

Center PD warns community about homemade weapons

BY MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — Center Police Department Chief Dale Meek released a statement in his email newsletter regarding several types of homemade weapons that have

been seized in recent weeks by the department.

“I want to make everyone aware of several homemade weapons we have been confiscating and charging subjects with,” Meek stated. “These

items have the purpose of hurting, maiming and seriously injuring people. They are not normal knives and guns you find on the street but are just as likely to kill or injure.”

One item was a weighted baton,

Meek stated — a long, black cylinder-shaped item with a strap used to hold it to the wrist. Weight is added to make it heavier to cause more physical damage to a person when it is used.

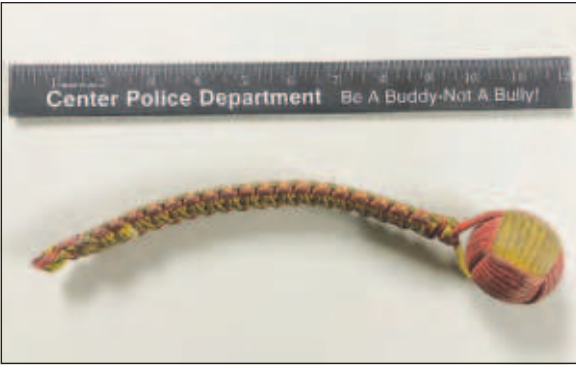
“Officers located this baton concealed in an arrestee’s pants along the left leg,” Meek stated. “The strap was placed so the person could quickly pull the baton and attack with it while keeping it concealed to the normal eye. The baton was encountered when the suspect resisted and obstructed a narcotics investigation during a traffic stop.”

Meek continued to explain that a second item recently encountered by officers is known as a “prison shank”

— a homemade sharp object used to stab. He described it as a section of metal with a tape-wrapped handle and a sharpened point.

The third item of note discussed by Meek was what is known as a blackjack or slapjack. This weapon that was also discovered by CPD, was formed from a 12-inch section of paracord that had a heavy weighted ball attached to the end. This weapon is used to strike a person with the weighted ball, using the paracord as a long handle. Blackjacks are primarily used to strike someone in the head, face, or neck.

Meek stated that people should contact the CPD if they encounter any suspicious items.



Photos courtesy of Center Police Department



Shorts

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.

Youth Basketball Camp registration is open

MONTEVISTA — 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.

Conejos Republicans Precinct Caucus is March 1

CONEJOS COUNTY — The Conejos County Republicans will hold its Precinct Caucuses on Tuesday, March 1. All precincts, 1-10, will meet in Manassa at the Opera House at 7 p.m. The meeting will begin with everyone together and then divide into individual precincts for the caucus meetings.

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

Please see TRANSIT on Page 5A



Graphic courtesy of the Chaffee Shuttle



Kelher is new RGNF Deputy Forest Supervisor

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — The Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) announced Feb. 24 that Andrew Kelher was appointed to serve as the next Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Forest. Kelher comes to the RGNF

Please see KELHER on Page 5A

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held at Outcalt Center at Ski Hi Complex



BY MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex on Friday, Feb. 25. A project that was many years in the making was complete, and Mayor Dale Becker cut the ribbon with a smile, surrounded by the project’s

Please see OUTCALT on Page 6A

Monte Vista Mayor Dale Becker does the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon for the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex on Friday in Monte Vista as Friends of Ski members Karla Shriver (left) and Kathy Rogers-Woods (right) hold the ends of the ribbon. Shriver and Woods were the driving force behind the \$8.6 million project.

Photo by Brian Williams

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OBITUARIES

Longtime valley resident Daniel Alfredo Rios, 87, passed away at the Homelake Veterans Home on Feb. 17, 2022. He was born on Feb. 15, 1935, in Morenci, Ariz., to Camilo and Concepcion (Haro) Rios.

Camilio was a Presbyterian, and later a Baptist, Minister. Camilio was also a homeopathic doctor, a miner, a taxicab driver, and a world-class tortilla maker who had immigrated from Mexico at the age of 25.

Concepcion was born in Bisbee, Ariz., and was a world-class cook and later a Sunday School teacher. Besides raising Daniel, his brother David and two sisters Clementina and Helen, she helped Camilo man several church postings in Arizona and Colorado and then later as they built several independent churches in Texas. They would buy or build small churches, develop a flock of parishioners, then give the church to the parishioners.

In the meantime, Camilo, Concepcion, and the children developed a brand of tortilla, Mrs. Rios Tortillas. The brand was purchased eventually by outside investors who still make Mrs. Rios Tortillas in Texas for both regional and international sales.

The family grew up on the sides



of one of the largest copper open-pit mines in the world and their house would constantly be moved by the mining company back from the edge of the mine as the mine expanded. The children grew up playing around the edges of a few different mining operations and as a result each child was born in a completely different mining town in the mountains of Arizona.

The family had to raise goats because Daniel was allergic to cow milk and he and his brother David herded the goats up and down the mountain sides and goat products completely replaced any cow products for the whole family. The whole family in the end absolutely hated anything goat. If Daniel walked

Daniel Alfredo Rios

into a restaurant or something and caught a whiff of anything goat he would turn around and walk out, there was no way he was eating at any establishment that served goat products.

The family eventually moved to San Angelo, Texas, where they would firmly establish the Mrs. Rios Tortilla brand. It was in high school in San Angelo that Daniel would meet Gloria Valadez and started a romance that lasted right up until the day Daniel passed with Gloria at his side.

After graduation, he honorably served his country in the United States Navy, joining with his high school buddy Henry "Rata" Alonzo. They both were qualified signalmen and on occasion their respective ships

would be assigned to the same task force. Daniel and Rata spent many a late night on watch on the Bridge passing the night BS'ing ship to ship in morse code with signal lights or signal flags. Daniel was so proud of his service that the US Navy was without a doubt his favorite topic of discussion.

The assignment of the USS Rowan, the middle name he gave his youngest son by the way, was to hunt for Chinese submarines in the Formosa Straight between China and Taiwan. The US destroyer was in a constant state of alert as Taiwan had only recently declared independence from China and the ships assigned to the Formosa Straight Patrol were there to slow down the expected Chinese invasion of Taiwan until other forces

could be moved into the Straight to help protect the Taiwanese. Congress had even considered giving that tour of duty its own campaign ribbon because of the constant state of battle readiness the sailors had to maintain. At that time it was probably one of the most dangerous waterways to navigate on the planet!

About halfway through his tour of duty, he went back to San Angelo, Texas, to marry Gloria Valadez on Aug. 4, 1956, three days after Gloria turned 21. Daniel moved Gloria to Southern California where she lived with her relatives whenever Daniel was out to sea. It was in Southern California that they had their first child, Daniel Jr., who was born for the grand total cost of \$9 thanks to

Please see RIOS on Page 5A

Rocky A. Birdsey

and taught himself how to make his longbows and arrows. He was happiest spending time with family; hunting, fishing, camping and being in the Creede Mountains. He was proud of his Creede heritage and was honored to have had a hand in helping to develop and build the Creede Underground Mining Museum and Community Center.

Rocky is survived by his wife of 58 years, Iris Ruth Sword Birdsey, his son, Rocky "Shane" Birdsey (Susan), Creede, Colo.; grandson Cole Birdsey (Stasha), Creede, Colo.; granddaughter Kaitlin Birdsey, Grand Junction, Colo.; and great-granddaughter Brennan Chaney, Grand Junction, Colo. His sister, Uvaughn Beal (Alfred), Farmington, Colo. Numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins who he loved dearly.

He was preceded in death by his brother Norman Birdsey and sister Leslie Yanchunis Williams.

The family greatly appreciates the



amazing group of people from Angels Care Hospice in Prescott, Ariz., for their support and care during Rocky's last hours at home.

At this time there are no plans for a service. Rocky requested his ashes be spread on the "Snowshoe" in Creede. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to Creede Underground Mining Museum, P.O. Box 422, Creede, CO 81130.

Sandra Lee Weiss

Long-time Moffat resident, Sandra Lee Weiss, age 75, passed away on Feb. 19, 2022. Sandra was born in 1946 in Denver, Colo., and married Alfred Weiss in 1968, recently celebrating 53 years of marriage.

Sandra earned her Bachelor's of Science degree in Nursing in 1968 and served in the Army Nursing Corps (ANC) as a 2nd Lt. Afterwards, she pursued her passion of Nursing by serving the community as a Public Health Nurse, Hospice Nurse and school nurse in the San Luis Valley, also known as the "San Luis Valley Caregiver" to many community members.

When she wasn't serving her community, she helped and supported Alfred on their family ranch. Sandra enjoyed sewing, cooking, reading, socializing with the neighbors and caring for the many animals that found their way to her door.

Sandra was preceded in death by her Father Sandy Comito, Mother Valerie Comito and Sister Shirley Fearn.

She is survived by her two brothers, Steven (Jackie) Comito, Joseph (Robbie) Comito and sister, Maria (Jamie) Flansburg, sons, Michael (Yvette) Weiss, Matthew Weiss, daughter Michelle (Alan) Wilson, grandsons, Eli, Christopher, Nathan, granddaughters, Natalie, Emily and numerous nieces and nephews.

A public viewing was conducted



on Monday, Feb. 28, 2022, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Rogers Family Mortuary in Alamosa. A funeral mass celebrating Sandy's life will be conducted on Thursday, March 10, at 11 a.m., Nativity of our Lord Catholic Church in Broomfield, Colo., followed by a Committal Service at Fort Logan National Cemetery, Staging Area C at 2:15 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the following organizations: Alzheimer's Association of Colorado, American Legion in Saguache, VFW Post 899 in Alamosa and the American Cancer Society of Colorado and may be made in care of the funeral home office. To express condolences, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com

Rocky Arlen Birdsey, 76, passed away peacefully at home in Cordes Lakes, Ariz., on Feb. 27, 2022. The son of Sam and Garnet Birdsey, Rocky was a third generation Creedite born in Del Norte, Colo., on Nov. 19, 1945. Rocky graduated from Creede High School in 1963 and loved being a part of the legendary Creede Boys Basketball team, going to State all four years!

He married his high school sweetheart, Iris, in 1963 and together they raised their only child, Rocky "Shane" Birdsey.

After surviving an accident at the Emperius Mine in 1966, where he lost his brother Norman, Rocky spent time working at the Emperius Mill. He then began working for Mineral County, alongside his father Sam, on the Mineral County Road and Bridge Crew as a heavy equipment operator and welder.

After 40 years of service to Mineral County, he retired and he and Iris became Snowbirds, going between their homes in Cordes Lakes, Ariz., and Creede, Colo.

Rocky was the quintessential "Mountain Man". He loved being in the mountains hunting and fishing. He was an outstanding bow hunter

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

I wasn't talking to you



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

Way back when Ol' Dutch interviewed Miss Trixie for a position on "the team," I was working at the local church helping remodel.

And as luck would or would not have it — depending on if you are me or her — she showed up about that time in my life and offered to help. Now Ol' Dutch should have known then and there it was all a ruse to corral this stallion but I was desperate for help and fell for it hook, line and sinker.

So, help she did and she also pulled out all stops by asking me over to her mom's house for dinner every day. I know. I should have seen that coming from 10 miles away but her mom could cook and I was hungry, and so here we are.

But I did like her mom and dad and we could have spirited conversations about life and the world as all three of

us were of the conservative persuasion. However, Miss Trixie having a short leg on her left side often found it necessary to interject her liberal viewpoint. To which her mother would say, "we weren't talking to you."

I loved it. That saying has come in handy more than once in the intervening 10 years of relationship bliss as Miss Trixie has a tendency to listen in to any and everything I say. Of course, this is needed as she has to correct my every word if it does not line up with her agenda.

Of late I have been just saying "you are right and I am wrong" to which she tries to argue that is not true all the while maintaining her point of view.

Now, normally Ol' Dutch does not care if she listens in on my conversations as there is nothing secret going on there but lately it's taken on a life of its own.

No longer can I sit in my chair late

at night and talk to Cooper the dog or myself without hearing her interject something from the bedroom. I swear she can be sound asleep and hear me talking to myself and ask follow-up questions. And since I cannot hear her shouting from the bedroom, she sends a rash of text messages on my phone which I then have to answer thereby interrupting the latest episode of "Green Acres" on the tube.

And poor Cooper never even gets a chance to answer as she answers for him. Why just the other night I looked over at him and asked if he wanted something to eat. Immediately my phone blew up with texts telling me what he had had to eat that day and he didn't need anymore.

A quick "I wasn't talking to you" reply to Miss Trixie usually sends her back to her watching left-handed news

on her phone but the worst is when Ol' Dutch tries to have a conversation with himself.

It appears that is not allowed as she cannot, for the life of her, figure out who I am talking to in the living room while she is in bed. Little does she know that I am having probably the smartest conversation I have had all day considering most of my time is spent talking to my cows during daylight hours.

Then again, maybe not. They are pretty smart after all and Ol' Dutch is the one babbling on and on about hay, grain, and grass while they just look at me and eat it.

So I know what you are thinking. That maybe Ol' Dutch has slipped a cog or two in talking to himself but not to worry, I have not started to answer myself as of yet. For you see,

the questions I pose are way too hard for a feeble mind.

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

Concern over book is a time for civil discourse

Editor,
I am writing to express my concern over the potential book banning of "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas along with concerns about book censorship in general. As a Language Arts teacher at Del Norte High School, I see book banning anywhere as a threat to equality in education everywhere. I fully support the inclusion of this book in the curriculum and commend this teacher for the willingness to teach such a complex novel with such timely themes.

The censorship of books happens when one group disagrees with its material based on ideological objections. In a free, democratic society, this is morally reprehensible as well as counterproductive to the exercise of free thought. To clarify, I am not suggesting that individual persons or groups should not be able to hold their own values and morals, nor that they should not be allowed to dictate for themselves and their children the information to which they are exposed. The problem lies in allowing one person or group to decide for the whole, which expressly goes against the very idea of democracy and of a democratic education.

Does the book in question contain strong language? It does. That presents a perfect opportunity to discuss the power of language, something certainly no high schooler in a public school is new to experiencing from peers on a daily basis. Does the book in question contain a storyline that involves distrust for police? It does. And aren't we seeing and hearing plenty of distrust for our leaders—police force, politicians, or otherwise — that surely our teenagers are no strangers

to, whether hearing it from their own parents, peers, news stations, etc? The question should not be how do we silence these differing opinions, but rather how do we respectfully and appropriately voice distrust and concern with various leaders and authority figures?

And what about the redeeming qualities of the story? The book deals with the complex issues of adolescents' struggles to fit in, the importance of transcending one's situation to make a better life and more wholesome choices, how individuals can challenge societal stereotypes and judge people based on their character and personhood rather than skin color or any other assumptions, and the importance of a community coming together for the betterment of all. I cannot think of more timely and imperative themes to discuss with today's adolescents.

To those challenging this book, I humbly ask you to consider, if the school board were to move forward with this banning, where do they stop? And according to whom and whose specific set of values are these bans made? Are you suggesting they solely be based on your ideology? Therein lies the problem. Would you want a different group of people motivated by entirely different morals and values from yours to decide for you or for your children what can or cannot be read or accessed? I anticipate the answer is a resounding no, and I would encourage you to apply the same standards to your egregious demand to have "The Hate U Give" banned.

Rather than remove the book from the school library or take it off the curriculum, there are several other

steps that could be taken. First, it is entirely reasonable to offer students an alternative selection. This does not dictate for the entire group what can or cannot be read, neither does it force any student to read a book his/her parents deem inappropriate. However, an even more effective approach than that course of action would be to provide some guiding discussion questions to encourage parent participation in the material at home. For any controversial topic (which, let's face it, can be anything in our current political climate), the best way to go about it is not to ignore the controversy but rather to engage in civil discourse regarding the topics and perspectives. This is not something our current society is particularly good at, but it can be taught in an appropriate manner that maintains respect and encourages appropriate sharing of all perspectives.

After all, isn't that the goal of public education? Isn't that what supposedly makes our melting pot of a nation so wonderful? Thankfully, we aren't all robots who believe exactly the same thing, and thankfully we all have that freedom to choose what those beliefs are. Banning books goes against that important ideal and fails to teach our children, the next generation, how to appropriately face and discuss controversy and opinions that differ from their own. Let's be the adults in the room and walk them through that, not through censorship based on one group's ideals, but through encouragement of civil discourse and respect for other perspectives.

*Elizabeth Bailey
Del Norte Language Arts Instructor*

Book serves as catalyst for further evaluation

Editor,
We feel the recent article detailing the events at the Monte Vista School District Board meeting presented a mischaracterization of the goals of the parents involved. As parents, we first found the book, "The Hate U Give" problematic within the classroom because it was required reading for the class and it contains significant profanity, some sexual content, as well as plenty of content that we, and others, find ideologically objectionable.

We received no warning or notification of these things. The initial discussion with the teacher included requesting an alternative assignment. The offerings were inadequate and outside of the scope of the class. Upon further review of the class materials that were being presented we found that the materials presented only one side of a very politically divisive issue and the students were not given the opportunity for discourse.

We would characterize some of the material as Critical Race Theory propaganda, especially when infused with a one-sided discussion led by

the teacher. We feel the newspaper presented the parents' objections as those to racism being presented in the classroom.

We have no objection to a straightforward presentation of racism as it has been defined for years within this country, but current definitions have shifted and are now a source of contention.

This class is not intended to be a class analyzing political topics, rather, students are supposed to be learning about literary analysis. We did not ask for the book to be banned, but rather it not be utilized as required material within a classroom.

We would also like to see additional transparency of instruction materials and an unbiased presentation of materials. The statements at the board meeting were larger than the concerns with this book, this book merely served as a catalyst for a further evaluation of that to which our children were subject.

*Bart and Ruthanna Seger,
Kenneth and Barbara Sears, Seth
and Ashli Adams, and Brian and
Angela Waggoner
Monte Vista*

Commentary: Water is more precious than gold these days

BY REP. LAUREN BOEBERT

People in Washington, D.C., or in Denver may not understand this, but the San Luis Valley's foundation is farmers and ranchers who have worked the same soil for generations. The Valley's agriculture industry depends on sustainable groundwater supplies in the Valley's aquifers. Recently, a \$600-million proposal to pump seven billion gallons of water per year from one of the San Luis Valley aquifers to the

Denver suburbs while also drying up at least 22,667 irrigated acres in the Valley has begun to pick up steam.

There are good people on both sides of this issue who genuinely think that what they are doing is in the best interest of their communities. Having said that, the Third Congressional District has fought similar proposals for decades as someone is always trying to steal our water and send it to the Front Range. I stand with

Please see WATER on Page 8A

CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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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.

End of CTC impacting families living in poverty

BY MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — The U.S. Census Bureau is reporting that families living in poverty are having a harder time paying usual household expenses since the end of the Child Tax Credit. Saguache County has a poverty rate of 21 percent.

According to the Katherine G. Giefer of the U.S. Census Bureau, "More households with children had difficulty paying for usual household expenses after the Child Tax Credit (CTC) payments ended in December, according to new Household Pulse Survey (HPS) results. The U.S.

Census Bureau's HPS previously showed that reports of hardship among households with children decreased when CTC payments began in July 2021."

CTC payments were issued from July to December of last year. The payments consisted of a monthly payment of \$300 per each child under 6 and \$250 per child aged 6 to 17. The HPS survey found that 35% of adults who lived in households with children found it increasingly difficult to cover normal household costs after the payments ended.

As an example, a family of four

with two children under the age of 6, would have received \$600 a month. This amount is equal to 25% of the poverty guideline, meaning that those below the poverty limit received a significant increase to their available resources.

Also of note, households that received CTC payments, after those payments ended, were more likely to borrow money from family, or rely on credit cards to pay their regular monthly expenses. Households who received CTC reported spending their payments on basic needs, like rent, utilities or food.

Rio Grande County Security Deputy Duran arrested

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA— A Rio Grande County Security Deputy was arrested Friday on suspicion of domestic violence and stalking charges, according to the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office.

On Friday, Feb. 25, Jerry Duran, 47, was arrested in Monte Vista. Duran was charged with suspicion

of domestic violence, harassment, stalking, extortion and retaliation against a witness/victim charges.

This is an ongoing investigation between the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office and the Monte Vista Police Department.

No additional information will be released, including details of

the investigation or the victim's information at this time.

Per department policy, Duran was placed on administrative leave.

The Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office expressed its gratitude to MVPD Chief George Dingfelder and his department in the joint investigation.

Man arrested on suspicion of stabbing, killing a man in Villa Grove

STAFF REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — A man was arrested for allegedly stabbing a man to death Wednesday evening, Feb. 23, in Villa Grove, according to the Saguache County Sheriff's Office.

The sheriff's office reported the incident happened around 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday in Villa Grove.

Deputies responded to a stabbing at a home and found a man inside the residence with stab wounds. The victim died at the scene. He has not been identified.

Dustin Ferguson was taken into custody that night and was charged with suspicion of first-degree murder. He was being held at the Saguache County Jail without bond.



The Colorado Bureau of Investigation is assisting with the investigation.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Monday, Feb. 21, 2022, and Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022.

The Sheriff's Department's activity on the road included one stolen vehicle, 13 traffic stops, two crashes with property damage and one traffic complaint. They also patrolled the Town of Saguache six times, did one VIN inspection and assisted a motorist.

In addition, there were two reports of fraud, two reports of suspicious activity, two reports of sex offense, one homicide report, and one theft

report.

They also responded to a missing person report, a deceased person report, an intoxicated person report, five civil disputes, two ambulance calls, one alarm, one welfare check, five controlled burns, one structure fire, one drug violation, provided information nine times, and assisted nearby agencies twice.

ARRESTS

• A 39-year-old Center man was arrested for suspicion of possession of an illegal weapon and failure to comply.

• A 35-year-old Villa Grove man was arrested on suspicion of first-degree murder.

San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2021-2022

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Class 1A	
Centennial 81	Moffat 26
Antonito 34	Cotopaxi 31
Sierra Grande 2	Lake City 0
Sangre de Cristo 60	Antonito 36
Centennial 46	Sierra Grande 37
3rd Place	
Sierra Grande 60	Antonito 51
Championship	
Sangre de Cristo 54	Centennial 33

Class 2A	
Del Norte 56	Lake County 16
Sanford 63	Crested Butte 19
Sargent 52	Custer County 16
Monte Vista 43	Center 26
Sanford 46	Monte Vista 16
Sargent 37	Del Norte 26
3rd Place	
Monte Vista 39	Del Norte 30
Championship	
Sanford 57	Sargent 27

Class 3A	
Centauri 49	Montezuma-Cortez 41
Pagosa Springs 41	Alamosa 20
3rd Place	
Alamosa 59	Montezuma-Cortez 30
Championship	
Pagosa Springs 51	Centauri 50 OT

BOYS BASKETBALL

Class 1A	
Creede 60	Antonito 36
Moffat 52	Centennial 48
Cotopaxi 57	Sangre de Cristo 23
Sierra Grande 2	Lake City 0
Sierra Grande 60	Moffat 28
Cotopaxi 60	Creede 43
3rd Place	
Creede 49	Creede 45
Championship	
Sierra Grande 74	Cotopaxi 20

Class 2A	
Center 79	Sargent 29
Crested Butte 59	Center 42
Del Norte 48	Custer County 43
Lake County 52	Monte Vista 47
Sanford 64	Trinidad 29
Sanford 46	Del Norte 37
Lake County 67	Crested Butte 65 OT
3rd Place	
Del Norte 50	Crested Butte 36
Championship	
Sanford 57	Lake County 40

Class 3A	
Centauri 59	Bayfield 41
Pagosa Springs 44	Alamosa 41
3rd Place	
Alamosa 62	Bayfield 47
Championship	
Centauri 58	Pagosa Springs 35

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OBITUARIES

RIOS Continued from Page 2A

the Navy. When Daniel was discharged, he and Gloria went back to Texas, packed all their belongings into a small trailer house and their car and with a 9-month-old Danny Jr. they headed for Colorado. Daniel's father had been assigned to the Presbyterian Church in San Pablo, Colo., near San Luis. Daniel and his father had come up with a plan to start a tortilla factory in Alamosa and everybody would pitch in to help make tortillas and Daniel could attend Adams State College to get his teaching degrees in Spanish and history.

Daniel eventually got his degree and then did his student teaching at Centauri High in La Jara. Daniel really enjoyed teaching but the tortilla business and the little café they had put on the end of the tortilla factory was really starting to take off. At that point though, they had no idea the monster they had created. It was not long after the move to Alamosa from Texas that Daniel met Chuck (Tusa) Lucero who became Daniel's best friend right up until Tusa passed.

From 10th and Ross in Alamosa, they moved the restaurant part of the operation to the Plaza Shopping Center next to the Adam State College campus. It did not take them too many years to outgrow the plaza shopping center even after adding on adjoining units in the shopping center. Daniel then moved the restaurant to 6th street into a furniture warehouse Daniel had converted into a restaurant.

At that point, the Rios family began to farm grain and alfalfa, run a cattle herd, run a sheep farm, all while exporting 100's of railroad cars a year of San Luis Valley barley to breweries in Mexico. It was because of the agriculture that Daniel met his other two best running buddies, John Divine of

Center and Dave Marsh of Mosca by way of Indiana and Kansas.

Also, at this time he met a young man named Juan de Lara, who for all practical purposes became an adopted son. Juan still works at Dos Rios and is helping Mike and Lucas Rios continue the legacy Dan and Gloria Rios had built. The greed of a couple of Daniel's business partners however ruined it for everybody. One took the money that should have been paying barley and potato farmers and left a lot of people hurting. Daniel paid back every one of those farmers just about everything they were owed and had to shut down all the agricultural operations in the process. In the meantime, the restaurant on 6th Street in Alamosa had been sold and the original Mrs. Rios name was no longer in Colorado.

So, back Daniel went into the restaurant business when he was offered a chance to take over the Farmer's Buffet in Center, Colo., when the lady who owned it had died suddenly and her family was trying to figure out how to make money out of the place without having to do any of the work. Daniel and Gloria didn't have the greatest deal there at the Farmer's Buffet, but they managed to make a living as they were building an almost whole new clientele than they had while in Alamosa.

After several busy years in Center Bill Ellithorpe of Center offered to sell Daniel and Gloria what had once been the Red Hat Trading Post north of Monte Vista, Colo. Daniel and Gloria remodeled the building and Dos Rios was born. There they were able to draw both the customers from Center and Alamosa to establish a very successful business now being run by Daniel's son Michael and grandson Lucas.

Daniel's mother was the source of most of the wonderful recipes

used at all these various locations. Daniel, however, took these recipes and improved on every one of them. If he found some interesting item out on a road trip or something in some little Mexican restaurant when he returned home, he would first duplicate what he had tried and then he would improve on it.

At least half of the Mexican restaurants in the San Luis Valley have owners or managers that at one time or other had worked for Daniel and would then eventually decide that they could do it better. Daniel along with the help of Gloria and the rest of the family had become the single-best driving force in raising the quality of the Mexican food across the entire San Luis Valley. He was absolutely one of a kind and will be greatly missed!

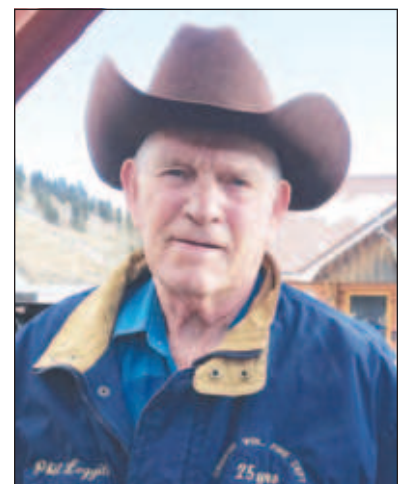
Daniel is survived by his wife Gloria Rios, his sons, Mike Rios and Danny Rios, his grandchildren Lucas Rios and Sianna Morgan, his brother David (Martha, Gloria's younger sister) Rios, his nieces Kathy Rios and Edna Rios, and great-grandsons Jaxon James Dean Morgan and Ryker Black Rios, as well as other extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his son Patrick Rowan Rios and his sisters Helen Valenzuela and Clementina Minor.

Cremation was selected and a memorial service will be held at a later date. To express condolences to the family, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com

Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista is overseeing the arrangements.

Phillip Eugene Leggitt



Phillip Eugene Leggitt passed away on Feb. 15, 2022, at Memorial Central Hospital in Colorado Springs, Colo. He was born on Aug. 27, 1941, in Crestone, Colo., the middle child of 16 children born to Parley and Genevieve Leggitt. Phil moved to Creede in 1950 with his family and attended Creede schools and graduated from Creede High School in 1961.

Phil started working when he was a teenager at the Cottonwood Cove and later at the 4UR Ranch. He moved on to working as an underground miner for the Emperius Mining Company and the Homestake Mining Company until 1982 when he was elected Mineral County Sheriff after serving as Undersheriff.

Phil proudly served the residents and visitors of Mineral County until his retirement from the job (career) that he loved in 2007. He continued as a Reserve Deputy for Rio Grande County Sheriff's Department.

Phil was involved with his community on many levels. He was a Mason, an Elk, a JayCee, a retired Fireman, and a retired EMT. Phil served on several boards including, Creede City Council, Mineral County Health Council, Mineral County Ambulance Board (47-plus years), Creede Underground Mining Museum/Community Center Board, Masonic Park Board and the Virginia Christianson Fund Committee.

As a JayCee, he was involved with the start of the Creede Repertory Theatre and was proud to see the theatre grow over the years and provide entertainment to so many visitors and residents.

In 1990, Phil served as President of the County Sheriffs of Colorado and was host to the Vice President of the United States.

Phil loved his mountains, family and talking to folks. You could see him walking around town and stopping to talk to anyone if the opportunity presented itself. He didn't know a stranger. He would stop and ask everyone their name, if he couldn't recall your name, a nickname would be given. That's when you knew you were special.

Phil was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers and one sister.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years Diana, sons Philip, Scott (Shawna), Larry (Jodi) and daughter Nancy, (Lauri Jordan), 5 granddaughters, 4 brothers, 5 sisters and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A memorial service is planned for May 21, 2022, at the Creede Community Church.

Arrangements in care of Strohmayr's Funeral Home.

KELHER Continued from Page 1A

from Arizona's Kaibab National Forest in the Southwest Region where he has served in both District Ranger and Deputy District Ranger positions. Andrew holds degrees in Rangeland Management and Crop and Soil Science from Oregon State University (La Grande).

"I am very excited to have Andrew join the Rio Grande National Forest in his new leadership role," said Dan Dallas, forest supervisor for the Rio Grande National Forest. "Andrew's work experience at several levels of the agency and across multiple resource areas will be a great asset to the Forest and our communities."

Kelher began serving in his new role on the RGNF on February 14 and will

be stationed out of the Monte Vista office until the Forest headquarters moves to De Norte later this year.

"I have wanted to work on the Rio Grande for a long time," said Kelher, who has roots in Colorado. "This will be a great opportunity for me to engage with the local communities while providing leadership on an incredibly diverse forest with a dedicated work force."

In his spare time, Andy like to spend time outdoors and hopes to find many places to fish. When not fishing, Andrew spends time with his wife at home, tending vegetable gardens and reading science fiction.

For information on the Rio Grande National Forest, call 719-852-5941.

TRANSIT Continued from Page 1A

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 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.



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OUTCALT

Continued from Page 1A

key contributors — Karla Shriver and Kathy Rogers-Woods.

The project began as a vision in 2006, chairperson for the Friends of Ski Hi Committee Shriver said.

“The vision had been there for a really long time, the only thing that was not there was the funding,” she said. On Sept. 4, 2019, Friends of Ski Hi presented the preliminary design for the new multi-purpose building to the Monte Vista City Council, which would include the demolition of the old building and replacement of the building, with a newer 30,000 square foot structure, complete with a large multi-purpose area and conference center.

In 2020, Friends of Ski Hi announced that the new building had been ordered, and the demolition for the old building took place in 2021. The goal was to have the building completed by March of 2021, but COVID restrictions and limitations slowed construction.

With Alcon Construction of Alamosa and Monte Vista Public Works working on the plan, and many generous donations from the community, the project came together, and was ready for the public, hosting its first event in February with the Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Tradeshow.

There were nearly 500 people in attendance for the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, including local politicians. State Senator Cleave Simpson was present and excited about the ceremony.

“This is an amazing accomplishment, and it reinforces what this community can do when they come together,” he said. “This is a really great place to come and gather and there is so much history here, it’s amazing to see what we can do as a community when we put our minds and hearts together.”

Ski Hi Events Manager Stephanie Ruybal was all smiles when asked about the ceremony.

“I am so excited,” she said. “Our

team did a great job getting this all set up today, and we are really excited to get to share this with the whole Valley. We hope that people can see themselves having an event here, whether it’s a birthday party or a wedding reception. We are really excited to share this with everyone.”

Monte Vista Police Department Chief George Dingfelder said, “Having been a part of this, and being the City Manager for a while it’s pretty cool to see this wonderful and incredible facility really come together, and to see this project come full circle.”

Mayor Becker was pleased with the outcome of the building.

“I know we still have some touch up work on the building, but the completion is exciting and long awaited,” he said.

Public Works Director Robert Vance said, “This is fantastic, it’s been a really good process, I got into the project really late, but I’ve been really proud of how everything has gone and how it overall looks.”

There were eight guest speakers at the ceremony, including Rogers-Woods, who spoke about Shriver, calling her the heart and visionary of the project and thanking her for all she had done to get the project off the ground.

“Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this project, you know this space means something to everyone in this room, everyone in here helped complete this project, so we applaud you and thank you for all of your help in completing this project. This project is a Valley effort,” Rogers-Woods said.

Shriver spoke at the ceremony, thanking everyone and the Outcalt Foundation and its generous help with the project.

“Ralph Outcalt was not one who wanted his name attached to a building for recognition, he just wanted to support what was right for the Valley,” Shriver said. “Today, we celebrate how the whole San Luis Valley Region came together to accomplish this much-needed project.”

Shriver also explained how the Alcon Construction team worked on the project even with it not being fully funded.

“What construction team would start an \$8.6-million project, and it is not fully funded, Alcon,” Shriver said. “All of the Alcon team has been so great to work with on this project.”

Mark Thomson of Alcon also spoke at the ceremony.

“This was a group project, not only my crew was involved but this was a

community effort, and the outcome is absolutely amazing.”

Monte Vista City Manager GiGi Dennis also spoke at the ceremony and thanked Dingfelder for stepping in as Interim City Manager and helping with the project when the former City Manager stepped down in July of 2021.

Dennis also thanked Public Works

Director Vance and Event Manager Ruybal and her assistant Oscar Martinez for all that they had done.

Mayor Becker spoke at the ceremony.

“They say it takes a village to raise a child, and I say, it takes the San Luis Valley to raise a building, and by God we did it,” he said.

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.

Have Peace and Keep Calm in Your Daily Life



Peace is an amazing gift God offers us. I know what it’s like to live without peace – upset most of the time, anxious, fearful and worried. It’s miserable! Since I’ve discovered how to live with God’s peace, I will do anything I need to do to have it.

We have to understand the value of peace if we’re going to have it. Because if you think it’s really no big deal to lose your temper, worry, be stressed-out or upset all the time, you won’t do what you need to do to live with peace.

I think it’s interesting that one of the last things Jesus told His disciples before His crucifixion was about peace. John 14:27 (AMP) says, “Peace I leave with you; My [perfect] peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. [Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge.]”

In John 20:19, “Peace to you!” is the first thing Jesus said to His disciples after His resurrection. Verse 21 says, “Then Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you...’” Notice the word “again.” He must have wanted them to realize how important it was to maintain their peace.

Take a moment to think about how much peace you have. Do you worry, get upset or feel stressed-out often? Many people do...but that’s not the way God wants us to live.

A lot of Christians pray for God to give them peace, but they need to realize that as believers in Christ, they already have His peace. We need to pray for God to help us learn how to walk in peace.

Philippians 4:6-7 (AMP) says: “Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific]

requests known to God. And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours].”

We can learn a lot about how to pray powerful, effective prayers by studying Scripture. Instead of praying for peace, notice that in Philippians the apostle Paul is encouraging believers to trust God in every circumstance so they can have His peace as they go through challenges.

If we don’t have peace and we want it, we have to be ready to make some changes. The world around us probably isn’t going to change, so we need to change our approach to life. We need to make a conscious decision to trust God in every area of our lives, every day.

We’re called believers, and that’s what we’re supposed to do: Believe God! When we trust Him, we enter His rest and can enjoy our lives.

Years ago, I remember when God helped me to learn this lesson as I studied James 4. In verses 1-4, we see what causes quarrels, strife and discontentment. Verse 2 (NLT) says, “You want what you don’t have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can’t get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don’t have what you want because you don’t ask God for it.”

Wow! This is basically saying, “You want something, so you strive to get it your way or make it happen on your own, but it doesn’t work. If you would just ask Me, I would help you.” It’s important to point out here that God won’t just give us anything we ask for. He loves us and wants what’s best for us, and when we ask for things that are in His plan and purpose for us, He will give them to us.

I used to think I wanted a lot of

things that ended up making me miserable after I managed to get them. But once I started giving up my will and asking God to do what He wants to do in my life, I experienced peace and contentment that I’d never known before.

It was so freeing for me to give up trying to run my own life and instead focus on seeking God and trusting Him to give me what He wants me to have. Psalm 37:4 (AMP) says, “Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires and petitions of your heart.”

I want to strongly encourage you today to purposely choose to seek God and delight yourself in Him before anyone or anything else in your life. He is the Source of love, joy and peace. And you can calm down and cheer up as you live in Him!

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s three-part CD teaching series *Calm Down and Cheer Up*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 135 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *THE POWER OF THANK YOU* (FaithWords). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

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Basketball Playoffs 2022

Sierra Grande wins boys district, Sangre wins girls

By Ken Hamrick
ALAMOSA — The Sierra Grande High School boys basketball team won the Class 1A District 6 championship while Sangre de Cristo won the girls title Saturday at Plachy Hall.

Boys championship
Sierra Grande was dominant in the boys championship game as it defeated Cotopaxi 74-20.

The Panthers had a fast start as they led the Pirates 22-4 after the first quarter. Sierra Grande led 48-16 at halftime and 70-16 after the third quarter. The fourth quarter was played with a running clock and both teams scoring four points in the period.

Isiah Chairez and Thomas Archuleta led the Panthers in scoring as both scored 19 points.

Joel Tezak led Cotopaxi with seven points.

Sierra Grande plays the winner of Moffat vs. Kim/Branson in bracket two of Region 3 at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, in La Junta.

Girls championship
The Lady Thunderbirds scored a 54-35 win over Centennial to win the girls championship game.

The Lady Thunderbirds grabbed a 12-8 lead after the first quarter. They led 23-15 at halftime and 41-22 after the third quarter.

Both the Lady T-Birds and Lady Rams scored 13 points in the fourth quarter.

Tymberlynn Rogers led Sangre in scoring with 16 points and Ashley Mortensen and Palma Enriquez both scored 10.

Jaelea Maestas was Centennial's leading scorer with 12 points and Xiomara Maestas scored 10.

Sangre plays the winner of Kit Carson vs. Springfield at 12:40 p.m. in bracket two of Region 3 on March 5 in La Junta.

Centennial plays South Baca in bracket one of Region 2 at 3:20 p.m. on March 4

in La Junta.

Boys third place
Moffat came from behind to defeat Creede in the District 6 boys third-place game 49-45.

The Miners led 13-10 after the first quarter and 27-22 at halftime. The Cow-boys closed to within 34-32 after the third quarter, and they outscored the Miners 17-11 in the fourth quarter. Tristan Martinez hit the go-ahead 3-point basket with 50 seconds remaining.

Dylan Wingate was Moffat's top scorer with 16 points, followed by Ziah Pesqueria with 13.

Ryder Whitehorn led Creede with 15 points, followed by John Twite with 14.

Moffat plays Kim/Branson at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 4, in La Junta.

Girls third place
Sierra Grande won the District 6 girls third-place game as it defeated Antonito 60-51.

The score was tied at 8-8 after the first quarter, but the Lady Panthers took a 27-15 lead at halftime. They increased the lead to 47-31 after the third quarter. The Lady Trojans outscored Sierra Grande 20-13 in the fourth quarter.

Vivian Carrell led Sierra Grande in scoring with 19 points, followed by Mariana Loya with 14.

Patricia Silvas led Antonito in scoring with 14 points, followed by Luz Elena Parra with 12 and Shiinei Tallman with 10.

Sierra Grande plays Kim/Branson at 10 a.m. on March 4 in La Junta in bracket three of Region 3.

Team records
Sierra Grande remained undefeated at 22-0. Cotopaxi is 14-8, Moffat is 8-8 and Creede is 12-6.

For the girls, Sangre de Cristo has an 18-2 record. Centennial is 15-6, Sierra Grande is 11-10 and Antonito is 5-9.

BOXSCORES

Sierra Grande boys 74, Cotopaxi 20
Cotopaxi — Evans 20-14, Zeleznikar 10-0-2, Strawn 0 1-2-1, Tezak 3 1-2-7, Rael 1 0-0 2, Ogden 1 0-0 3, Westberg 0 0-0 0, DeVries 0 0-0 0, Z. Winkler 0 1-2 1, N. Winkler 0 0-0 0. Total 8 3-7 20.

3-point goals — Ogden 1. Total 1.
Sierra Grande — Archuleta 9 0-0 19, Ontiveros 5 0-0 11, Valdez 2 2-2 6, M. Martinez 0 0-0 0, Chiarez 8 2-2 19, Lucero 0 1-2 1, D. Martinez 1 0-0 3, Mizokami 0 0-0 0, Herndon 0 0-0 0, Ojeda 0 0-0 0, J. Martinez 3 0-0 7, Lopez 0 0-0 0, Miranda 1 2-2 4, Kester 2 0-0 4. Total 31 7-8 74.

3-point goals — Archuleta 1, Chairez 1, D. Martinez 1, J. Martinez 1, Ontiveros 1. Total 5.

Cotopaxi	4	12
0	4-20	
Sierra Grande	22	26
22	4-74	

Fouls — Cotopaxi 12, Sierra Grande 9.
Sangre de Cristo girls 54, Centennial 35
Centennial — X. Maestas 3 2-2 10, Rael 0 0-0 0, L. Maestas 3 5-6 12, Serna 2 1-2 5, DeLeon 2 4-4 8, Penuelas 0 0-0 0, Vigil 0 0-0 0, Salcido 0 0-0 0. Total 10 12-14 35.

3-point goals — X. Maestas 2, J. Maestas 1. Total 3.

Sangre de Cristo — K. Rogers 1 0-0 2, Metz 1 2-4 4, Mortensen 4 2-3 10, T. Rogers 5 5-11 16, Garcia 4 0-2 8, Wilson 0 0-0 0, Rodriguez 0 0-0 0, Freel 1 0-0 2, Enriquez 4 2-4 10, Cordova 0 0-0 0, Smit 1 0-0 2. Total 21 11-24 54.

3-point goals — T. Rogers 1. Total 1.

Centennial	8	7
7	13-35	
Sangre de Cristo	12	11
18	13-54	

Fouls — Centennial 17, Sangre de Cristo 18. Fouled out — Rael.

Moffat boys 49, Creede 45
Moffat — Pesqueria 4 3-4 13, Wingate



Moffat's Ziah Pesqueria (4) drives to the basket against Creede's John Twite in the Class 1A District 6 boys basketball third-place game.

5 6-14 16, Cole 1 2-4 4, Reigel 2 4-8 8, T. Martinez 2 0-2 5, Morley 1 0-1 3, J. Martinez 0 0-1 0. Total 15 11-32 49.

3-point goals — Pesqueria 2, T. Martinez 1, Morley 1. Total 4.

Creede — Twite 6 0-0 14, Roden 1 5-6 8, Thompson 2 3-6 7, Simon 0 0-0 0, Whitehorn 5 5-7 15, Fazio 0 0-0 0, Van Ry 0 1-2 1, Leggett 0 0-0 0, King 0 0-0 0. Total 14 14-21 45.

3-point goals — Twite 2, Roden 1.
Moffat 10 12

10	17-49	
Creede		13
14	7	11-45

Fouls — Moffat 22, Creede — 27. Fouled out — Cole, J. Martinez; Roden, Whitehorn.

Sierra Grande girls 60, Antonito 51
Antonito — Tallman 4 2-3 10, Romero 3 0-0 6, Maez 2 0-0 4, Parra 5 2-2 12, Silvas 5 9-10 19, Quintana 0 0-0 0, Aragon 0 0-2 0. Total 19 13-17 51.



Sierra Grande's Vivian Carrell (23) looks for an open teammate as Antonito's Luz Elena Parra plays defense in the Class 1A District 6 girls third-place basketball game.

3-point goals — none.
Sierra Grande — Paine 0 5-11 5, A. Minchaca 0 0-0 0, Esquer-Montoya 4 0-2 8, Carrell 9 1-5 19, Loya 7 0-0 14, Quezada 1 1-6 3, Gonzales 0 0-0 0, S. Minchaca 1 0-0 2, Martinez 2 0-1 5. Total 26 7-25 60.

3-point goals — Martinez 1. Total 1.

Antonito	8	7
16	20-51	
Sierra Grande	8	19
16	13-60	

Fouls — Antonito 21, Sierra Grande 15.

Fouled out — Silvas.

Great Job Valley Athletes!

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Sanford sweeps Class 2A District 1 championships

By Ken Hamrick
ALAMOSA — The Sanford High School basketball teams won both the boys and girls championship games at the Class 2A District 1 Tournament Saturday at Plachy Hall.

Boys championship
Sanford had a tough test with Lake County but it still went on to score a 57-40 victory in the District 1 boys championship game.

The score was tied at 11-11 after the first quarter, but the Indians took a 28-19 lead at halftime. Sanford increased the lead to 44-32 after the third quarter.

Kelton Gartrell led Sanford in scoring with 13 points, followed by McCray Larsen with 12.

Adrian Medina and Jonathan Valdez led the Panthers with nine points each.

Sanford hosts Telluride in Region 8 semifinal.

Girls championship
Sanford started strong and didn't look back as it defeated Sargent 57-27 in the

District 1 girls championship game.

The Lady Indians led the Lady Farmers 13-4 after the first quarter, 32-13 at halftime and 46-22 after the third quarter.

Asia Caldon was Sanford's top scorer with 17 points and Avryn Smith scored 14.

Mary Willis led Sargent with 11 points.

Sanford hosts Burlington in a Region 1 semifinal.

Boys third place
Del Norte got 27 points from Ben Parra as it defeated Crested Butte in the boys District 1 third-place game 50-36.

The titans led 9-5 after the first quarter, but the Tigers outscored Crested Butte in the second quarter 16-4 to take a 21-13 lead at halftime. The Titans closed to within 26-25 after the third quarter, but Del Norte outscored the Titans 24-11 in the fourth.

Following Parra in scoring for Del Norte was Dante LeBlanc with 10 points.

Grayson White led Crested Butte with 12 points, followed by Alan Prieto with 11 and Eric Wasinger with 10.

Del Norte plays at Thomas MacLaren in Region 8 semifinal.

Girls third place
Monte Vista defeated Del Norte 39-30 in the District 1 third-place girls game.

The Lady Pirates led 9-4 after the first quarter and 21-12 at halftime. The Lady Tigers closed the deficit to 27-21 after the third quarter, but Monte Vista outscored Monte Vista 12-9 in the fourth quarter.

Monte Vista had a balanced scoring attack which was led by Zorah Archuleta with nine points and Syriah Bernal with eight.

Baylie Laymon led Del Norte with 7 points.

Monte Vista plays Sedgwick County in a Region 8 semifinal. Del Norte plays Soroco in a Region 4 semifinal.

Team records
The Sanford boys have an 18-4 record, Lake County is 12-10, Del Norte is 13-9, and Crested Butte is 12-9.

For the girls, Sanford is 21-1, Sargent is 18-4, Monte Vista is 13-9 and Del Norte is 10-12.

BOXSCORES

Sanford boys 57, Lake County 40
Lake County — Anguiano 20-0 5, Harris 0 0-0 0, Medina 3 2-2 9, S. Valdez 2 0-0 6, J. Valdez 3 3-3 9, Gaines 3 0-1 6, Tarango 0 0-0 0, Hall 2 1-2 5. Total 15 6-8 40.

3-point goals — S. Valdez 2, Anguiano 1, Medina 1. Total 4.

Sanford — Sagner 2 0-0 6, Caldon 3 0-0 9, Gartrell 4 5-6 13, M. Larsen 6 0-0 12, E. Larsen 3 0-0 6, B. Sittler 1 0-0 3, McCarroll 1 0-0 2, Christensen 3 0-0 6.

Total 23 5-6 57.

3-point goals — Caldon 3, Stagner 2, B. Sittler 1. Total 6.

Lake County	11	8
13	8-40	
Sanford	11	17
16	13-57	

Fouls — Lake County 14, Sanford 13.
Sanford girls 57, Sargent 27

Sargent — Holland 0 0-0 0, Willis 4 3-8 11, Asbell 3 0-3 6, Jones 0 0-0 0, Moreno 1 0-0 2, Peterson 2 2-5 6, Johnson 1 0-0 2. Total 11 5-16 27.

3-point goals — none.
Sanford Faucette 1 0-0 2, A. Caldon 7 1-1 17, R. Canty 3 0-0 6, Av. Smith 5 0-1 14, C. Caldon 3 3-6 9, Edgar 1 1-2 3, M. Reynolds 1 0-0 3, As. Smith 1 0-0 3, K. Canty 0 0-0 0. Total 22 3-6 57.

3-point goals — Av. Smith 4, A. Caldon 2, C. Caldon 1, M. Reynolds 1, As. Smith 1. Total 9.

Sargent	4	9
5	5-27	
Sanford	13	19
14	11-57	

Fouls — Sargent 12, Sanford 18.
Del Norte boys 50, Crested Butte 36

Del Norte — Gallegos 2 2-3 6, Pacheco 1 1-4 1, B. Velasquez 0 1-2 1, Parra 4 17-22 27, LeBlanc 5 0-1 10, T. Atencio 1 0-0 2, Mondragon 0 0-0 0, R. Velasquez 0 0-0 0, Medina 0 0-0 0, N. Atencio 0 0-0 0. Total 13 21-32 50.

3-point goals — Parra 2, Pacheco 1. Total 3.

Crested Butte — Gaither 0 0-0 0, Wasinger 3 2-2 10, Prieto 5 0-0 11, Matlock 1 0-0 3, White 6 0-4 12, Washburn 0 0-0 0, Van Marter 0 0-0 0, Smith 0 0-0 0, Barney 0 0-0 0, Bernholtz 0 0-0 0, Ramsey 0 0-0 0, Davis 0 0-0 0. Total 15 2-6 36.

3-point goals — Wasinger 2, Matlock 1, Prieto 1. Total 4.

Del Norte	5	16
5	24-50	
Crested Butte	9	4
12	11-36	

Fouls — Del Norte 12, Crested Butte 28. Fouled out — Wasinger, Matlock, White.

Technical fouls — Wasinger, White, Crested Butte bench.

Monte Vista girls 39, Del Norte 30
Monte Vista — H. Bernal 2 2-4 6, Garcia 1 2-2 4, Rodriguez 0 0-0 0, Z. Archuleta 3 0-0 9, S. Bernal 3 2-5 8, Nungaray 0 1-2 1, Romero 2 2-6 6, A. Archuleta 2 1-3 5. Total 13 10-22 39.

3-point goals — Z. Archuleta 3, Total 3.
Del Norte — Madrid 1 3-6 6, Trujillo 2 0-1 5, Laymon 2 3-6 7, Haynie 0 3-8 3, Rivera 1 1-2 3, Phenix 0 0-2 0, Van Zalinger 2 0-4 4, Miranda 1 0-2 2. Total 9 10-27 30.

3-point goals — Madrid 1, Trujillo 1.



Del Norte High School's Ben Parra (30) makes a move to the basket against Crested Butte's Erik Wasinger (4) in the Class 2A District 1 boys basketball third-place game.



Sanford's Kenton Gartrell (22) dribbles the ball up the court in the Class 2A District 1 boys basketball championship game.

Photos by Ken Hamrick

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WATER

Continued from Page 3A

the bipartisan and diverse group of local community stakeholders in opposition to the proposal put forth by Renewable Water Resources (RWR).

A quasi-government scheme seeking \$20 million in "COVID relief funds" to frontload the purchase of \$68 million of the Valley's water rights at below market value so 25 new groundwater wells can be tapped in one of the Valley's aquifers to transport nearly 22,000 acre-feet of water annually and in perpetuity to the Denver suburbs is not a winning solution for the Valley. Even if you throw in the proposed community fund of \$50 million and \$3 to \$4 million in annual interest on the fund, estimates indicate the overall economic loss from taking a minimum of 22,667 irrigation acres out of production would total about \$53 million, meaning the community fund barely offsets the economic losses at best.

In Colorado, water is more precious than gold these days, and farmers and ranchers have responded to the drought crisis in earnest by reducing their usage and working to create sustainable practices so that the Valley's aquifers will be able to support future generations. The farmers I've spoken to are not only concerned about their ability to use the aquifers — they want them to be sustainable and available for their grandchildren to use.

The San Luis Valley's 1,600 farms and ranches produce nearly a billion dollars for the agriculture economy annually and support 28.3% of local jobs. The San Luis Valley's agricultural success story is a miraculous testament to the grit and dedication of Colorado's farmers. Even though the Valley is one of the largest, high-altitude deserts on earth and only receives seven inches of rain per year, its farmers are among the most productive and industrious I've ever met. They have made something from nothing by innovatively managing their groundwater resources and implementing voluntary conservation measures.

One of the biggest problems with RWR's proposal is there is no water in

the San Luis Valley to spare. In 1900, Colorado courts found there were more claims to surface water rights than actual water available in the Valley. In 2006, Colorado courts also declared both of the San Luis Valley's aquifers over-appropriated, meaning that there is no room for additional water rights claims. In January of 2022, the unconfined aquifer was at its lowest point ever for a January, despite reducing pumping by nearly 100,000 acre-feet in the last several years.

The San Luis Valley's aquifers are already in crisis, and the last thing the Valley needs is for this crisis to be exacerbated by exporting precious water resources to the Denver suburbs. There has not been enough precipitation for the last two decades to adequately recharge the Valley's aquifers. As a result, Colorado's State Engineer issued rules requiring well users in the Valley to mitigate their impacts to streams and to find ways to collectively increase aquifer levels. If the agricultural community in the San Luis Valley cannot recharge these aquifers to sustainable levels, the state engineer will force them to cap their wells.

In addition to the logistical challenge of getting permits, authorizations, and building a massive swath of new pipelines, the cities of Denver, Aurora, and Colorado Springs have all come out and said they won't allow RWR to use their reservoirs as proposed and there is currently no identified buyer for the transferred water as 47 water providers indicated they are not interested in the project.

Renewable Water Resources' proposal is flawed and is not a mutually beneficial proposal for impacted communities. I stand with the Valley's ranchers, farmers, water districts, and everyday Coloradans in the Third District in opposition to this water grab.

• U.S. Congresswoman Lauren Boebert is serving her first term as the Representative for Colorado's 3rd Congressional District. She serves on the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife.

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Girl Scouts learn to weld, earn merit badges

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Three of the girls from Girl Scouts BSA Troop 1307G — Emily Cook, Austin Hoopy, and Abby Adams — were excited to learn how to weld and earn merit badges. The Girl Scouts met on Tuesday, Feb. 15, at the Formation Ag building in Monte Vista.

The BSA Troop 1307G, is registered with Boy Scouts of America, and is commissioned through the Church of Christ in Monte Vista. The Girl Scouts troop is independent and holds its own governance from the boy's troop. Scouts BSA is a governing program, that helps develop leadership training and citizenship training, with a focus on character growth, through mental and physical strength.

Scoutmaster Amber Baker was at the meeting along with Welding Badge Counselor Dan Baker. All three Girl Scouts sat down at a table,

and first spoke about welding techniques and safety precautions with Baker, before they began welding.

Baker asked the girls various questions regarding welding, including the basics of welding and what was needed to stay safe while welding. Each of the scouts were also told that they would be required to use various types of welding techniques on the welding plates they were given. Each scout would be required to

Please see GIRLS on Page 2

Three of the girls from Girl Scouts BSA Troop 1307G learned how to weld and earn merit badges. The Girl Scouts met on Tuesday, Feb. 15, at the Formation Ag building in Monte Vista.

Photo by Marie Mccolm



Forest Service moves forward on Trail Gulch Project

STAFF REPORT

LA JARA — The Conejos Peak Ranger District of the Rio Grande National Forest announced recently the availability of the draft decision notice and environmental assessment for the Trail Gulch Vegetation Management Project.

District Ranger Andrea Jones has documented her decision to move forward with the project in the draft decision legal notice published on Feb. 18. This action marks the start of a 45-day pre-decisional objection period when people can submit objections to the draft decision.

Electronic objections are preferred and must be submitted to the Objection Reviewing Officer online at US Forest Service NEPA Projects Home (usda.gov), with "Trail Gulch Vegetation Management Project Objection" in the subject line. Electronic submissions must be submitted in a format that is readable with optical character

See PROJECT on Page 7



Photo by John Waters

The U.S. Forest Service is seeking public input on the Trail Gulch Vegetation Management Project that hopes to improve forest health in the 51,460-acre project area. Included in the proposed project, are riparian habitats along sections of the Conejos River as seen here.

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.

Please see WALKER on Page 7

Tolliver's sisters set up a Go Fund Me account

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Becky White Tolliver, a San Luis Valley native, learned she had breast cancer in March of 2020.

Tolliver, who has worked at many places in the Valley, including the Campus Café and Dos Rios, was frightened when she found out she had breast cancer, and

opted to have a double mastectomy. Along with the double mastectomy, Tolliver also underwent radiation treatment and chemotherapy.

After the treatment and double mastectomy, Tolliver believed she had beat cancer and started putting her life back together.

In September of 2021, Tolliver began to experience excruciating back pain. In November of 2021, Tolliver visited an emergency room, believing that the pain was nothing serious. After a CT scan, doctors found that Tolliver had multiple lesions in her skull, a

fracture on her vertebrae and multiple cancer spots on her spine. Tolliver could not believe it, as she thought that the cancer was completely behind her.

After a follow-up appointment with another doctor, Tolliver received more devastating news, Tolliver had bone cancer, and it was everywhere in her body, including two spots on her liver, one being just under the size of a golf ball.

Tolliver was scared, angry, and lost, she believed she had done everything she could to rid herself of the cancer and now here it was attacking her

again. Tolliver's family has been supportive, especially her husband Darren White, who is also a native of the Valley.

White said, "I worry nonstop about her."

Most recently Tolliver was given a type of morphine medication to help with the pain. Tolliver is also taking chemotherapy pills.

Doctors have not given Tolliver a prognosis of what to expect, as they are simply watching her for right now to see how her body responds to the current medication.

The family has many out-of-pocket medical expenses that they are having difficulty covering, along with basic expenses.

Tolliver's sisters, Mandy Tolliver and Lori Connell, have organized a Go Fund Me page for Tolliver to help with expenses.

Her sisters have said, "It is truly giving us strength to know that she has supporters out there that believe like we do, that she can beat this!"

To donate, visit www.gofundme.com/helpbeckygetthroughher2nd-roundofcancer.



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Photos by Marie McColm

GIRLS

Continued from Page 1

complete the techniques to earn their merit badges, in a ceremony that would take place later in the year.

The girls answered many questions for Baker, and he also assisted the girls in properly putting on their safety gear, which included hats, a welding helmet, safety glasses, a long-sleeved shirt, an overcoat and a special pair of large gloves.

Once the scouts were wearing their safety gear, they were taken to the back of the Formation Ag building to start welding.

Baker put on a Welding helmet and

showed the scouts one by one various techniques in the welding process. All three scouts completed all their individual tasks.

Amber and Dan Baker thanked Formation Ag International for hosting the troop for the Welding Merit Badge.

Amber Baker said, "Without the sponsorships of Formation Ag, we wouldn't have been able to offer this opportunity to the scouts."

For more information on the local troop, contact Amber Baker directly at troop1307mv@gmail.com.



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Sargent High School students shine in district-wide leadership conference

By MECHEL MEEK

MONTE VISTA — The Sargent High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) participated in the District 8 Leadership Conference on Tuesday, Feb. 8. It was hosted by Adams State University in Alamosa. According to Trish Rue, “The members participated in individual and team events. Sargent FBLA competed well and had 17 members qualify in individual events for State Leadership Conference and 20 students qualify in prejudged or team events for State Leadership Conference. Students will need to choose one event to compete in at State. Eleven students placed from 5th to 10th in individual event. Every member placed in the top 10. Congratulations!”

The State Leadership Conference will be at the Gaylord Event Center in Denver on April 18-20. The FBLA is the largest career student organization worldwide and helps more than 230,000 students each year prepare for a future career in business. The FBLA’s



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programs focus on leadership development, educational programs, and community service.

According to the Colorado FBLA, the National and State Awards Program recognizes and rewards distinction in a wide range of business and career-related areas. Through district-wide competition, the students who are members of FBLA qualify for the April State Leadership Conference, where members compete in events that test their business knowledge and skills. Top winners at State qualify for the National competition.

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Registration underway for HVCC Soccer Season

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Hello community members! If you're missing sports already, you're in luck. Registrations for High Valley Community Center's 2022 Soccer Season are now available on our website, www.theHVCC.org.

Soccer will include three co-ed age groups: K-2, 3-4, and 5-6. Practices will begin the week of March 7 and games will be in April. To stay informed, we recommend that you download the Procure App and visit our website for updates.

We want to thank the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative for organizing a special educational workshop for our Fabulous Friday. We appreciate the opportunity



Courtesy photos

to partner with educational groups to enrich the HVCC kiddos' experience.

For our last Fabulous Friday of the month, the kiddos will enjoy more outdoor fun in South Fork.

We would like to invite everyone to attend a free night of theatre at HVCC on Tuesday, March 1. Our friends at the Creede Repertory Theatre will perform, "Ms. Joy" from 5:30-6 p.m. and HVCC will serve dinner immediately following. We hope to see you there!

This week during the after-school program, the kiddos were encouraged to consider which career paths they would like to pursue via our weekly theme, "Get a Job." We conducted a science experiment to introduce the STEM field to the kiddos and made outfits using recycled materials as an example of a potential career in the arts. Most importantly, we wanted to expand the students' understanding of the workforce and the necessity of jobs.

Join us every Thursday morning at 9 a.m. for Zumba classes! Veronica Climie has been teaching Zumba classes in South Fork and is now also partnering with HVCC. The class is \$5 for adults and free to individuals in the 50-plus community. We are located at 595 Grand Ave., in Del Norte. Give us a call at 719-657-2172, if you have any questions!

Have a wonderful week everyone!



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We are low on dog food for our residents here at Conour. We would really appreciate any and all donations for them. Most of our population is large breed dogs, with a couple small doggos, and puppies. Thank you for helping!

Copper has been with us over 6 months now and we don't know how! He's the sweetest Red Nose ever, and just wants all the loves. Copper is about 2 and a half years old, and has an amazing smile especially when you call him handsome! He's super playful, great with most dogs (he's a little picky), and loves kids. Copper is a love bug that just wants to be wherever the people are. Come see him today so he can steal your heart away!

Arrow is a Large Breed Terrier, about 5 months old, and is a very shy girl until she gets to know you. Once she opens up she just wants lovin' or to go on walks, just the mention of a walk gets her all amped up and ready to go! Arrow seems to do well with the other dogs, again she's just really nervous at first. She learned her routine very quickly, and we believe she will take to training very well. Come by and see if she's the girl for you!

Mike is one of our older residents here, at 6 years old. He's a Belgian/German Shepherd cross who's ready to find his new home! Mike gets along with other dogs, as long as they aren't way above his own energy level. He does well while on walks, has a very calm personality, and would much rather be next to you on the couch at the end of his day. He's also a very intelligent doggo who will open latches if given the opportunity. Mike is actually a very snuggly guy, another big boy who believes he's a lap dog. Stop by and meet Mike today!

Donnie is a happy little Beagle mix looking for his forever home! He's about 7 months old, so he's still in the puppy phase, be prepared. Very playful, and seems to pick up learning new things quite quickly. He's choosy on who his dog friends are, so we'll definitely need to do a meet and greet with any other fur family members. Seems to like every person he meets though which is always a plus. Come meet him today!

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

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

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04 Lost & Found
Found: Male Cat, Brindle on 4E & 5N in Monte Vista. Please call 719-849-3257 for more information. (3/10)

05 Notices
If you believe in: the oneness of humanity, equality of men and women, elimination of prejudice, harmony of science and religion; contact BahaiFaithFriends@gmail.com for Zoomlink Casual conversation, every Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.(2/23)

For information on meetings for ALANON NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS AND ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Please visit slvaa.org or call 719-937-5083.

WE BUY ANTLER: Great NEW FALL Price: Tell us the code «ELK17» and you will get \$17/lb for Elk Grade A and \$13/lb for Deer Grade A. 5 miles west of Del Norte on Hwy 160. 719-657-0942 (TFN)

07 Help Wanted
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)

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)

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION Job Vacancy 18-22 This specific 4-H Youth Development Area Extension Agent position is a full-time position working with 4-H in the schools and the Juntos 4-H program throughout the San Luis Valley Area. A Completed bachelor's degree. D should be conferred in education, public health, social sciences, public relations, agricultural sciences, agricultural education, youth development or

a closely related field. To view the job vacancy announcement and apply, click link: <https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/99234>. **For full consideration, all materials must be RECEIVED no later than 11:59 PM Mountain Time on Sunday, February 27, 2022.** We are committed to increasing the diversity of our staff and providing culturally responsive programs and services.

Therefore, we encourage responses from people of all backgrounds and abilities. We invite you to review Colorado State University's Principles of Community that guide our mission and vision of access, teaching, service and engagement. <http://diversity.colostate.edu/principles-of-community/> CSU is an EO/EA/AA employer and conducts background checks on all final candidates. **If you**

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have questions before applying call **Larry Brown SLV Area Extension Director at 719-852-7381. (2/23)**

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)

FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE Person needed for apartment complex in Monte Vista. Interested persons need to have a minimum 2 years maintenance experience, valid driver's license, clean background check and pass a drug test. Maintenance duties include but not limited to minor plumbing & electrical, grounds keeping, maintaining buildings & common areas, and painting, etc. Interested persons should pick up an application at 551 Monroe Street, Monte Vista CO 81144. If any questions or further information is needed, please call 719-852-5505 or send resume to mvha04@yahoo.com Attn: Alonzo or John. Equal Employment Opportunity Provider and Employer. (3/2)

2022 OPEN POSITIONS FOR PLANNING & ZONING-City of Monte Vista is seeking three citizens with a desire to serve on mailto:awelch@valleypublishinginc.com the Monte Vista Planning and Zoning Commission. The Planning Commission

consists of a five-member board and persons must reside in the City of Monte Vista. One member may be a non-resident but must own property within the City limits. The Planning and Zoning Commission members serve in an advisory capacity to the

City of Monte Vista Council in matters relating to planning and zoning, reviewing and making recommendations on subdivisions and land development applications, and reviewing proposed ordinances related to the planning function. **The Planning**

and Zoning Commission meets on the last Thursday of each month and members that are appointed by City Council will receive a \$40 stipend per meeting. Interested applicants please go to www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov,

City Clerk's page, Dept. Forms/ Documents and fill out the Planning & Zoning Application and send it to uvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us or 95 West 1st Street Monte Vista, CO. 81144. If you have questions please call 719-852-6171 (3/2)

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Power Zone Equipment is seeking highly motivated applicants for the following Positions: Industrial Painter/ Assembly Tech \$14-\$18/HR Welder/ Fabricator \$15-\$18/HR Certified Welder \$22-\$28/HR Pre-employment drug screening and background check required. To apply or enquire about details for one of these positions, please email resumes to greg@powerzone.com or call 719-754-1981. (2/23)

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WALKER

Continued from Page 1 —

“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.

PROJECT

Continued from Page 1 —

recognition software (e.g., Word, PDF, Rich Text) and be searchable. An automated response should confirm that the electronic objection was received.

Objections can be faxed to the Objection Reviewing Officer at 713-852-6250. The fax cover sheet must include a subject line with “OBJECTION: Trail Gulch Vegetation Management Project” and should specify the number of pages being submitted.

Written objections may be submitted via regular mail to: Rio Grande National Forest, 1803 W. Highway 160, Monte Vista, CO 81144.

Objections sent by private carrier or hand delivery must be addressed to: Objection Reviewing Officer, Rio Grande National Forest, Attn: Reviewing Officer, 1803 W. Highway 160, Monte Vista, CO 81144.

The proposed action includes a mix of vegetation treatment strategies including hand and mechanical thinning, pile and broadcast prescribed burning, and timber harvesting. Implementation is expected to begin as soon as possible. The actions are designed to improve overall forest health and return fire as a landscape-scale management tool.

The Conejos Peak Ranger District expressed great appreciation for the staff, partners, and stakeholders all working together to reach this important milestone.

“Reaching this draft decision point is an exciting and important step for the Forest and the communities and ecosystems affected by this project,” said Conejos Peak District Ranger Andrea Jones. “I look forward to taking this process to a final decision so we can begin planning the implementation steps.”

The project is located approximately 10 miles west of Antonito along and south of State Highway 17, entirely in Conejos County.

To view information on the Trail

Gulch Project, visit the official project webpage at www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60258. Another informational webpage on the project can be found online at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/riogrande/trailgulch. People can also call the Conejos Peak Ranger District office at 719-657-3321.

For information on the Rio Grande National Forest, call 719-852-5941.

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here’s How It Works:

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

Solution to last week’s puzzle

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

Business Showcase

We’ve been Spring Cleaning and making room for our new arrivals. Framed art, signs, floral and happy gnomes. Come check it out!



The Holy Moses
 Open Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
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This Week’s Feature



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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



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UNDER CONTRACT

Custom built, impeccable quality, full log home located just minutes from the town of South Fork, Colorado. The 4443 sq. ft. home and 1015 sq. ft. bunkhouse provides a total sq. ft. of 5458. Features in the home include a massive rock fireplace, 3 bedrooms, 3-1/2 bathrooms, loft that boasts a futon plus two-window beds, office, playroom, and a large living room for you to enjoy with family and friends. The wrap around deck will allow you to experience world-class high mountain views. Above the garage is a custom log guest quarters with a spectacular kitchen, bath, large living room, and bedroom combined into one unit. Bear Creek subdivision offers controlled access through a gated entrance. MLS #738155

107 Marmot Lane • South Fork
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Great location! Close to town and the golf course. Just minutes from Wolf Creek ski area and National Forest. Level building spot across the street from the Rio Grande River located on a quiet dead-end road. Build your dream home today! \$49,000 MLS#775737



Legends Premier Properties
Kazie Deacon, Associate Broker 719-850-2827
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IMPROVED PRICE \$649,900 THIS HOME YOU HAVE TO SEE TO BELIEVE!

- 3 bedroom • 2 bathroom

This could be your new home. Amazing Custom - Built Full log Home - Entry room, living room, large kitchen with island, lots of cabinet space, laundry. This home has beautiful wrap around porches that offer great views of the mountains and cliffs. The attached double garage is 576 Sq. Ft. with concrete floor. The home is fully fenced. Additional 2,000 sq. ft. workshop. MLS#772697
181 Doe Circle • South Fork

Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
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SOLD



Charming home on Oversized Lot! This nice 2 bedroom home sits on an oversized lot, so there is plenty of room to add on if you wanted. Has good space, and some updates. Has been a rental, so great for the investor looking for a rental investment. Some outbuildings, and established yard. Call today for more details. \$153,000 MLS#786169

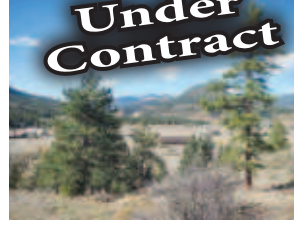


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LOOK IMPROVED PRICE! \$88,000 Beautiful 8.01 Acre parcel located in Crow's Nest subdivision in South Fork, CO. Paved roads, city water and sewer with water tap that is currently paid. Wonderful mountain views over looking the Rio Grande River and the town of South Fork. Your perfect location to build your dream home. Moments away from Gold medal fly fishing, hiking, camping, skiing, 4 wheeling, hunting and everything outdoors. Call and schedule your showing today! MLS #775764
0 Escondida Drive • South Fork

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Under Contract



LOOK IMPROVED PRICE \$66,900 Seller Motivated!

This Parcel is located in the mountain town of South Fork, Colorado. Located in the majestic San Juan Mountains. You will find a variety of historic motels, hotels, medical clinic, grocery store, repair shops restaurants, shopping for the active sportsman, RV and ATV dealers. The avid golfer will enjoy the play at Rio Grande Golf Club and Resort. The winter sport opportunities are boundless as well. Wolf Creek Ski Area is famous for the most snow in the country and only 20 minutes away. South Fork, Co is a popular destination for skiing and those who love snowmobiling, four wheeling, hiking and camping. Come enjoy this majestic place. MLS #781184

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SOLD



Great access with 101 feet of exposure just off of US Highway 160! This property offers multiple options! It would work great for mobile homes, developments, or a commercial building. All utilities are available, but would need to be tapped into. This is the perfect property for your next project! Call to view! \$175,500 MLS#789021



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FOR SALE

Wonderful custom home site located on the Rio Grande Golf Course in South Fork, Colorado. Beautiful fairway and mountain views and just moments from the Rio Grande River. A perfect place to build your dream home or vacation home with year round access and public South Fork water and sewer. Enjoy the beautiful outdoors, great golfing, fishing and magnificent skiing at Wolf Creek during the winter season. Call and schedule your viewing today! \$62,900 MLS #784728
134 Rio Grande Club Trail • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
(719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com



SOLD

\$658,000 MLS #785486
441 Lande • South Fork

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Great possibilities to build! This 4 lot parcel is located inside city limits. It has some trees, and a nice view! Not many lots of this size are available in town. Inquire for more details! \$38,500 MLS#789152



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FOR SALE

2.07 AC Lot in beautiful Beaver Mountain Estates. Level building site with views of the surrounding mountains. Plenty of wildlife roam this area and are a joy to see, including mule deer and wild turkeys. Central sewer and water tap, paved roads and local utilities. Moments away from the South Fork River, Rio Grande River, national forest, champion golf club and Wolf Creek ski area. Call and schedule your showing today! \$2,500 MLS #788938
651 Escondida Drive • South Fork

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SOLD

\$433,000 MLS #789027
83 Highland • South Fork

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Great country living home! This home is located in a country setting with beautiful views, not too far from town. This is a great home to raise your family in. The house offers a beautiful kitchen with granite top counters and a range stove top! The Master suite has a jacuzzi, a stand up glass shower with tile, and his or her sinks. This home has beautiful wood floors, and a pellet stove in the living room. The heated shop is a 6 car shop with 3 garage doors, and a 24x45 Ft game room equipped with WiFi access, a pool table, air hockey table, foosball table, and some exercise equipment. There is also a detached 1 car garage and two wells that come with this property Outside you have a basket ball court, and a good sized backyard with mature trees, a shed, and sprinkler system. Don't miss out on this great opportunity! Call to View today! \$450,000 MLS#790721



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