.

Kyle Grote, the owner of the all-organic Primo Cannabis shop and farm in Villa Grove, is excited. He’s hoping the turnout is huge after last year’s cancellation.

“If I could tell everybody who is traveling from other places: Leave your weed at home and come see us. We’ll take care of you,” said Grote, who also operates a 2,400-acre yak farm in the valley. “We have lots of wide open spaces for events like this. I’m excited.”

Lovato said attracting as many as 20,000 visitors to his county “is going to fill our coffers for sure.”

“It’s something, you know. How many little rural counties get the big-name entertainers they are talking about?” he said. “Not very many. We have more ground to cover, but we want this to be a benefit for the residents of Saguache County and the entire San Luis Valley.”

Montano named 2021 Victim Advocate Volunteer of the Year

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA— Olga Montano first moved to the San Luis Valley as a college student and enrolled at Adams State University in the fall of 2000.

With her goal and vision of becoming a teacher she started her career as a paraprofessional until she graduated from Adams State University in 2006 and changed her title to an English as a Second Language teacher.

Montano helped many students struggling academically by giving them all the time and support they needed during and after school. She even bought a van to assist the parents of these kids with transportation if they could stay after school for tutoring.

Montano’s vision was to be able to help these children succeed in the academy in order for them to be able to reach their goals in life and be able to give back to the community.

She continued to serve our community for 13 years as a teacher until she became a victim herself of harassment and bullying from peers and a student. Feeling threatened for her life, after reporting it to her supervisor and with no change or support, she made the hard decision to resign, leaving the career she worked so hard for behind.

Although Olga’s case did not fall under Crime Victim Rights Act, the San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit was able to support her by giving her all the resources and services she was entitled to move forward and start a new chapter in her life.

As the response unit strives to assist victims in any way possible, it was able to assist Olga by finding her a new job that she could utilize all her skills, talent and passion for serving the community



Courtesy photo

Left to right, County Commissioner Michael Yohn, San Luis Valley Victim Advocate Director Reyna Martinez, Olga Montano, County Commissioner Lori Laske and Vern Herrsink and Alamosa County Sheriff Robert Jackson.

once again.

After working closely with the response unit, she decided to join the San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit team in 2019 as an interpreter-translator, assisting the law enforcement agencies, District Attorney’s office, and the Victim Response Unit program with translating forms, victim’s statements and interpreting when needed.

In 2020, Olga became a VA volunteer responding to calls, assisting in the office by following up on victims and providing them VRA when we were short staff and needed help. Through her talents and skills, she has been

able to assist the response unit with creating our Teen VA program, as well as assist on any community events and donating treats to local offices and first responders during the annual First Responders Christmas Lunch/Dinner and appreciation week.

This year the response unit staff and volunteers nominated her for the 2021 VA volunteer of the year for not only assisting the program as a VA volunteer, translator, interpreter, childcare aide, and teen supporter but for giving so much to all the law enforcement agencies, first responders and the community across the San Luis Valley.

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Public Notice Rio Grande Water Conservation District Appointment

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners is again accepting letters of interest for appointment to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board from an individual who would like to serve as the Saguache County representative to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board whom resides SOUTH of Saguache County Road L. This is a three-year term ending in April 2025.

Letters of Interest may be addressed to the Board of County Commissioners and submitted to the Saguache County Administration office – 505 3rd Street, Saguache, CO 81149 or mailed to PO Box 100, Saguache CO 81149, letters may also be emailed to wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov.

The deadline for letters of interest is Friday, March 18, 2022 at 3PM, for an interview with the Commissioners on Tuesday, March 29, 2022. The Board of County Commissioners will make an appointment to this board during their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

No. 1622 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, February 17 and 24 and March 3, 10 and 17, 2022.

IFB For Phase 1 Environmental Assessment

The Saguache County Housing Authority is submitting an Invitation to Bid for a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment at two locations in Saguache County.

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

The sealed bid must include the following:

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

The sealed bids are due by 4:00PM, Friday March 11th, 2022.

The sealed bid must be addressed and submitted to:

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

No. 1625 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, March 3 and 10, 2022.

IFB For Soil Sampling

The Saguache County Housing Authority is submitting an Invitation to Bid for a soil sampling at two locations in Saguache County.

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

The sealed bid must include the following:

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

The sealed bids are due by 4:00PM, Friday March 11th, 2022.

The sealed bid must be addressed and submitted to:

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

No. 1626 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, March 3 and 10, 2022.

The Saguache County Planning Commission will hold a Work Session at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Meeting Room located at 305 – 3rd Street, Saguache, Colorado, on the following date:

THURSDAY, MARCH 31ST, 2022 at 2 PM

to hear anyone/group (please have one spokesperson for each group) to hear their presentation regarding the proposed changes to the Saguache County Land Development Code. Please call the Saguache County Land Use Office if you would like to be set on the Work Session agenda for your presentation, 719-655-2321 or email atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov . Depending on the number of presentations, will determine the allotted time per presentation. If you do not ask to be put on the work session agenda, you will not be able to do a presentation.

To view the current proposed changes, you may contact the Saguache County Land Use Department – PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov, or by calling 719-655-2321 or you may also view the changes on our website at www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov .

If you would like to comment on the current proposed changes, written comments will be accepted until Monday, March 28th, 2022 at 3pm, and may be sent to Saguache County Land Use Department at PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or email to atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov.

No. 1627 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2022.

Basketball Playoffs 2022

Centauri boys advance to Class 3A Great Eight

By Ken Hamrick

LA JARA — The Centauri High School boys basketball team punched its ticket to the Class 3A State Tournament Great Eight as it defeated Salida 57-36 Saturday at the Falcons' gym.

"Our guys don't know the word quit and they're fearless," said Centauri coach Larry Mortensen.

Tristan Jackson gave the Spartans the early lead, but Mason Claunch tied the score with a jumper. Nate Yeakley made two straight baskets and Jackson added another as Salida led 8-2.

Baron Holman pulled the Falcons within 8-4, but Yeakley scored again.

Centauri then got consecutive layups from Claunch, Chaz Holman and Kaleb Anderson to tie the score at 10-10. But Aaron Morgan made a 3-point basket just before time expired and the Spartans led after the first quarter 13-10.

The Holmans scored layups to give the Falcons their first lead of the game early in the second. But Yeakley scored again and Damon Redfeather drained a three to put Salida back on top at 18-14.

Claunch made a 3-pointer of his own, but Chase Diesslin scored a layup and Redfeather knocked down another trey for a 23-17 Spartans lead. Claunch scored again, but Diesslin also scored for a second time. Baron Holman made two free throws to bring Centauri within 25-21 with 2:10 left in the period.

Morgan made another 3-pointer to give the Spartans their largest lead at 28-21 with 1:48 left before halftime. But Baron Holman made two more free throws and later scored a layup to cut the deficit to 28-25 at halftime.

Baron Holman opened the third quarter with a jumper, but Morgan answered on the other side.

That would turn out to be Salida's only scoring of the period. Baron Holman buried a trey to tie the score and Mason Sowards split at the line to put the Falcons in front at 31-30.



Photos by Ken Hamrick

Centauri High School's Baron Holman (3) makes a move to the basket against Salida's Nate Yeakley (21) in Saturday's Class 3A State Tournament game in La Jara. The Falcons defeated the Spartans 57-36.

Claunch hit another jumper and Leighton Curtis made two free throws. Baron Holman made one of two free throws. Curtis then hit a 3-pointer and Chaz Holman drove for a layup to give Centauri a 41-30 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Yeakley opened the fourth quarter with a jumper, but Chaz Holman answered with a jumper of his own. Yeakley then split at the line, but Baron Holman made two more free throws.

Yeakley also made two free throws, but Chaz Holman knocked down a pair of threes for a 51-35 lead.

Braden Collins made one of two for Salida, but the Falcons ended the game with baskets by Anderson and Josh Taylor.

"We just settled down a little bit," Mortensen said. "No big adjustments, a couple of small adjustments and settle down and play our game."

The Falcons had three players score in double



Centauri High School's Mason Claunch (12) fires up a shot over Salida's Braden Collins (10).

figures. Baron Holman was the leading scorer with 18 points which included making nine of 11 free throws. Chaz Holman scored 14 and Claunch added 13.

Yeakley led Salida in scoring with 13 points. Centauri takes a record of 22 wins and only one loss to the Great Eight which will be played this weekend at the University of Denver. Mortensen knows that the competition will be tough from now on.

"Everybody's tough at this point," Mortensen said. "Salida was tough. Hat's off to Salida. They're a good team."

Centauri 57, Salida 36
Salida — Hadley 0 0-0 0, Collins 0 1-2 1, Jackson 2 0-0 4, Yeakley 5 3-4 13, Diesslin 2 0-1 4, Morgan 3 0-0 8, Redfeather 2 0-0 6, Edgington 0 0-0 0, Cleckner 0 0-0 0. Total 14 4-7 36.

3-point goals — Morgan 2, Redfeather 2. Total 4.
Centauri — C. Holman 6 0-0 14, Polzin 0 0-0 0, B. Holman 4 9-11 18, Claunch 6 0-1 13, Anderson 2 0-0 4, Johnson 0 0-0 0, Absmeier 0 0-0 0, Sowards 0 1-2 1, Tibbitts 0 0-0 0, Russell 0 0-0 0,



Centauri High School's Chaz Holman (3) looks to put up a shot against Salida's Braden Collins (10).



Centauri High School's Mason Claunch (12) fires up a shot over Salida's Braden Collins (10).

Curtis 1 2-2 5, Taylor 1 0-0 2. Total 21 12-16 57.

3-point goals — C. Holman 2, Claunch 1, Curtis 1, B. Holman 1. Total 6.

Salida 13 15 2 6-36
Centauri 10 15 16 16-57

Fouls — Salida 13, Centauri 12.

State tournament fields determined

By Ken Hamrick

ALAMOSA — The Colorado High School Activities Association has released its brackets for the Great Eight in Class 3A, Class 2A and Class 1A boys and girls basketball.

The fifth-seeded Centauri High School boys basketball team will play fourth-seeded Colorado Academy in the Class 3A State Tournament quarterfinals Thursday at 8:30 p.m. at the University of Denver. A win by the Falcons will have them play either top-seeded St. Mary's or eighth-seeded Eagle Ridge Academy at 8:30 p.m. on Friday. A loss on Thursday will eliminate Centauri.

On the other side of the bracket are second-seeded Sterling playing seventh-seeded Manual, and third-seeded Aspen playing sixth-seeded Resurrection Christian.

In the Class 2A State Tournament, which will be played at the Budweiser Events Center in Loveland, the Sanford High School boys basketball team enters as the third seed and it will play sixth-seeded Peyton at 5:30 p.m. on

Thursday. The Indians will play either second-seeded Limon or seventh-seeded Crowley County on Friday at either 10:15 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.

The other side of the bracket will feature top-seeded Yuma against the eighth-seeded Lotus School for Excellence, and fourth-seeded Denver Christian against fifth-seeded Wray.

The Sanford is the top seed in the Class 2A girls tournament and it will play eighth-seeded Wiggins at 7 p.m. on Thursday. The Lady Indians' second game will be against fourth-seeded Rye or fifth-seeded Cedaredge at either 11:45 a.m. or 7 p.m. on Friday.

On the other side of the bracket, third-seeded Limon will play sixth-seeded Peyton and second-seeded Holyoke will play seventh-seeded Dayspring Christian.

In the Class 1A State Tournament, which will take place at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, the Sierra Grande boys basketball team enters as the top seed. The Panthers will face eighth-seeded Dove

Creek at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday. In its second game on Friday, Sierra Grande will play either fourth-seeded Caprock Academy or fifth-seeded McClave at either 1:15 p.m. or 8:30 p.m.

In the Class 2A girls tournament, Sangre de Cristo is the fifth seed and it will play fourth-seeded Fleming at 4 p.m. on Thursday. On Friday, the Lady Thunderbirds will play either top-seeded Briggsdale or eighth-seeded Lone Star at either 8:45 a.m. or 7 p.m.

The other side of the bracket features third-seeded McClave against sixth-seeded Dove Creek and second-seeded Flatirons Academy against seventh-seeded Cheyenne Wells.

The state tournaments will end on Saturday with the championship games. Should either the Sierra Grande boys or the Sangre de Cristo girls advance to their respective Class 1A title games, those game will be played at the Budweiser Events Center.

Four additional SLV teams advance to state basketball

By Ken Hamrick

ALAMOSA — Both Sanford High School basketball teams have advanced to the Class 2A State Tournament while the Sierra Grande boys and the Sangre de Cristo girls advanced to the Class 1A Tournament. Sanford girls 50, Akron 26

The Lady Indians held a slim 8-3 edge at the end of the first quarter, but they broke the game open in the second quarter to lead 30-13 at halftime. Sanford increased its lead to 43-19 after the third quarter. Both teams

scored seven points in the fourth. Statistics for the Lady Indians were unavailable.

Sanford boys 61, Holyoke 39
The Indians led 12-11 after the first quarter and they increased their lead to 30-21 at halftime. Sanford had a 40-31 lead after the third quarter, and it outscored the Dragons 21-8 in the fourth.

Cash Caldon led the Indians with 20 points, followed by McCray Larsen with 19.

Sierra Grande boys 54, Kim/

Branson 35
The Panthers led the Mustangs 22-15 after the first quarter, 33-25 at halftime and 39-27 after the third quarter. Sierra Grande outscored Kim/Branson 15-8 in the fourth quarter.

Isiah Chairez was the Panthers' leading scorer with 23 points, followed by Thomas Archuleta with 12.

Sangre de Cristo girls 45, Springfield 33
Statistics and scoring by quarters were unavailable for this game.

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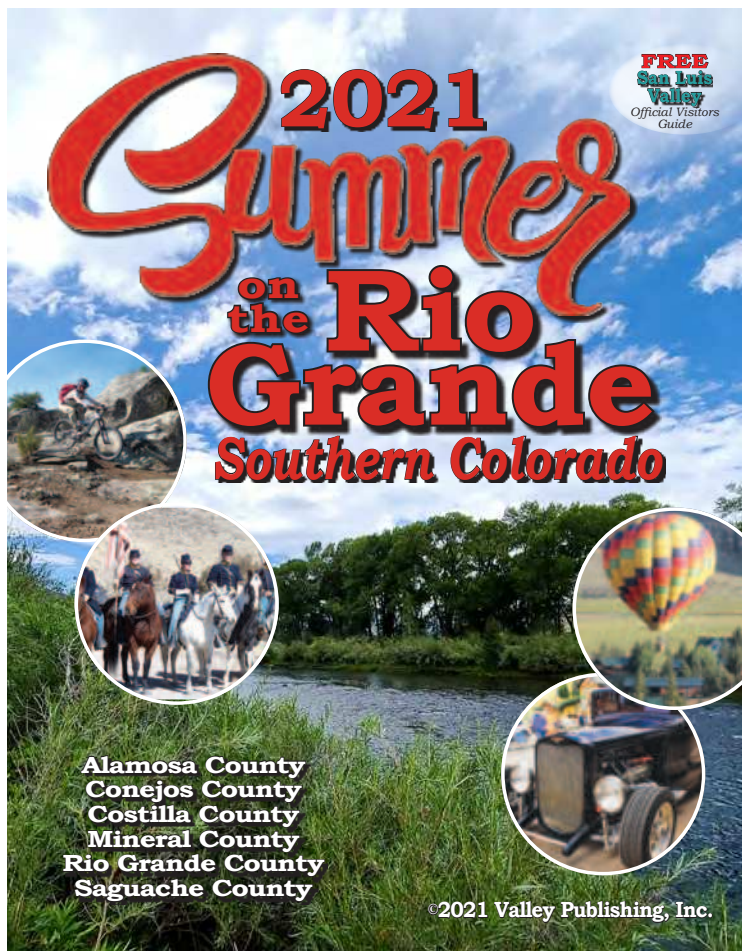
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Courtesy photo
Left to right, SLV Nightingale honorees — Bryan Garcia, SLV Health; Nicole Martinez, Rio Grande Hospital; Brittany Sours, SLV Health; Tandra Dunn, SLV Health; Dana Martin, Alamosa School District; Joelle Valdez, SLV Health; Lauriann Blakeman, SLV Health and Shannon Goldsberry, Rio Grande Hospital. Not pictured — Beverly Strnad, Alamosa County Nursing Service; Loretta Lowder, Rio Grande Hospital; Khrystynn Cano, Rio Grande Hospital and Sally Wert, Rio Grande Hospital.

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Twelve registered nurses honored at SLV Nightingale Dinner

STAFF REPORT
ALAMOSA — Twelve San Luis Valley registered nurses who were honored at the 17th SLV Nightingale Dinner on Feb. 25 at Adams State University.
Lauriann Blakeman Rio Grande Hospital, Krystynn Cano Rio Grande Hospital, Tandra Dunn San Luis Valley Health, Bryan Garcia SLV Health, Shannon Goldsberry Rio Grande Hospital, Loretta Lowder Rio Grande Hospital, Dana Martin Alamosa School District, Nicole Martinez Rio Grande Hospital, Brittany Sours SLV Health, Beverly Strnad Alamosa

County Public Health, Joelle Valdez SLV Health and Sally Wert Rio Grande Hospital were recognized for their commitment to their patients and providing excellent nursing care.
The dinner was attended by family members and co-workers. Cano, Garcia, Goldsberry, Martin, Strnad and Valdez were selected as luminaries for the statewide event in Denver on Aug. 13 at the Hilton Denver Inverness.
Organizers thanked SLV Health, Rio Grande Hospital, SLV Area Health Education Center and SLV Federal Bank for their generous donations that made the event possible.

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San Luis Valley Transit plan seeks feedback from community

By MECHEL MEEK

SAN LUIS VALLEY — To continue the development of the San Luis Valley Transit Plan, which is collaborating with the Chaffee Shuttle, officials are seeking feedback to help guide the plan.

According to an email by Transportation Planner Rocio Ramirez, "Input from the first phase of the project, which included extensive data collection and analysis, stakeholder interviews and public engagement, informed the development of the potential mobility solutions. In this next phase of outreach, community members and stakeholders can rank their top five preferred mobility solutions for each of the key corridors and cities/towns in the study area, which includes Alamosa, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties."

People are encouraged to participate in an online survey at slvtransitplan.com and there will be in-person events throughout the San Luis Valley in March. The events are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, March 8 in Saguache from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Saguache Public Library; in Crestone from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Crestone Mercantile; in Center

Please see TRANSIT on Page 9



Graphic courtesy of the Chaffee Shuttle

Life under the snow

Land, Water and People

By HANNAH FAKE

Last month, we had our second Forest Specialist Series program of the year. The Divide Ranger District's Biological Technician, Doug Clark, talked about the many ways animals survive the winter. From the color changing snowshoe hare, ptarmigan, and short tailed weasel, to the pinyon jay's ability to store food and remember locations later. He shared how even the snow fly, a tiny wingless insect, can be found crawling across the snow in winter, surviving the cold thanks to antifreeze in its blood. Much like us, animals can choose to change their behavior and the way they dress for winter, or just avoid winter all together by hunkering down and hibernating like the Wyoming ground squirrel and black bear.

During the winter months, we see fewer critters on the Rio Grande National Forest as many are hibernating or have migrated. However, there are several animals that are still active and moving about even though we can't see them. This is because they have made their life deep under the snow. Meadow voles are just one of these species. This little animal is similar to a mouse but has a shorter tail and a rounder body and face. Meadow voles spend their winter in tunnels in the subnivean, under the snow.

Why live deep under the snow in winter? Temperatures are in the single digits or even below zero

above the snow, often with bitter howling winds. Below the snow, close to the ground, the temperature hovers around freezing. This is due to the earth constantly emitting heat from its molten core. We tap into the earth's warming ability when we use geothermal energy. The little meadow voles are using this basic geothermal heating to keep warm through the winter. Not only is the earth warming, but the snow is also insulating. Fluffy things, like snow, a feather comforter, and a sleeping bag make great insulators because they trap air that is warmed by the earth or a body. Inhabiting a slightly warmer environment takes away one of the biggest challenges of winter, the cold.

Under the snow, in the subnivean, the meadow vole creates little tunnels where they eat the plants, roots, and bark of trees and twigs. They can travel more safely hidden from the view of predators. However, they might not be safe from one predator — the short-tailed weasel.

Weasels are skinny creatures with a body not often found in cold climates. What do you do when you are cold? Curl up, hug your arms to your chest? Having a more compact body shape helps limit the loss of heat. Long limbs and bodies are not as

well adapted for cold environments. So how does our long-bodied weasel survive? In part by wearing a warmer winter coat of white, but also by eating a lot! Weasels are almost always on the hunt in winter. And it turns out their long skinny body is well adapted for traveling along tunnels when the snow looking for meadow voles. The subnivean not only offers weasels a safe way to travel out from under the eyes of larger predators but also a warmer environment and convenient access to food.

A fresh snow may look like a pristine blanket of white that no one has traveled across. However, it is likely that, in the open meadows, there are small critters beneath the snow making their home or filling their bellies. Life in winter on the Rio Grande National Forest isn't easy, but there are many amazing adaptations that help our critters survive. As temperatures increase and you find yourself outside more, be sure to take a moment to look for winter's hidden critters. You may be surprised at what you see.

Hannah Fake is the San Juan Mountains Association's Rio Grande Visitor Information Coordinator. She enjoys exploring the forest winter and summer.



Photos courtesy of High Valley Community Center

High Valley Community Center students continue enjoying the after-school program.

Activities warming up at HVCC

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

DEL NORTE — Hello community members! Happy March! There is so much to look forward to this month — warmer temperatures, longer days, a new lineup of Fabulous Friday activities, fun onsite activities, High Valley Community Center soccer, and, of course, Spring Break.

Soccer registrations are live on the HVCC website and will be available until March 15. Practices will begin the week of March 7. The K-2, 3-4, and 5-6 teams will all have practices during the week and games on Saturday mornings. We will keep you updated with practice times and game schedules as soon as we work out the details.

The theme of the week for HVCC activities was "Integrity." The goal by the end of the week is for the kiddos to not only define integrity but also identify how integrity affects the quality of our

lives. The activities we chose consisted of making muppets, a pom-pom obstacle course, and elephant toothpaste. During these activities, we centered conversations around the children's experiences with integrity and when they or those around them showed examples of integrity.

There is something for everyone at HVCC! We offer after-school programming, Friday field trips, and sports for children. For the 50-plus community there are weekly art classes, fitness classes, and occasional off-site excursions. Whenever possible, we arrange a variety of events to engage the community, such as plays, dinners, and classes. We encourage you to visit our website, www.thehvcc.org, for information regarding all things HVCC. If you prefer to talk with someone, our staff is happy to answer any questions!

Have a great week, everyone!



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Progress

March 9, 2022



Rio Grande Hospital can provide specialized wound care to injured farm workers

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

DEL NORTE — Farmers and agricultural workers living in small towns deserve the same level of care as those who live in major metropolitan areas. Rio Grande Hospital, a critical access hospital in Del Norte, offers a variety of services to more than 10,000 people in southwestern Colorado's San Luis Valley. Their hospital campus provides specialized wound care, a much-needed service, especially for the many agricultural workers in the region.

Because there are many farming communities throughout Colorado, agricultural injuries can be very hazardous because of the complex and repetitive nature of the work. Farm accidents calling for specialized wound care fall across a large spectrum of conditions — from simple lacerations to crush injuries and traumatic amputations. The mortality rate following an amputation is quite high — upwards of 80 percent.

The prevalence of diabetes is also significant, making many agricultural workers more susceptible to chronic wounds. Many have diabetic neuropathy, or a loss of sensation in the lower limbs, making them unaware that the wound is there until someone else notices it.

At Rio Grande Hospital, there is a beautiful wound center with outstanding staff and state-of-the-art equipment. They have two physicians specializing in wound care, a wound care nurse who is also certified in hyperbaric oxygen therapy, and a wonderful support staff.

Before that wound care center opened, many agricultural workers were not seeking treatment — or they would get treatment for only a brief time and the wound would not properly heal. Part of the reason is that many facilities are in the frontier and it's difficult to drive to a large town for care. Having a center like this in a rural community has been a Godsend for many farm workers.

The Rio Grande Hospital Wound Care and Hyperbaric works with each patient's primary physician to begin the healing



Photos courtesy of Rio Grande Hospital

Rio Grande Hospital staff provides specialized wound care, a much-needed service, especially for the many agricultural workers in the region.

process. Routine services include wound debridement or scraping of dead skin cells to encourage healthy skin growth, the application of skin substitutes to provide temporary or permanent coverage of open skin wounds, and routine dressing changes.

Many wounds can also benefit from hyperbaric oxygen therapy, or HBOT, and Rio Grande Hospital has a chamber in its wound center to treat more difficult-to-heal wounds. For HBOT, the patient is placed in a pressurized chamber with 100 percent oxygen. This oxygenates the blood and tissues and helps wounds heal more quickly. For patients who need extensive HBOT treatment but have a long drive to the clinic, Rio Grande Hospital helps patients with temporary housing.

For more information about the Rio Grande Hospital Wound Care & Hyperbaric Center, call 719-657-3277 or visit riograndehospital.org.




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Photos by Mechel Meek

Center Community Park is the main focus of the Town of Center's revitalization plan.

Center parks are a focus of town's revitalization effort

By MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — The Town of Center envisions a comprehensive plan for the future of development of the town, which is being advanced with help from DOLA and UC Denver, to create a master development plan to improve the town based upon what the citizens want in their community.

The town has listened to suggestions from community members by releasing surveys that help to guide decisions on the path and focus on new progress. The town has plans to develop the recreational opportunities available to the entire community. The lack of recreation was one of the main issues brought to attention by the respondents in the recent community surveys.

Town Manager Brian Lujan stated that one of the focused efforts in revitalization is to revamp the current parks. Center Community Park will be the main focus, however, the town has also received grant funding to add trees to all the parks in town and a plan to create an amphitheater in Casa Blanca Park is in the works. The amphitheater would be used mainly for musical performances during a summer concert series. The community park is currently used as the football field and track for gamedays by the Center schools, and it also has some current facilities such as a playground and grassy areas.

The proposed plan would be to add on, replace and repair the current facilities to increase the recreation opportunities for the community. Improving the track, improving the two base-

ball fields, a new football field to replace the old, an improved walking and jogging path, a recreation center, and a new, larger playground are all being considered for future placement within Center Community Park.

The community park has already had a visit by the University Technical Assistance Program (UTA), which is part of the College of Architecture and Planning at the University of Colorado, Denver. The UTA through a grant from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) will be providing design and planning services to the Town of Center in this effort to revitalize the community park. The project will re-imagine the entire park, with a complete plan to refurbish, or replace the current set-up of the park.

"In addition to upgraded field amenities (bird box, lighting, turf, bleachers, etc.) there is a need for an additional baseball field (in order to host summer baseball tournaments) and if space allows, a new recreations center, a skatepark, a track around the field, a walking path and a bike lane connection to other parks in the area. There are other needs worth exploring, such as a swimming pool, and all can be considered and discussed when presented to the community," stated a document about the project by the ATA.

The town is planning to continue to leverage grants and various funding opportunities to complete their ambitious projects throughout the entire Town of Center and improve the opportunities for health and recreation.



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Local physician now board-certified in addiction medicine

By LYNSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — Dr. J. Ely Walker recently learned that he was accepted into the American Board of Addiction Medicine and is now board-certified to practice in the field of addiction medicine.

Among other health organizations throughout the San Luis Valley, Dr. Walker has been working to improve and grow addiction medicine services, including the new Recovery Clinic offered through Rio Grande Hospital.

Dr. Walker hopes that many services throughout the region will benefit by bringing back the knowledge of addiction medicine to the Valley.

"During my medical school, which wasn't that long ago, there was no training in addiction. Zero," Walker said. "It was the same thing in my residency. You would see patients who were clearly suffering from addiction but actually addressing someone's addiction? It wasn't even on the radar for me."

Dr. Walker said that the training he received in residency came down to how to treat the complications of addiction but not treat the root of the problem, and this was where Dr. Walker decided that he wanted to know more.

"This patient population is completely ostracized," he said. "They feel completely thrown to the curb, and they feel stigmatized. So, to help pull them out of where they are is very rewarding."

The unfortunate reality of addiction is that many people who are suffering from addiction may not be fully ready to begin recovery. The process is long and can be very stressful for the patient, family, and friends.

The purpose of addiction medicine is to guide patients through that process and provide evidence-based options, which can include counseling, medications and access to other programs like SHARRP, to ensure the health and safety of not only the individual but the community as well until they are ready to commit to being sober.

In addiction medicine, "We take a harm reduction approach. Harm reduction is basically saying, for better or worse, substance abuse exists in our community. We could try to ignore it, which society has done for many, many years, or we can acknowledge that it's here and reduce the harms of it. The needle exchange program is the perfect example of harm reduction. Every time someone comes to seek services, we are going to talk to them about recovery. We will ask them; Are you ready to talk about treatment? It's the formation of that relationship over time that eventually gets a patient to the point of recovery," Dr. Walker said.

He plans to use his knowledge of addiction medicine in the Recovery Clinic at Rio Grande Hospital and to assist other organizations throughout the San Luis Valley.

"My bigger vision is to make myself available to other providers and organizations



for consultations," he said. "Just being that resource and giving them the confidence to treat addiction is what I want to see. If I can empower them, then we add another layer of resources to people here in the Valley."

The Rio Grande Hospital Recovery Clinic offers specialty-level addiction care. This clinic provides a personalized approach for those struggling with substance use or other behavioral addictions, including but is not limited to heroin or other opioids, methamphetamines, alcohol, benzodiazepines, cocaine, tobacco, gambling, pornography, or internet use. Additionally, the clinic offers treatment for Hepatitis C infection and HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis.

The services offered through the clinic can benefit many individuals, including those who have family members or friends suffering the effects of addiction and recovery. Anyone who thinks they may benefit from the recovery program is welcome to participate, and clinic staff and physicians will do what they can to get patients the help they require.

Even someone suffering from trauma-related circumstances can find help through the Recovery Clinic.

"Trauma-informed care acknowledges that care teams need to have a complete picture of a patient's life situation — past and present — to provide effective health care services with a culture of safety, empowerment, and healing," Dr. Walker said.

Addiction does not stop with people who are addicted. Often, family and friends of those who suffer from addiction suffer just as much if not more, and services are available to those wishing to seek counseling and other recovery benefits.

"There are numerous resources available, and depending on your specific needs, referrals and connections can be made with our various community partners in an attempt to meet your needs," he said.

For more information or to inquire about the Rio Grande Hospital Recovery Clinic, call 719-657-4100.

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The LOR Foundation, which works with people in rural places to improve quality of life, is hiring a Monte Vista community officer. The community officer engages with and listens to locals to deliver resources that support community projects and priorities. This full-time role requires deep community connections, an entrepreneurial mindset, strong communication skills, a passion for problem solving, and a caring and curious disposition. Salary range: \$60K-\$75K. Learn more at lorfoundation.org/careers. (3/23)

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We would like to thank everyone who has been donating to the doggos! It's been very helpful, and greatly appreciated! You're all helping these canines live better lives!



Baby is one of our longer staying residents, she arrived last August and is almost 3 years old. Baby is a Red Nose Pit with quite a personality. Playtime is her favorite time and that's ALL THE TIME!

Tennis balls, rope toys, chew bones, she loves them all! Baby prefers to be the star of the show and is best as the only pet, but she'll be all you need. Come let her fill your home!

Arrow is a Large Terrier mix that's about 6 months old, and very energetic once she opens up. She does well with other dogs, and is finally getting comfortable on the leash. Arrow is a very playful little girl, and loves to get her bark on! Stop by for an introduction today!



Donnie is one of our newer arrivals, and is about 7 months old. He's an interesting character, who we believe to be a Beagle mix. Donnie can get along with other dogs, but is definitely on the dominant side. He seems to do well with everyone he's met so far, and definitely loves to go on walks. Come meet him today!



Ms. Piggy is another of our long term residents, who will be coming up on a year with us shortly. She's about 3 years old and is full of energy, but that energy is equally matched with love! Ms. Piggy needs someone with a big heart willing to be patient with her, due to the traumas she's experienced in her past. If she sounds like that missing piece, come meet her today!

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at a rate of \$15,735 per year. Call 719-655-2231 for more information and job description. Applications close on Friday, March 25, 2022 at 3:00 P.M. Saguache County is an EEO employer. Drug testing which includes marijuana and a background check will be required for final applicants. (3/23)

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> (3/23)

Executive Director – Headwaters Alliance, Creede, CO. We are hiring an Executive Director to provide vision and organizational leadership to implement a full portfolio of water related projects enabled by proven fundraising and grant writing skills. Ideal candidate will have management and development experience, preferably in non-profit sector and the ability to work collaboratively with local, regional and state partners to complete tangible projects. This position offers autonomy augmented by an effectively functioning Board. FT, exempt position, \$56-64K plus other benefits. See complete description at headwatersalliance.org. (3/16)

Ecodynamics Inc is hiring a sales & office clerk. Tasks include sales, over the counter and over the phone, purchasing and inventory. Please drop off resume in person at 5492 US Hwy 160 E, M.V. For more info, call 719/852-2662 (3/16)

Admin & Program Assistant – Headwaters Alliance, Creede, CO. Position supports key functions related to communications, event planning, volunteer coordination, and organizational capacity. Ideal candidate possesses exceptional skills in communications and logistics. Proficient with Word, Excel, Adobe Acrobat, Canva, and Google applications; skilled with social media and web maintenance; able to generate craft high-quality marketing and educational messaging. Detail-oriented, able to coordinate the many variables involved in event and volunteer programming. Opportunity for a growth-minded individual to gain experience in nonprofit and/or water-related work, or for someone

seeking an assistant-level role with a stimulating array of responsibilities. Full-time, exempt, \$22-\$25/hr, plus QSERA, 2-wks PTO and holidays. See complete description at headwatersalliance.org. Send cover letter, resume and references to hiring@headwatersalliance.org. Position open till filled, start date 4/2/2022. (3/9)

Saguache County Treasurer's Office is accepting applications for a full-time clerical position. Position is 40 hours per week, Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 4:00pm. Applicants must have Microsoft Excel, Word, 10-key, customer service, and bookkeeping experience. Must be able to answer phones, and wait on public. Starting salary is \$15.00/hr, but will be negotiable based on experience. Applications are available at Saguache County Administration Office at 505 3rd Street, Saguache, CO 81149, or by visiting the Saguache County website www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov. Position will remain open until filled. Must have high school diploma or GED. A background check and pre-employment drug screening is required. Saguache County is an E.O.E employer. (3/9)

Rio Grande County's Sheriff's Office is hiring two Weekend Court Administrative Assistants.

These positions will assist the Sheriff with reports, bookings and reporting data to the State of Colorado, District Attorney, Court/Administrative Assistants will be required to file jail/detention bookings with the weekend courts. Work schedule is Friday thru Monday 10-hour shifts. Applicants will be required to pass a 10 panel drug test, including marijuana. Starting pay is \$16.30 per hour DOE. These will be Full time positions with Full Benefit package: Medical, dental, vision, 4% Retirement match plus Life insurance. Full job description and application are available at www.riograndecounty.org. (3/9)

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. (3/30)

The City of Monte Vista is currently seeking the services of a city attorney or attorneys to fulfill the duties and responsibilities described in this Request for Proposal (RFP) for the City Attorney position. The City is inviting

individual attorneys, or firms, to respond to this RFP with Statements of Qualifications for the purpose of providing the City with the needed legal services listed in the request. All RFP's must be

submitted by March 28, 2022 by 5:00PM Please contact City Clerk, Unita Vance for the RFP information at 719-852-6171 or uvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us. You can also locate the information at www.ci.monte-vista.co.us



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The City of Monte Vista is currently seeking the services of a Municipal Judge to fulfill the duties and responsibilities described in this Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Municipal Judge position. The City is inviting individual to respond to this RFP with Statements of Qualifications for the purpose of providing the City with the needed legal services listed in the request. All RFP's must be submitted by March 28, 2022 by 5:00PM Please contact City Clerk, Unita Vance for the RFP information at 719-852-6171 or uvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us. You can also locate the information at www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov

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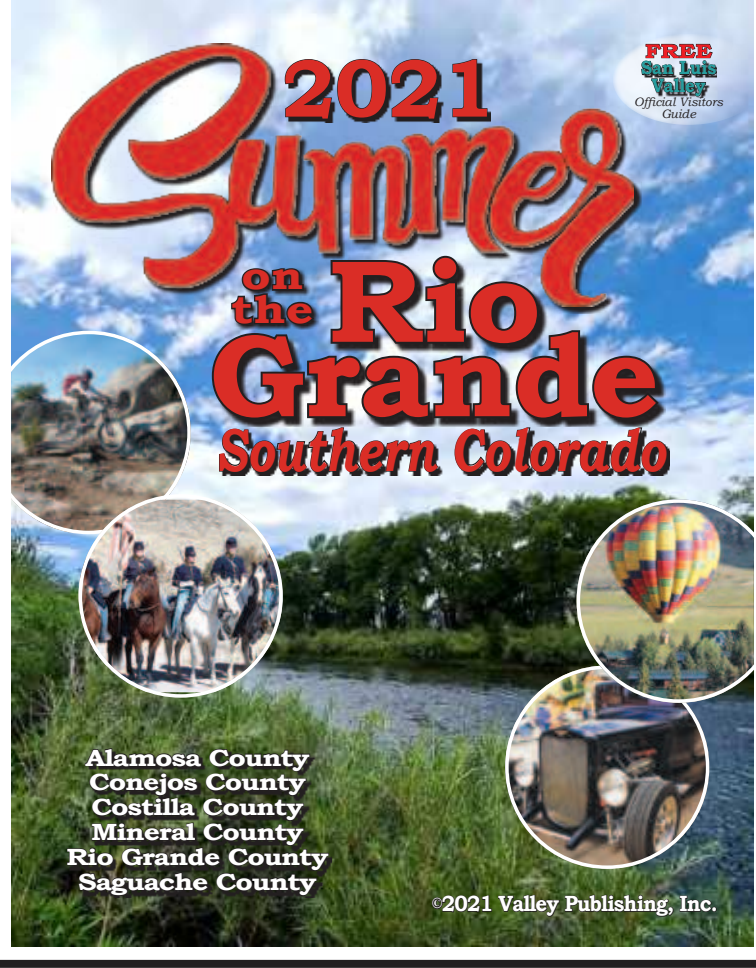
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SdCNHA offers youth programs

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA) is looking for students to participate in its Caminos de Valle Youth Walking Tours and its Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Camp.

With 11,000 years of documented human habitation, the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area is a crossroads of the centuries. Here a blend of Native American, Hispano and Anglo settlement is reflected in the diversity of the people, art and traditions. The geographic isolation of the high desert San Luis Valley and the peoples' enduring ties to the land have given rise to a rich cultural heritage and ensured its preservation.

The area's fertile cultural landscape is complemented by remarkable natural resources, including the mighty Rio Grande, majestic Rocky Mountain

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

Caminos de Valle Youth Walking Tours: SdCNHA will train six youth, ages 16-18, in group leadership roles that will lead walking tours in neighborhoods and public lands, cultural and historical nature, land and water conservation, nature-based education, walk facilitation, and tourism all within the heritage area. Students will choose the topics and locations they would like to lead tours in as well as becoming CPR certified, trained in public speaking,

self-defense, history, culture, and traditions. Each youth leader will receive a stipend at the end of the program for leading guided walking tours in the month of June, 2022. This program is free to the youth.

Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area Camp: SdCNHA will host two one-week-long camps in June. One for middle school aged students and one for high school aged students. This is an opportunity for youth to learn local history, heritage, traditions, and culture by visiting a variety of sites within the heritage area as historians will be able to elaborate on such topics and answer questions. This program is free to the youth.

If interested, fill out an application online at www.sangreheritage.org/collaborate/ and email to info@sdcnha.org or hand deliver to 231 State Ave. in Alamosa.

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MONTE VISTA COOP NATIONAL AG MONTH

1901 E Hwy 160 Monte Vista, Colorado 719-852-5181 www.mvcoop.com



Coloring Contest



Eligibility:

- Child must be between the ages of 3-13 years.
- Child must be a resident of the San Luis Valley.

Coloring Contest Guidelines

- The picture provided by the Monte Vista Coop should be used as the official entry into the coloring contest.
- Coloring must be the original work of the child submitting the entry.
- The child's (artist) name, age, address, phone number, and email (opt), parent/guardian name(s) should be written on the entry form.
- Age categories will include: 6 and under, 7-10, 11-13.
- There will be one winner from each category.
- Only one entry per child.

Timeline

- The coloring contest is in correspondence with the Monte Vista Coop Ag Week celebration March 21-26, 2022.
- Deadline to submit entries will be March 21, 2022.
- Winners will be announced March 25, 2022.
- Entries submitted to the Monte Vista Coop can be submitted in hard copy form via mail, dropped off at the Monte Vista Coop main office, or electronic format (email), and must be received by the March 21, 2022 by 5:00 pm.

Contest Prize

- \$50 gift card to the Monte Vista Coop

Mail entries to:
 Monte Vista Coop
 Agriculture Coloring Contest
 Attn: Stephanie Schaefer
 1901 E. Hwy 160
 Monte Vista, CO 81144
Email:
 sschaefer@mvcoop.com

**ONE WINNER FROM EACH AGE
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 \$50 MVC GIFT CERTIFICATE**

ENTRY DEADLINE

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022

Winners will be announced March 25, 2022 on mvcoop.com

● **NAME:** _____ ●

AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

● **EMAIL:** _____ ●

YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

Gemini the Twins

A constellation high overhead above Orion in the southwest is Gemini the Twins. It's easy to identify because it contains 2 of the bright Winter Circle stars, Pollux, and Castor. They are famous brothers in Greco-Roman mythology and are the heads of the twins.

There are a total of 13 stars in this constellation. The Milky Way runs through its legs and Orion's upper arms, and the feet are just northeast of Betelgeuse. It's a prominent Zodiacal constellation, and one of the few that look like what they're called.

The twins are the sons of Queen Leda of Sparta, and brothers of Helen of Troy whose beauty instigated the Trojan War. Castor's father is the King of Sparta. When Zeus seduced his mother, Pollux was born. So, they're half brothers, and not twins. They served as shipmates with Jason on the Argo, and they were among the Argonauts who went in search of the golden fleece of Aires the Ram.

When Castor died, Pollux begged his father to give him immortality. He did and united them together in the heavens. Gemini the Twins looks like two bodies standing next to each other holding hands.

The brighter star Pollux is a single



yellow star 34 light years from us. Castor is a multi-star system with two white stars visible with a telescope. There's also a faint red star, and each star is a double making Castor a total of six stars. It's also famous for having planets.

M35 is to the lower right of Gemini near the foot stars and is an open star cluster 20 light years across and 2,700 light years from us. It's visible with unaided vision, but obviously binoculars or a telescope will show you what wonders it contains. M36, 37 and 38 are just to the right of it. They're all in front of the Milky Way.

Since the new moon was on the 2nd and the first quarter is on the 10th, this is a perfect time to go out in the evening and look at the sky. The Zodiacal light will be visible through April on clear nights when the moon isn't shining. So, the next few nights are a perfect time to look for it.

SF Fire Ladies Auxiliary offering two scholarships

SOUTH FORK — The South Fork Fire Rescue Ladies Auxiliary is offering two scholarships in 2022. The South Fork Fire Rescue Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship is awarded twice a year to individuals looking for a career in EMS, paramedic, fire or rescue.

To apply, you must be a resident of Alamosa, Rio Grande, Conejos, Costilla, Saguache, Mineral, Archuleta, or La Plata counties and be a high school graduate or possess a G.E.D. For more information and application, visit online www.southforkfirerescue.com/scholarship.

Monte Vista Youth Basketball Camp registration is open

MONTE VISTA — Registration for Youth Basketball Camp through the City of Monte Vista is open. The camp is Aug. 2-4 at Monte Vista High

School gymnasium and is for boys and girls in grades 7-12. Register now and save 20 percent by calling 719-852-8287.

TRANSIT

Continued from Page 1
from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Center Town Hall.

- Wednesday, March 9 in Monte Vista from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Sunflower Bank; in Del Norte from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Lowes Market; in South Fork from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Dollar General; in Creede from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Kentucky Belle Market.

- Tuesday, March 15 in Alamosa from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Adams State University Student Union Building; in La Jara from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Jack's Market; in Antonito from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at Chavez Southwest Market.

- Wednesday, March 16 in San Luis from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Costilla County Social Services; in Fort Garland from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Blanca Community Center; and in Blanca from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Lu's Main Street Café.

The Chaffee Shuttle received funding in 2021 from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to complete a transit planning study for the San Luis Valley. The purpose of the study is to identify transit challenges in the region and to develop a plan to increase the availability of transit to the community.

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



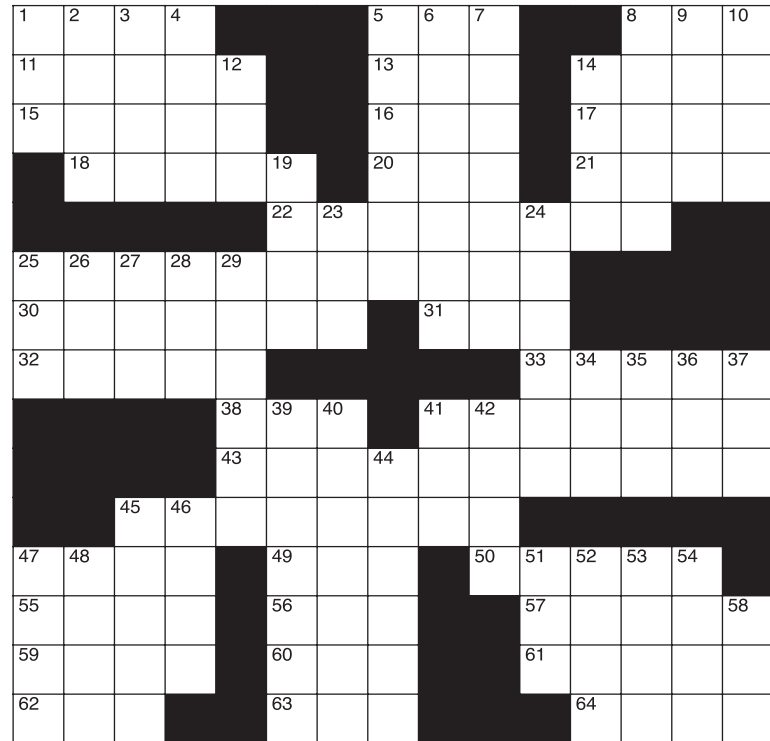
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CLUES ACROSS

- Gather a harvest
- Federal Republic of Germany
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- "The Little Mermaid"
- The common gibbon
- Volcanic island in Fiji
- Mother of Perseus
- Egg cells
- Teams' best pitchers
- Credit associations
- Advance
- Hair styling products
- Benign tumors
- Arriving early
- Called it a career
- ___ Paulo, city
- Avoid with trickery
- Easter egg
- Veterans battleground
- Lack of success
- Thing that causes disgust
- Deep, continuing sound
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- You might put it in a fire
- Partner to "oohed"
- Actor Idris
- Slippery
- Plant of the bean family
- One point north of northeast
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Places to hang clothes
- Midwife
- Of she
- S. Korean statesman

Solution to last week's puzzle

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



CLUES DOWN

- Cool!
- Amounts of time
- Aboriginal people of Japan
- Popular veggies
- Wedding accessory
- Deep, narrow gorges
- Dry cereal
- Competitions that require speed
- Cain and ___
- Snake sound
- Type of amino acid (abbr.)
- Pattern of notes in Indian music
- Satisfy
- Misfire
- Nearsightedness
- Indicates before
- Increase motor speed
- When you hope to get there
- Indicates position
- Where rockers perform
- Substitute

- ___ juris: of one's own right
- Earliest form of modern human in Europe: ___-magnon
- Adult female bird
- Do away with
- Lens
- Flattened appendage
- Post or pillar in Greek temple
- A medieval citizen of Hungary
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Abba ___, Israeli politician
- Sew
- Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits
- Swiss river
- Grayish-white
- A way to illustrate
- College basketball superpower
- Midway between south and southeast

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9th Annual Concert for Cancer Relief is March 12

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

ALAMOSA — Eliza Gilkyson will join Tish Hinojosa and Alamosa's own Don Richmond for the 9th Annual Concert for Cancer Relief songwriter-in-the-round on Saturday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m. at Society Hall, 400 Ross Ave. in Alamosa. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

The concert benefits the San Luis Valley Cancer Relief Fund. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at The Green Spot in Alamosa, online at www.slvcrf.org or via email at SLVCancerRelief@gmail.com. This event has sold out each of the past six years. Ticket holders will have an opportunity to stream the concert live online this year to watch from home near or far. More information will be available at the time of purchase.

Gilkyson is a twice Grammy-nominated (2006 and 2015) singer-songwriter who is one of the most respected musicians in folk, roots, and Americana circles. Her songs have been covered by Joan Baez, Bob Geldof, The Conspirare Choir, Tom Rush, and Rosanne Cash and have appeared in films, PBS, specials and on prime-time TV. A member of the Austin Music Hall of Fame, and an inductee into the Austin Songwriter Hall of Fame, she has won countless Folk Alliance and Austin Music awards, including 2014's Songwriter of the Year.

Gilkyson recently released the follow-up to her critically acclaimed political masterpiece, "2020", which topped the folk radio charts and won Eliza the "Best Song of the Year" award from the Folk International Alliance. Her new album, "Songs from the River Wind", is what she calls her love letter to the Old West. It's composed of snapshots of the people and places, lives and loves lost and found over her years of wandering the West as a musical minstrel, searching for her heart's home. The album was recorded and produced by Richmond at Alamosa's own Howlin' Dog Records and has been warmly received by reviewers and the public alike. It is currently the No. 2 album in the country on the national Folk Music chart.

Says No Depression magazine, "Songs from the River Wind" is sheer perfection from first note to last..."

Feeling the need to take a little break from the socio-political music that she felt compelled to write for her last six albums, the twice Grammy-nominated artist moved her base from Austin, Texas, to Taos, N.M. Inspired by

memories of characters and events that birthed her enduring love affair with the West, the songs span 40 years — from originals to vintage classics — and culminates with her recent decision to relocate permanently to Taos, where she is sinking down deep roots at long last. For more information, go to www.elizagilkyson.com.

Hinojosa is a Mexican-American singer-songwriter born in San Antonio, Texas, and living most recently in Austin, Texas. She is the youngest of 13 children born to two Mexican immigrants who, as stated in her song "West Side of Town" "made a good life the hard way..."

Her songs blend the genres of country, folk, and Hispanic music in a way that can only be described as a musical melting pot: unique and insightful. She sings and writes in Spanish and English and has many bilingual songs, including a full album of children's songs that has often been used by teachers as a tool for teaching the Spanish language.

The Chicago Tribune put it succinctly "Simply put, Hinojosa is a first-class songwriter." Tish's blend of folk, country, Latino, and pop has an undeniable far-reaching appeal, garnering her accolades such as a White House concert and teaming up with artists such as Joan Baez, Booker T. Jones, Flaco Jimenez, Pete Seeger, and Dwight Yoakam.

She has recorded as an independent artist as well as for A&M, Warner Bros, and Rounder Records and has been a featured artist on Austin City Limits, A Prairie Home Companion, and other NPR programs. With 17 CDs to her name, her distinct sound has gained her much critical acclaim. Hinojosa has toured extensively throughout the U.S. and Europe and continues to draw a loyal and growing audience.

Currently Hinojosa is ramping up her solo career and tour dates after an 18-month hiatus due to COVID. She also continues to play and write with her Latina music trio "The Texicana Mamas" (launched in 2018) who released their first album in 2020, amid the pandemic. Their initial gig was played at the Bluebird Café in Nashville, and they have since played at The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC in early 2020 (just pre-pandemic) and the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville in September 2021, as well as headlining at the Kerrville Folk Festival in October of 2021. This group will tour together as soon as conditions allow.

For more information go to www.mundotish.com.

Richmond has been a professional performing musician for more than 50 years. He regularly performs and records on more than a dozen instruments including electric and acoustic guitars, mandolin, violin, viola, dobro, pedal steel guitar, banjo, harmonica, accordion, trumpet and percussion and is an award-winning songwriter. He has released seven solo CDs, four other albums with the Colorado band Tumbleweed earlier in his career, three with the Taos, N.M.-based group Hired Hands, six with the New Mexico-based group The Riffers, two as a duo with David Clemmer, and two with his older brothers as the Richmond Brothers.

Richmond owns and operates Howlin' Dog Records, which has recorded and released hundreds of recordings by many local, regional, and national artists. He has also been an Artist-In-Residence and Aesthetic Institute instructor in Colorado Council of the Arts' Art in Education program. He created and recorded the music for the public television documentary Roy Bedichek's "Vanishing Frontier," the highly acclaimed civil-rights documentary film "We Did It All Ourselves," and a film on the plight of Katrina refugees titled "Still Waiting - Life After Katrina," which aired nationally in the fall of 2007.

In late 2004, Richmond published a book on performance psychology and creativity titled "Getting Your Music Past the Fear." He is also a regularly featured contributor on creativity to the nationally-syndicated radio program "The Art of the Song." He is currently on the board of Crestone Performances, Inc., which produces the Crestone Music Festival, the Society Hall Foundation, which owns and operates the non-profit performance space Society

Hall in Alamosa, and is a past board member of the Alamosa Live Music Association.

He also volunteers for and supports numerous other local non-profit organizations. Don was awarded an honorary doctorate in musical performance from Adams State University in 2014 and in 2015 received the Governor's Award for Creative Leadership in the state of Colorado. He makes his home with his wife Teri McCartney a few miles outside of Alamosa. Richmond has become a staple of the annual Concert for Cancer Relief, having been through the cancer journey himself. For more information, go to www.donrichmond.com.

The SLVCRF acts as a channel, collecting money through fundraisers and memberships, and then passing that on to local cancer patients through stipends of now \$350 starting in 2022. Founded in 2006, the organization continues to grow more every year. SLVCRF has provided hundreds of valley patients with over \$170,000 in relief. The annual Concert for Cancer Relief is the organization's biggest fundraiser of the year.

"It truly touches my heart being

part of a wonderful organization like SLVCRF. It amazes me each and every time we issue one of our stipends that we are able to bring some relief and financial support to fellow members of our community that have been impacted by cancer. We greatly appreciate all of our donors for their continued support," stated Sophia Avila, SLVCRF President and board member since 2012.

The SLVCRF is a totally volunteer organization with a dedicated seven-member board from across the Valley who have themselves been touched by cancer and want to help others in that journey. The bulk of our funds raised comes from individual-family memberships and fundraisers like the Concert for Cancer Relief.

Individuals wanting to become members can send a check to the San Luis Valley Cancer Relief Fund, PO Box 1297, Alamosa, CO, 81101 or visit www.SLVCRF.org. Businesses that wish to become concert sponsors can contact Avila at SLVCancerRelief@gmail.com or at 719.580.2042. The deadline for business sponsorship is March 5.

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~ Sally H., Google Reviews

FOSF announces Brennan as new director

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

SOUTH FORK — The Friends of South Fork (FOSF) introduced its new Director, Luke Brennan. Luke and his wife, Judith, moved to the area full-time two years ago and are looking forward to helping the community grow through their efforts with FOSF.

“My wife, Judith, and I have been full-time in South Fork for two years. We have a Chesapeake Bay Retriever named Sammie and a Pekingese named Mugsie,” Luke said. “We came to the area from upstate New York because we both went to college in Colorado (I graduated from CSU and Judith went to UNC Greeley) and love the state for fishing, skiing, ATVing, hunting, and 300 days of sunshine. We owned property here since 1992 and built our home here on that property.”

Brennan has many goals for the FOSF, one of which is to continue the forward momentum of the organization within the community.

“My goal as director of the Friends of South Fork is to continue the legacy missions that have defined the organization in the past: the lights at the Visitor Center and the Water Tower, Yuletide, Winterfest, supporting the skating rink, Logger Days, 4th of July Celebrations, beautification of the town with flowers and landscaping and sculptures, etc. Anything we can do to make the town more beautiful, friendly, fun, and welcoming, which benefits everyone,” he said.

Brennan added, “I also hope to cultivate the spirit of philanthropy which made the South Fork Friends Foundation possible in the first place. Financial donations from businesses and individuals are what keeps us alive and allows us to do the work we do. We are updating our website, designing a new brochure, increasing our presence

on Facebook and other social media in order to enhance our outreach and let people know who we are, what we do, and why it makes sense to direct some of their charitable contributions to our organization.”

FOSF is well known in the region for its community generosity and projects over the past several years. FOSF consists of a Board of Directors and a Committee. The board meets quarterly and discusses higher-level subjects like finances, budgets, strategic planning, fundraising initiatives, and outreach programs.

According to Brennan, the Committee meets monthly or more frequently depending on need and are the “feet on the ground.” The Committee identifies and prioritizes projects and activities to make South Fork a better place to live, work, and enjoy.

“This is the team that puts up and takes down Christmas decorations, helps install and un-install the skating rink, helps clean up the roadways, puts on the community-wide garage sale, helps with the Chili cook-off, Logger Days, Fourth of July celebrations,

Trunk-or-Treat at Halloween, buys and donates things like the Pickle Ball court resurfacing, the bearsculpture in front of the Community Center, the ice skates for the skating rink, new tables and chairs for the Community Center, plants and flowers each year for the Community Center and Visitor Center, etc. Several hundred people, mostly families, enjoy the Yuletide and Winterfest activities that the Committee puts on in November and December each year. Our team consists of a group of volunteers, dedicated individuals from all walks of life,

each bringing a different skillset, and everyone focused on doing what we do best: Turning ideas into actions for the betterment of South Fork,” said Brennan.

Friends of South Fork welcomed new members to the Committee for 2022 — Brennan as the Director, long-time member Kris Steffens, Tanya Gorton, Wendi Custer, new member and South Fork Police Chief Sean Burkey, new South Fork Administrator Hank Weber, new South Fork Visitor Center Director Dustin Hund, Michele Nation and Rick Morgan.

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

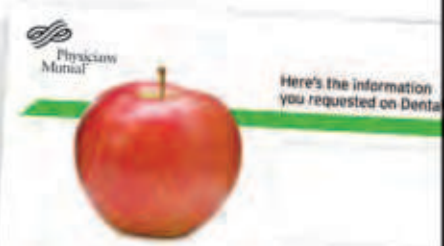
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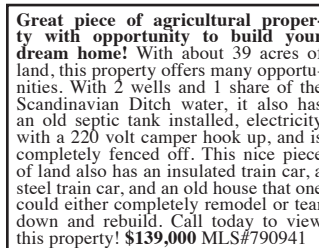
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