

Shorts

US 285 east of Saguache: Crews to fill highway cracks this month

SAGUACHE COUNTY — During the month of March, Colorado Department of Transportation crews will perform crack sealing operations on US Highway 285 between Saguache and the Colorado Highway 17 junction, mile points 92-100.

Travelers should allow for extra travel time as intermittent closures will be enforced to allow crews to work on the highway.

Work will take place, weather permitting, over the next few weeks, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Drivers will encounter full stops and lane closures. Flagging personnel will guide traffic through the work zone. Up to 15-minute delays are anticipated.

A speed reduction of 40 mph will be in place and drivers should slow down and use extreme caution when approaching and driving through the work zone. Motorists are urged to be aware of crews and heavy equipment.

City having logo design contest for new event center

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

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

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

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

SdCNHA seeks students for Walking Tours, Heritage Camp

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

If interested, fill out an application online at www.sangreheritage.org/collaborate/, or email to info@sdcnha.org or hand deliver to 231 State Ave. in Alamosa. Deadline is Friday, March 18.

Valley farmers form Sustainable Water Augmentation Group

SWAG offers an alternative to Subdistrict 1 plan

By MECHHEL MEEK

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Water has been and will most likely remain a highly contentious issue in the San Luis Valley. A group of Valley farmers announced in a press release that they have come together to create the Sustainable Water Augmentation Group (SWAG), an alternative to Rio Grande Water Conservation District, Subdistrict 1.

Please see GROUP on Page 7A



Photo by Mechhel Meek

A group of Valley farmers announced in a press release that they have come together to create the Sustainable Water Augmentation Group (SWAG), an alternative to Rio Grande Water Conservation District, Subdistrict 1.

BOE president for Mountain Valley School wins award for work in Early Childhood Education

By MECHHEL MEEK

SAGUACHE — Lacy Reed, director of Early Childhood Programs and Board of Education president of Mountain Valley School District, was awarded the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Excellence Award as the top Community Leader at a conference on March 12 in Denver.

According to RMECC, the 2022 Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Excellence Award as the top Community Leader at a conference on March 12 in Denver.

Please see REED on Page 2A

Lacy Reed, director of Early Childhood Programs and Board of Education president of Mountain Valley School District, was awarded the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Excellence Award as the top Community Leader at a conference on March 12 in Denver.

Photo of courtesy of Lacy Reed



DA dismisses case against Joergensen, reinstates day later

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — On Wednesday, March 9, two days before his next scheduled court appearance, District Attorney Alonzo Payne dismissed the case against Jesper Joergensen, charged with 141 counts of arson in connection with the Spring Creek fire that burned roughly 156 square miles and destroyed 149 structures. The decision was announced in a public service announcement sent to the Courier.

See JOERGENSEN on Page 2A

Monte Vista Crane Festival draws visitors, artists and photographers



By MECHHEL MEEK

MONTE VISTA — The sights and sounds of thousands of Rocky Mountain sandhill cranes once again fill the skies of the San Luis Valley. Every year, Monte Vista holds the Crane Festival. It draws visitors from around the country to view these magnificent birds at the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge.

Also, a large part of the festival is the talks by wildlife experts, hand-painted cranes created by local artists displayed in town, and the Craft and Nature Fair.

This year, the Craft and Nature Fair was held in the new Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex. The building was recently completed and has several amenities that made it a great venue for

Please see FESTIVAL on Page 5A

The Monte Vista Crane Festival was March 11-13.

Photo courtesy of Ray Esparza

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SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Monday, March 7, 2022, and Sunday, March 13, 2022.

The Sheriff's Department's activity on the road included four traffic stops, one crash with property damage and one traffic complaint. They also patrolled the Town of

Saguache 10 times and the Town of Saguache once, did one VIN inspection and assisted a motorist. In addition, there was one report of trespassing, one report of sex offense, one report of disorderly conduct, and one report of suspicious activity

They also responded to four civil disputes, seven ambulance calls, one animal problem report, one alarm,

two welfare checks, four citizen assists, nine controlled burns, two fires (other), one drug violation, provided information five times, and assisted nearby agencies twice.

ARRESTS

• A 31-year-old Center man was arrested for suspicion of third-degree assault and domestic violence.

JOERGENSEN

Continued from Page 1A

On Thursday, March 10, less than 24 hours later, Payne released a second public service announcement, stating he had reinstated the charges due to what appears to be a complication with a federal law enforcement agency.

Payne's stated reasons for dismissal of the case included "an inability to prove the case beyond a reasonable cause" and related to Joergensen, 55, and in the country illegally after overstaying his visa, being declared incompetent to stand trial shortly after his arrest.

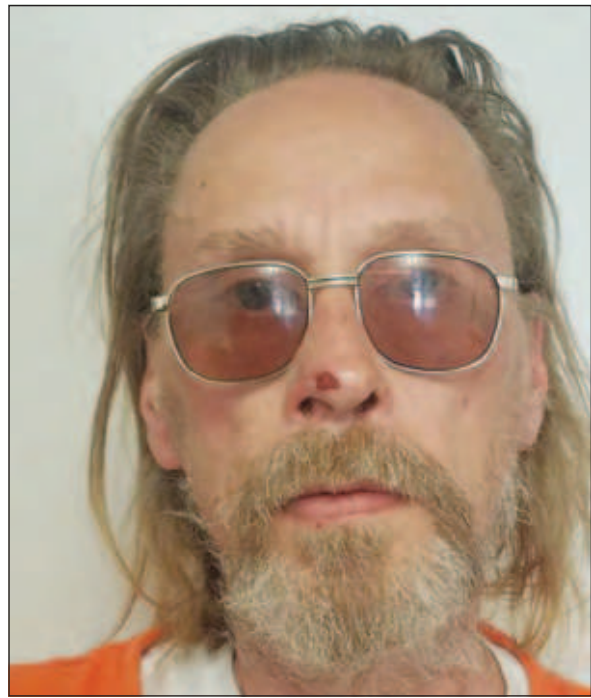
Joergensen was subsequently transferred to the Colorado State Hospital where he was diagnosed with a mental illness, but, according to his attorneys, refused treatment as, due to the nature of his disorder, he believes he is not suffering from any illness.

In 2021, a psychiatrist recommended that Joergensen be forcibly medicated, which could pave the way for him to be declared competent and capable to stand trial.

However, it was determined that, while being forcibly medicated in the state hospital may improve Joergensen's mental illness, there are significant challenges with continuing to deliver that same medical treatment if and when Joergensen would be transported to jail.

As stated in the Wednesday's public service announcement from Payne, Joergensen has "been found incompetent to proceed on multiple occasions throughout the course of this case, and the Costilla County Sheriff's Office does not have the resources, manpower and cannot bear the burden to restore Jesper Joergensen to competency through forced medication."

At that time, the district attorney went on to say that his office was "working with Homeland Security to place Joergensen in their custody as we believe he is a threat to the community and to himself" and his office "had coordinated with the U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement (ICE)



Jesper Joergensen

for a smooth transition with Mr. Joergensen following his hearing in court."

Payne's announcement of the reinstatement of charges provided more details, including stating the dismissal of charges had been on the condition that Joergensen would be placed in ICE custody, transferred to a facility out of state and evaluated for deportation.

However, Payne stated he had been notified that afternoon that ICE was unable to take Joergensen into custody, which prompted Payne's reinstatement of charges.

REED

Continued from Page 1A

Childhood Conference is the area's largest and foremost early childhood conference. Every year the conference hosts teachers, professionals, business leaders, policymakers, caregivers, and other stakeholders providing early childhood professional improvement and training.

The event features keynote speakers, workshops, early childhood exhibitors, and networking opportunities. RMECC is a program of Denver's Early Childhood Council.

The Council's mission is to elevate the early childhood field through innovative and inclusive leadership, services, and solutions.

RMECC stated, "Lacy Reed is a community leader in a childcare desert where 63% of children under 5 live below the poverty level. She is the director of Mountain Valley RE-1 Early Childhood Programs and

has served on the school district's board of education for eight years. During this time, she has written over 30 approved policies that protect children, families, and early childhood education programs. Lacy has an extensive list of community achievements, including increasing her center's CPP (Colorado Preschool Program) slots from 5 to 30. She took a program without a rating to a level 4 within her first year, that is now a level 5. She also received the Boots on the Ground award in recognition of exemplifying the spirit of cross-system collaboration.

"Lacy routinely organizes and offers training to all families of the community from monthly parenting classes to Cooking Matters. She can be found at community events demonstrating how to make hollyhock dolls or offering free face painting to children. She has helped several staff members go

from preschool parents and stay-at-home moms to Early Childhood Teachers, thus actively building careers and employing members of the community. She has worked to ensure that toddler-aged children have a place in their community."

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OBITUARY

Alfred Orville Chapman

Alfred Orville Chapman was born in Del Norte, Colo., on Dec. 30, 1949, and went to be with the Lord on March 8, 2022. The sixth-born of eight children to Orville Chapman and Helen Myers Chapman, he was raised in South Fork and graduated from Del Norte High School in 1970, following which he earned his Associates Degree in Mechanics from Trinidad State Junior College in 1972.

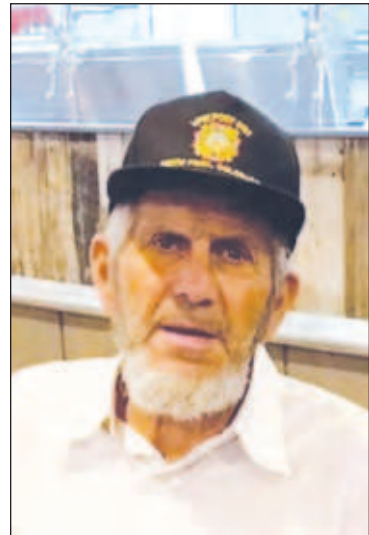
Alfred served in the US Army in Vietnam for two years and was honorably discharged in 1974. He worked with O.W. Chapman Construction and was a small business owner, as proprietor of Al's Garage, in South Fork. He was a proud veteran and member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, for which he served as Chaplain in the South Fork Area.

He is survived by seven siblings, Judy, Hap, George, Brent, Melody, Mike, and Destry; 13 nieces and nephews; and many friends.

While a person's life is reckoned in dates and accomplishments, they do not represent the sum of Alfred's years, which were measured instead in the flow of the Highline Ditch, in cups of coffee, in conversations, filled with words like hard pan, return flow, and half flume.

He kept the pastures green and the cows moving; he cared about land and animals and people and water; he knew what gave him peace and purpose. The South Fork corridor is a testament to his work ethic and tenacity, transforming snowmelt into green cottonwood trees, healthy wells, and productive pastures.

Alfred was hard-working, smart, appreciated the value of a good



prank, and loved to learn and engage in fellowship with friends and strangers alike. He was an independent soul, and he knew what he was about.

He was kind and generous and loved to sing, as evidenced by his well-worn hymnal, second only in use to his Gideon New Testament, always at the ready to share a verse of scripture. His hope was in Christ and his eternal reward, and he was confident that his passing would be received with great rejoicing and singing, accompanied by a welcome of "well done, my good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord."

Alfred will be laid to rest at Shaw Creek Cemetery on Friday, March 11. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in Alfred's name to the South Fork Veterans of Foreign Wars. To express condolences, please visit www.rogersfunerals.com.

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

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Spring forward

This Spring forward deal with the clocks has really gotten to Ol' Dutch. And even Miss Trixie seems to have been afflicted with the clock-altering event.

I had written previously about conspiracy theories and do believe that this event may also qualify for just such an award as neither Miss Trixie nor myself really have nothing to rise early for, yet, it seems to afflict us with tiredness.

Changing the clocks on the second Sunday in March at 2 a.m. dates back to 1918 as a way to create more daylight hours when the day is the warmest. I guess this would seemingly let people get more done during those hours, too. It's less and less popular every year and some states have even done away with it altogether. It appears that they have finally listened to the old Native American who said it was only the white man that thought he could cut the end off a blanket and sew it on the other end and think he had more blanket.

Other people have said that it helps the farmers, so they have more daylight hours to work during their busy season but again, Old Sol only hangs up in the sky during these months for so many hours a day no matter how you slice it and dice it.

And you have to wonder why it always changes in the middle of the night toward Sunday morning? Many believe it's a way to make people either late or early to church depending on if they are Springing forward or Falling back.

We had a couple who would inevitably show up late on the Sunday in the Spring and drag in two kids and all their diaper bags

and accouterments to the front row only to hear my dad the preacher dismiss the crowd. To their credit they always laughed about it and took our teasing in good humor, so it became almost a yearly ritual to see them come in.

I guess they chose Sunday so that people would not be late for work but in all honesty, it would actually balance out as they would be early on the day in the fall when we all fall back.

We are funny people as we all talk about how we either gain an hour of sleep in the fall or lose an hour of sleep in the spring and once again we seem to be adjusting the length of that blanket like the old Native American suggested.

You don't actually lose anything as we all know. But I do know this, that extra hour we gain in the fall does not do us as much good as the damage the hour we lose in the spring does for sure.

Now Ol' Dutch has a famous saying since retirement and that is "I don't have any place to be." Which means at least as far as "having" to be somewhere has certainly taken on less importance than when I had three jobs.

But even though commitments to jobs have been eliminated, I still have a few things that I have promised other people I would do. And, sometimes, those commitments get me up far earlier than I like.

It seems that doctor appointments, babysitting and any government agency appointments are the leading reasons for getting up early as they always want to get a good start on the day and would hate for Ol' Dutch



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

to enjoy his morning coffee in his recliner comfortably at home.

My dad is a prime example of this phenomena and at 91 years old is always having to show up at such things at the butt crack of dawn. And this is in cold and snow and icy weather to boot. You would think that the people who want to see him would take that into account, but they power on regardless of their clients age and or conditions.

This may explain why people in the Northern regions live longer than those in the South as they are just forced to be tougher than nails to even survive their youth let alone old age.

So, Miss Trixie and I hope that you got sprung forward without much pain and hopefully were not late for church last Sunday.

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.



LETTER

Leggitt family thanks Creede

Editor,
Phil Leggitt always stated, "If you take care of Creede and its people, they will take care of you." Once again, his words ring true. Since his death in February, we have been showered with the love and support by Creede and its extended families and friends.

We wanted to say thank you to our Public Health Department warriors Joni, Tara and Janet, for not only their ongoing care for Phil but for our entire family as we battled sickness through this difficult time.

Creede Clinic staff for quickly recognizing the care needed for Phil. Pastor Sara Lynn for her comfort and support, the phone angels with words of encouragement and love. The Creede kiddos that made crafts for Phil and the family. Ladies Aid, Helping Hands and the Elks Lodge for the donations toward travel expenses. Homemade meals, goodies and food boxes delivered from Creede folk, Kentucky Belle and Cafe Ole.

Our family and friends that helped keep our homes and pets safe while we were away.

The Downstream Mercantile team for keeping everyone informed when they had updates on Phil.

A huge Thank You to each and every one of the wonderful people that thought of us during this time. This came in the form of cards, flowers, gifts, social media outreach and donations for travel expenses.

While the folks of Creede were looking to take care of us, the medical teams that took care of Phil during his illness were outstanding. The Rio Grande Hospital and Memorial Hospital doctors, nurses and staff and the Flight for Life crew that got Phil safely to Colorado Springs, were so helpful and caring in their attention to his needs and to my questions.

Each and every one expressed their concern for Phil and his kindness toward them. He charmed some of the nurses even though he was ill. Thank You to all of them. Their professionalism was only surpassed by their generosity.

Being away from home in times of uncertainty and stress is always disconcerting but the staff at the Hyatt Place in Colorado Springs made our stay with them easier by being helpful and caring. Their concern for us during our stay was demonstrated daily.

Flowers and wind chimes are the sweetest of remembrances and we were fortunate to receive both from individuals and the board members that Phil served with. The wind chimes will continue to brighten our days with their melodies as the flowers brightened our days with their fragrance and beauty. Thank you to everyone.

Our family loves Creede as much as Phil did and we extend a heartfelt Thank you to all.

*Diana Leggitt
Creede*

YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

Cancer the Crab

The full moon is on March 18, and the last quarter is on the 25th. By March 28, you'll be able to view the morning sky.

Obviously, Venus will be visible even with a full moon, but the other planets might not be visible until the moon gets smaller and dimmer. Mars will be just to the right of Venus, and Saturn will be just below it.

Jupiter will be visible in the East, but it's low so if you have mountains in the East, you most likely won't be able to see it.

Now that Daylight Savings time is here, the evening sky will stay lighter longer, and you'll have to stay up later to observe. But the good thing is that the morning sky will stay dark an hour later, so you won't have to get up too early to observe the morning sky.

Along the ecliptic in the west about a third of the way up is Cancer the

Crab. It's the smallest and faintest of our zodiacal constellations and only contains five stars. So, we need a clear dark sky to find it.

Fortunately, it's in between two bright zodiacal constellations. Leo the Lion is on its left and the Gemini Twins with Pollux and Castor are on its right. You might remember that Leo the Lion has the backward question mark with the bright star Regulus on the bottom.

Cancer is an upside-down V with a line pointing up above the V. It represents the crab that attacked Hercules during his fight with Hydra. The crab was crushed under the warrior's foot during the struggle. Hera the Queen of Gods who sent him to attack Hercules gave him a place in the sky.

What's interesting about Cancer are the open star clusters it contains. The best one is the Beehive cluster M44. It's an open cluster of 1,000 stars, 570 light years from Earth. It's just to the



right of the top of the upside-down V.

With clear dark skies you'll be able to see it with unaided vision. Of course, binoculars will show you at least 20 stars and a telescope will show more. With the naked eye, it will look like a faint patch of light. Binoculars and a telescope will show you that the stars are glittering bright.

M67 is between the legs and close to the left. It has 500 stars but is not visible with unaided vision. Binoculars will show you some, but it's better with a telescope. The best time to look for this constellation is now before it sinks too low in the sky. That's assuming we'll have a clear night when the moon isn't visible. A tiny sliver of the moon is OK, but not a large moon.

CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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SOIL Sangre de Cristo awards \$21,000 supporting local agriculture

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

ALAMOSA — SOIL Sangre de Cristo investor members voted to award \$21,000 in 0% Interest Loans to four entities in the region during the annual meeting recently.

Loans were awarded to Elements Mountain Compost, Fungus Among Us, Rocky Mountain Garlic and Elevations Farm and Orchard.

Elevation Farm and Orchard, located in Alamosa, will use the loan to purchase and set up of a vertical growing system. This includes shelving, lights, fans, trays, water system, soil, and seed. Unlike many vertical grow system, theirs will be based in living soil not hydro or aquaponics. Some of the products they grow are peas, salad and other greens, rhubarb, herbs, pork, and eggs using regenerative farming methods.

Fungus Among Us Medicinals is an off-grid gourmet and medicinal mushroom company located in Westcliffe and servicing Fremont, Chaffee, and Custer counties. FAUM specializes in the cultivation of gourmet and medicinal mushrooms sold directly to consumers at farmers markets and local restaurants. Medicinal tinctures and supplements are also made.

Elements Mountain Compost started in 2015, provides organics waste disposal and soil amendment products to Chaffee County and the surrounding region. EMC

collects over 230 tons of food scraps, compostable items (napkins, compostable containers) and yard waste from businesses and residents in Salida, Poncha Springs and Buena Vista.

Rocky Mountain Garlic has been growing garlic in Salida since 2017. The owners believe in healthy food and know that comes from healthy soil. They started out small, building seed stock with a few hundred heads and growing to 14,000 garlics in production.

In 2020 RMG collaborated with another farm in Chaffee County to expand market offerings to include

other root crops — beets, carrots, potato, turnips, radish and onion — along with a few perennials — sorrel, rhubarb, herbs; parsley, mint, oregano. In 2020 RMG obtained Certified Naturally Grown status, the grassroots alternative to certified organic, no pesticides, herbicides, or chemical fertilizers.

SOIL Sangre de Cristo, a local nonprofit, allows community members to invest in common good, to support the health of our environment, and have delicious high-quality food available as the end result. SOIL Sangre de Cristo awards 0% interest loans to regional food producers by pooling money and awarding the loans each year.

For more information, visit online SOILSangredeCristo.org.

The next round of loan awards will be in March, 2023, with applications accepted starting Dec. 1, 2022.



Courtesy photos SOIL Sangre de Cristo investor members voted to award \$21,000 in 0% Interest Loans to four entities in the region during the annual meeting recently. Loans were awarded to Elements Mountain Compost, Fungus Among Us, Rocky Mountain Garlic and Elevations Farm and Orchard.



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STATE BASKETBALL BOYS

CLASS 1A

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Thursday | |
| Sierra Grande 62 | Dove Creek 52 |
| Friday | |
| McClave 53 | Sierra Grande 35 |
| Saturday | |
| Granada 63 | Sierra Grande 61 |

CLASS 2A

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Thursday | |
| Sanford 43 | Peyton 36 |
| Friday | |
| Sanford 44 | Limon 40 |
| Saturday | |
| Yuma 59 | Sanford 43 |

CLASS 3A

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Thursday | |
| Centauri 63 | Colorado Academy 51 |
| Friday | |
| Centauri 71 | St. Mary's 67 |
| Saturday | |
| Aspen 50 | Centauri 40 |

STATE BASKETBALL GIRLS

CLASS 1A

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Thursday | |
| Fleming 43 | Sangre de Cristo 30 |
| Friday | |
| Lone Star 73 | Sangre de Cristo 49 |

CLASS 2A

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Thursday | |
| Sanford 49 | Wiggins 30 |
| Friday | |
| Sanford 42 | Rye 31 |
| Saturday | |
| Holyoke 39 | Sanford 34 |

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FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1A

artists to show their wares. The arts and crafts fair was held on March 11 and 12 with vendors from all over the San Luis Valley and Colorado showing up in large numbers to sell their various items. The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce hosted the event.

Many of the artists expressed their pleasure at being able to sell in the new building and appreciated the large crowds that attended the fair.

One vendor remarked, "It's great to be able to have something like this in the early spring. It is usually too cold to have festivals now, so it is great to be indoors."

Others remarked that the festival-goers were having a great time and that they were buying a lot of handmade arts and crafts.

Visitors from all over the United States could be seen at the pre-planned crane-watching events. Unlike previous years, where the events were hosted by the crane tours, instead, people drove themselves to a meet-up location on the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge and learned from Refuge staff and volunteers some interesting facts about sandhill cranes.

There were many opportunities for attendees of the free meet-ups to photograph the cranes in their habitat.

The speaking events that are usually held were instead available on-demand via recorded sessions on the Monte Vista Crane Festival website.



Photos courtesy of Ray Esparza

March food distribution in Del Norte on March 19

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Emergency Food Bank will hold its March distribution on Saturday, March 19, from 9 to 11 a.m. The Del Norte Food Bank serves residents of the Del Norte and South Forks areas. Anyone in need of food assistance is welcome. For more information, call 719-850-2892.



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Get Free from the Burden of Stress

It seems that stress is the disease of the century. Products and programs to manage stress are a multi billion-dollar business, whether the "cure" is medicine, counseling, books, seminars or classes. But I've discovered that God's way of managing stress is the most effective way to live.

Jesus says in John 14:27 (AMP): "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.]"

I know what it's like to live under the burden and pressure of stress, and I know what it's like to have God's peace. I can honestly say that I will do whatever I have to do to have God's peace in my life, because it is not God's will for us to live with stress all the time.

It's easy for us to feel like we can't avoid being stressed-out because it's just the way the world is today. But the truth is just because stress is a disease of our culture, it doesn't mean we have to adopt the ways of our culture and live the same way.

We have two options: We can continue to be stressed-out until we fall apart, or we can learn how to receive the peace Christ gives in every circumstance, rather than letting stress get into us.

The Cure for Stress

For many years, I lived with constant stress. I was sexually abused by my father throughout my childhood. Then when I left home at the age of 18, I married the first man who came along because I was afraid no one else would want me, and that led to five years of misery. He ended up abandoning me.

By the time I was 23 and met Dave Meyer, I was a mess! I was worried, full of fear, insecure and had a poor self-image. So I tried to find value in what I did and became a workaholic.

Over time, I developed physical problems, like frequent headaches and backaches, and had problems in many of my relationships because I was unhappy and hard to get along with. I finally came to the place where I decided that I would not live that way any longer. Whatever it took, I was going to have God's peace and live a peaceful life!

James 1:21 says, "...With a humble spirit receive the word [of God] which is implanted [actually rooted in your heart], which is able to save your souls." Although I was a Christian during this time of my life, I needed to "get saved" in my soul—my mind, will and emotions. I needed to renew my mind with the Word of God so I could know the Truth and be set free from the root issues of my stress.

Here's how it works: When we study God's Word—reading it, meditating on it, getting it deep down in our hearts—it changes the way we think. This causes us to change the way we talk, which changes our attitudes, and then our behavior changes. At this point, the things around us—our circumstances—can't control us anymore.

Get to the Root of Your Stress

Being set free from the pressure of stress begins with God's Word, but we also have to understand that if things are going to change in our lives, we will have to take responsibility to change them with God's help. So the first thing we need to do is pray and be willing to hear what He has to say about the real root of our problem.

If you're already doing your part, then be determined to trust God to fix things. But if you're not walking in wisdom or you're doing things a certain way just because that's the way everybody else is doing it, then follow the direction He is speaking to your heart to make a change.

We must pray and obey! This means we make a commitment not to live based on the culture around us but by the

Moving Up Higher

with
Joyce Meyer



leading of the Holy Spirit, who lives in us as born-again believers in Christ. Our mind-set should be: With God's help, I'm ready to make a change. Then as we do what He shows us to do (or what He shows us *not* to do), we'll be able to live in peace.

Pursue the peace Jesus is offering you today. It's not the kind the world gives—the kind you have as long as your circumstances are the way you want them to be. The peace Jesus gives makes you calm and undisturbed on the inside, in your soul, no matter what's going on around you.

Study other scriptures about peace, like Philippians 4:6-7, Colossians 3:15 and 1 Peter 3:11. Put your trust in God completely and enjoy the life Jesus died to give you. Through Christ, you can learn how to manage the stress of this world, instead of letting stress manage you!

*For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching CD series **Unplug, Unwind & De-stress!** You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.*

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

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

State Basketball 2022



Photos by Ken Hamrick
Sanford High School's Collin Stagner (3) makes a move to the basket against Yuma in the Class 2A State Tournament championship game Saturday in Loveland. Sanford lost the game 59-43.



Sanford High School's Kelton Gartrell (22) puts up a shot against Yuma in the Class 2A State Tournament championship game Saturday in Loveland. Sanford lost 59-43.

Yuma tops Sanford boys in 2A state championship game

BY KEN HAMRICK
LOVELAND — It was a battle of Indians in the Class 2A State Tournament championship game as the Sanford High School boys basketball team faced Yuma — both having the Indian mascot. However, this game would belong to the Yuma Indians as they defeated Sanford 59-43 Saturday at the Budweiser Events Center.

Collin Stagner put Sanford on top early with a 3-point basket. Forest Rutledge scored in the paint for Yuma's first points, but Cash Caldon drained a three to give Sanford its largest lead of the game at 6-2.

Jesus Ross scored for Yuma, but McCray Larsen knocked down a jumper to give Sanford an 8-4 edge.

Rutledge buried a trey and Clay Robinson scored a layup to put Yuma in front at 9-8. McCray Larsen hit another short jumper, but Robinson made another layup to give Yuma an 11-10 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Robinson scored two more baskets to increase Yuma's lead to 15-10. Caldon made another 3-pointer, but Robinson scored five points and Kobe Rayl scored two to push the Yuma lead to 22-13.

Kelton Gartrell made two free throws, but Robinson made two free throws and Beau Tate made two baskets. Caldon made his third three of the game, but Tate scored again to give Yuma a 30-18 advantage at halftime.

Robinson began the third quarter with a three. Gartrell made two more free throws,

but Rutledge made a 3-pointer and Robinson hit a jumper for a 39-20 lead.

Stagner made a pair from the line, but Yuma made two out of four free throws late in the third for a 43-22 lead at the end of the period.

Yuma took its largest lead of the game at 57-31 with 3:01 to play. Sanford outscored Yuma 12-2 in the final three minutes with McCray Larsen scoring six points and Ethan Larsen and Caldon both scoring three.

Caldon was Sanford's leading scorer with 15 points, followed by McCray Larsen with 12.

Robinson led Yuma with 23 points and Tate scored 14.

Sanford had a final record of 22 wins and five losses.

Yuma 59, Sanford 43
 Sanford — Stagner 2 2-4 7, Caldon 5 1-1 15, Gartrell 0 4-4 4, M. Larsen 5 2-2 12, E. Larsen 1 3-6 5, Sittler 0 0-0 0, McCarroll 0 0-0 0. Total 13 12-17 43.
 3-point goals — Caldon 4, Stagner 1. Total 5.

Yuma — Ross 2 0-0 5, Gamboa 1 1-2 3, Tate 6 2-3 14, Robinson 9 4-8 23, Rutledge 3 0-0 8, Hernandez 0 0-0 0, Carrillo 0 0-0 0, Lungwith 1 0-0 2, Haruf 0 0-0 0, Rayl 1 0-0 2, Varela 0 0-0 0, Escobar 1 0-0 2, A. Baucke 0 0-0 0, S. Baucke 0 0-0 0. Total 24 7-13 59.
 3-point goals — Rutledge 2, Robinson 1, Ross 1. Total 4.

Sanford 10 8 4 21 — 43
 Yuma 11 19 13 16 — 59
 Fouls — Sanford 13, Yuma 19.

Falcons defeated by Aspen in Class 3A title game

BY KEN HAMRICK
DENVER — In what Centauri High School boys basketball coach Larry Mortensen called "a battle of Carhartt vs. Gucci," the fifth-seeded Falcons team fought hard when it faced third-seeded and undefeated Aspen in the Class 3A State Tournament championship game Saturday at the University of Denver's Hamilton Gymnasium.

The Falcons trailed for much of the contest and in the long run they came up short as they lost to the Skiers 50-40.

Aspen had a 9-4 lead after the first quarter, but the Falcons led at halftime 18-17.

The Skiers regained the lead at 31-27 at the end of the third quarter, and they outscored the Falcons in the fourth quarter by a 19-13 margin.

Centauri's Baron Holman led all scorers with 20 points, which included going 8-for-8 at the free throw line. His brother, Chaz, was next for the Falcons with 14 points.

Aspen had three players score in double figures. Shae Korpela led the Skiers with 16 points, followed by Porter Lee with 12 and Lucas Lee with 11.

Centauri finishes the season with a record of 24-2.

Aspen 50, Centauri 40
 Centauri — C. Holman 5 3-4 14, Polzin 0 0-0 0, B. Holman 5 8-8 20, Claunch 1 2-6 4, Sowards 0 0-0 0,



Courtesy photo by Shelly Polzin
Centauri High School's Mason Claunch (12) grabs a rebound in the Class 3A State Tournament championship game Saturday at the University of Denver's Hamilton Gym. The Falcons lost to Aspen 50-40.

Johnson 0 0-0 0, Absmeier 0 0-0 0, Tibbitts 0 0-0 0, Anderson 0 0-0 0, Russell 0 0-0 0, Curtis 1 0-0 2, Taylor 0 0-0 0. Total 12 13-18 40.

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

Aspen — S. Korpela 5 6-9 165, Godomsky 1 2-2 4, L. Lee 4 3-8 11, P. Lee 4 4-5 12, B. Korpela 0 3-8 3, Ruiz-Zuniga 0 0-0 0, Franceschi 2 0-0 4. Total 16 18-30 50.

3-point goals — none.
 Centauri 4 14 9 13 — 40
 Aspen 9 8 14 19 — 50
 Fouls — Centauri 24, Aspen 16. Fouled out — Claunch; P. Lee.

Lady Indians' late rally falls short in 2A title game

BY KEN HAMRICK
LOVELAND — It was a case of falling into too deep of a hole for the top-seeded Sanford High School girls basketball team when it took on second-seeded Holyoke in the Class 2A State Tournament championship game Saturday at the Budweiser Events Center.

The Lady Indians trailed by as much as 16 points in the game, but they fought hard to close to within three points late in the game. However, that would be as close as they would come as they lost to the Lady Dragons 39-34.

Kristin Viselmeyer gave Holyoke the early lead with a layup, but Cheyenne Caldon made a 3-point basket to put Sanford in front at 3-2.

That would be the Lady Indians' only lead of the game. Elyce Talavera made a three on the other side, and after Asia Caldon tied the score, the Lady Dragons scored the next eight points for a 13-5 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

Cheyenne Caldon opened the second quarter by making two free throws, but Lauren Herman made three treys to give Holyoke its largest lead of the game at 23-7. Asia Caldon made one of two from the line to close out the period, but the Lady Indians trailed 23-8 at halftime.

Cheyenne Caldon made two more free throws for the first points of the third quarter, but Talavera made another 3-pointer to equal the Lady Dragons' largest lead at 26-10.

Asia Caldon and Makenzie Reynolds sparked a Lady Indians' rally as both made a 3-point basket. Asia Caldon followed with two free throws to bring Sanford within a single-digit



Sanford High School's Makenzie Reynolds looks to put up a shot against Holyoke in the Class 2A State Tournament championship game in Loveland. Reynolds scored 10 points, but the Lady Indians lost 39-34.



Photos by Ken Hamrick
Sanford High School's Riley Canty looks for an open teammate as Holyoke's Elise Krogmeier play defense in the Class 2A State Tournament championship game. The Lady Indians lost 39-34.

deficit at 26-18.

Viselmeyer ended the streak with a layup. Makenzie Reynolds also drove for a layup, and after Herman also scored in the paint, Cheyenne Caldon made a layup and added a free throw to bring the Lady Indians within 30-23 at the end of the period.

Viselmeyer's two free throws pushed the lead to five, but Riley Canty made two 3-pointers and Makenzie Reynolds scored a layup to cut the deficit to 34-31 with 4:09 to play.

Elise Krogmeier made split at the line and then made two free throws to increase the lead to 37-31. But Makenzie Reynolds buried a three to again bring the Lady Indians within three points at 37-34 with 56 seconds left.

Sanford got the ball back after Herman missed the front end of a 1-and-1, but Cheyenne Caldon missed a 3-point attempt. After a tie-up, the Lady Indians regained possession, but another 3-point attempt was blocked.

Herman made two free throws with

10 seconds remaining to put the game out of reach.

Cheyenne Caldon and Makenzie Reynolds both scored 10 points to lead the Lady Indians.

Herman was Holyoke's leading scorer with 14 points.

Sanford ended the season with a record of 25 wins and two losses.

Holyoke 39, Sanford 34
 Holyoke — A. Talavera 0 0-0 0, E. Talavera 3 0-0 9, Herman 4 3-5 14, Viselmeyer 3 3-4 9, Krogmeier 2 3-4 7, Roberts 0 0-0 0. Total 12 9-13 39.
 3-point goals — Herman 3, E. Talavera 3. Total 6.

Sanford — Faucette 0 0-0 0, A. Caldon 2 3-4 8, R. Canty 2 0-0 6, Av. Smith 0 0-0 0, C. Caldon 2 5-5 10, Edgar 0 0-2 0, M. Reynolds 4 0-1 10, As. Smith 0 0-0 0. Total 10 8-12 34.
 3-point goals — R. Canty 2, M. Reynolds 2, A. Caldon 1, C. Caldon 1. Total 6.

Holyoke 13 10 7 9 — 39
 Sanford 5 3 15 11 — 34
 Fouls — Holyoke 11, Sanford 13.

Late shot upends Panther boys in loss to Granada

BY KEN HAMRICK
GREELEY — After a tough 53-35 loss to McClave on Friday, the top-seeded Sierra Grande boys basketball team fell into the third-place game against third-seeded Granada Saturday at the University of Northern Colorado's Bank of Colorado Arena.

The Panthers had a late lead in the game, but a late 3-point basket by Granada's Brandon Gonzales sent Sierra Grande to a 63-61 loss to finish fourth in the state.

The Bobcats led 20-8 after the first quarter, but the Panthers rallied to cut the deficit to 35-27 at halftime. Sierra Grande continued the momentum and closed to within 51-48 at the end of the third quarter.

The Panthers had a 61-60 lead with 10 seconds remaining, but they missed the front end of a 1-and-1 foul shot situation. The Bobcats got the rebound and pushed the ball upcourt where Gonzales hit the game-winning shot with 6 seconds to play.

Sierra Grande drew up a play and put up a 3-point attempt at the buzzer but missed.

Isiah Chairez led the Panthers with 30 points, followed by Thomas Archuleta with 17.

Sierra Grande's final record was 24 wins and two losses.



Sierra Grande High School's Isiah Chairez (12) moves past McClave's Eddie Verdu (24) in Friday's Class 1A State Tournament semifinal game at the University of Northern Colorado's Bank of Colorado Arena. The Panthers lost to McClave 53-35 and then lost to Granada in the third-place game 63-61 on Saturday.

Photo by Ken Hamrick

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Continued from Page 1A

“It is no secret that we are at a critical moment for the future of the San Luis Valley, as drought deepens, climate change intensifies, and the unconfined aquifer’s water level continues to drop at a dangerous rate.

Decisive action is required now before the aquifer runs dry and the way of life for the 46,000 residents of the San Luis Valley, where agriculture is the driving economic force is threatened,” the release stated.

The San Luis Valley has a mostly unconfined aquifer and is subject to many variables including drought.

A confined aquifer is surrounded by rock and clay pieces which confine it to an area and make it less at risk for loss, but an unconfined aquifer is exposed and can be impacted more severely by outside factors.

A confined aquifer is found deep beneath the ground, while an unconfined aquifer is just below the ground level.

According to Texas A&M University, the water level in wells drilled into an unconfined aquifer will be at the same elevation as the water table. The water table will rise or fall in response to recharge and pumping.

Generally, water percolates from the ground surface through an aquifer’s recharge area.

With the large amount of agriculture in the Valley, water is its most precious resource, and its most contested one.

The San Luis Valley is home to a variety of crops, including the ubiquitous potato fields, alfalfa, vegetables and other crops. Without access to water, these crops could not be grown. The Valley does not see a large amount of rainfall, instead, the water flows from the mountain areas from snowmelt and rainfall, and moves just below the surface, which requires the use of wells to irrigate the fields.

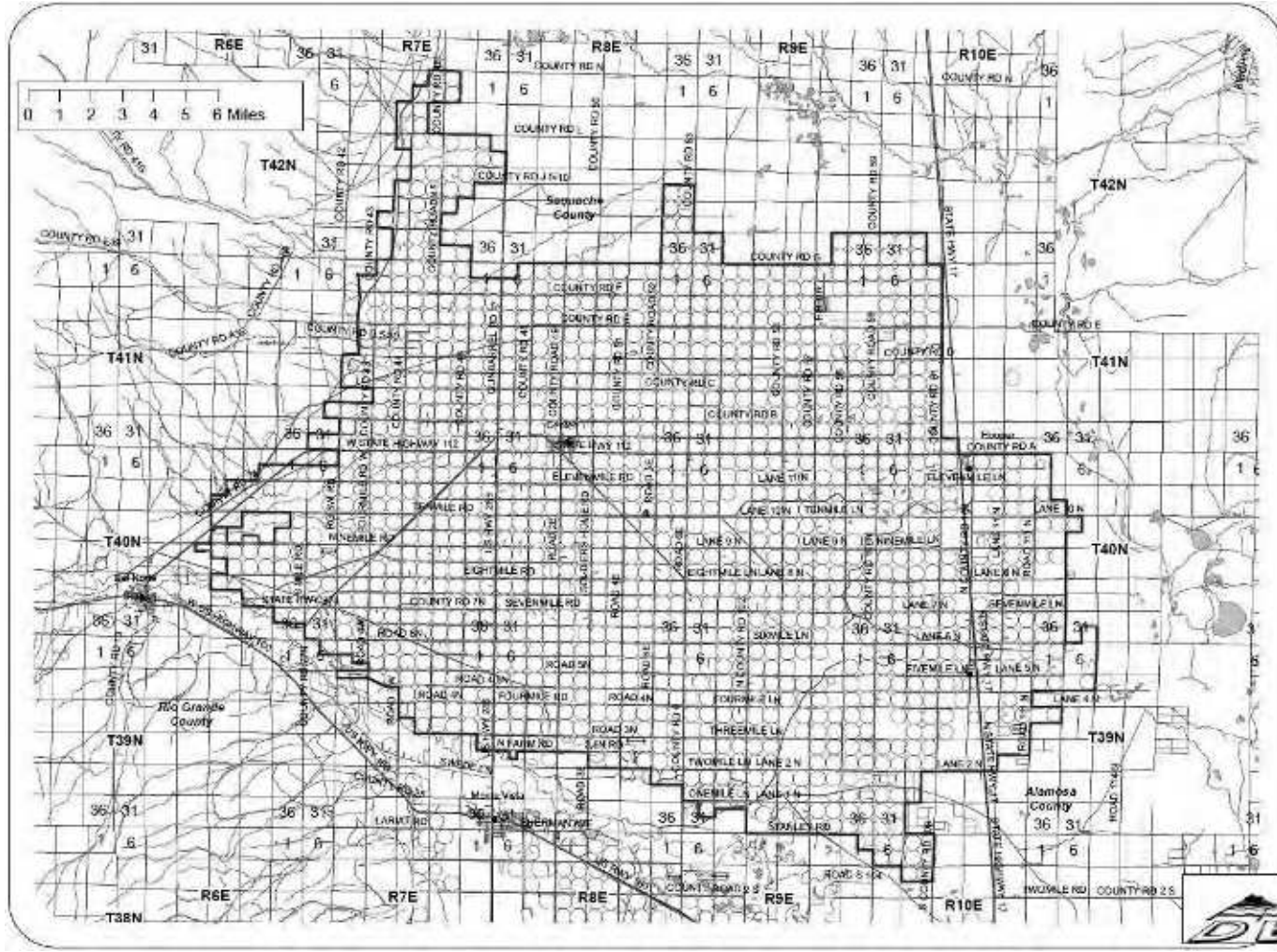
The Rio Grande Water Conservation District, Subdistrict 1 covers much of the San Luis Valley area. According to the Subdistrict 1 Plan of Water Management, “The goals of the Subdistrict are to cause groundwater levels in the Unconfined Aquifer of the Closed Basin to recover, and then to maintain a sustainable irrigation water supply in the Unconfined Aquifer with due regard for the daily, seasonal and longer-term demands on the aquifer and to protect senior surface water rights and avoid interference with Colorado’s obligations under the Rio Grande Compact. To achieve these goals, reducing and managing overall groundwater consumption is essential.”

The group of farmers behind SWAG disputes the effectiveness of the plans in place and proposed by Subdistrict 1.

“Despite making little progress towards sustainability with the fee-based model, Subdistrict No. 1’s Board of Managers is now poised to vote on raising the over-pumping fee from \$150 to \$500 per acre-foot. That’s a 233% increase on top of a 386% increase over the past decade.

While this plan may work for some producers, it is not a viable option for the members of SWAG who have paid these ever-increasing fees only to see reduced yields and declining water levels in the aquifer. It is clear the status quo is unsustainable for the farmers of the Valley, nor the aquifer that we rely on for our water. We simply do not have the time to double down on a one-size-fits-all fee-based approach,” SWAG stated in the release.

The SWAG press release included an answer to the ongoing water crisis



Graphic of Subdistrict 1 courtesy of Rio Grande Water Conservation District

in the Valley.

“SWAG has entered into an agreement to purchase and retire approximately 4,500 acres, irrigated by wells, that have historically consumed an average of 5,678 acre-feet per year from the unconfined aquifer at a cost of over \$35 million. If real progress towards sustainability is not made, the sad truth is that SWAG members’ wells are subject to the very real threat of forced curtailment; whether by the State of Colorado if the subdistrict cannot prove its plan for sustainability will work; or by the Subdistrict itself through ever-increasing fees for pumping which would punish those water users who rely on their decreed water rights for their wells, or the absence of water at their wellheads due to the overuse of the unconfined aquifer. The only way to solve this threat and ensure the future vitality of the Valley is to work together to find solutions which work for everyone. We need more options to promote conservation, not less. SWAG’s augmentation plan is one of those options, and we hope that other members of the community

make your voices heard before it is too late,” SWAG concluded.

According to Subdistrict 1, “The reduced native water supply is the result of the onset of a serious and prolonged drought that has greatly reduced inflows and surface water diversions into the Subdistrict lands. In order to restore balance between available supplies and current levels of use, it will be necessary to permanently reduce the number of acres irrigated in the Subdistrict by approximately 40,000. The amount of the reduction in acreage will be periodically reviewed by the Board of Managers.”

The Subdistrict 1 Plan of Water Management continues stating that water levels will be increased by, “A program of temporary fallowing, potentially in cooperation with federal programs, to remove sufficient acreage from production, on an ongoing basis, to achieve reduction in water consumption necessary to achieve the goals of the Plan. Economic incentives for the permanent removal of lands from irrigation, potentially in cooperation with federal programs.

Replacement of stream depletions and/or increases in groundwater recharge. Infrastructure improvements to maximize the diversion and recharge of water available to Colorado under its compact allocation. Purchase and retirement of irrigated lands and/or water rights, either within or without the exterior boundaries of the Subdistrict. Education and research into water conservation, water use efficiency, improved water

management, and public education on agricultural water use. Improvement and operation of ditches, headgates, and recharge facilities to make the best use of available water and to improve groundwater recharge.”

This water management plan was enacted on June 15, 2009. Some farmers have expressed their lack of faith in the water management plan, and its ability to complete the stated goals and objectives.

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.

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.

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION AND CERTIFIED STATEMENT OF RESULTS
§1-13.5-513(6), 32-1-104, 1-11-103(3) C.R.S.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Center Fire Protection District, Saguache, Rio Grande, and Alamosa County, Colorado, that at the close of business on the sixty-third day before the election, there were not more candidates for director than offices to be filled, including candidates filing affidavits of intent to be write-in candidates; therefore, the election to be held on May 3, 2022 is hereby canceled pursuant to section 1-13.5-513(6) C.R.S.
The following candidates are hereby declared elected:
Arthur Holland 3 year term
Thomas Biel 3 year term
Andrew Price 3 year term
Lloyd Garcia 1 year term
Craig Perrin 1 year term
Kimberlee Schuett
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P. O. Box 845
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No. 1628 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, March 17, 2022.

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Photo by John Waters

This Bombardier Regional Jet CRJ-200 awaits passengers on the tarmac of the San Luis Valley Regional Airport. SkyWest Airlines, the operator of the United Airlines jet has announced it will cease Alamosa flights this summer.

SkyWest Air to cease Alamosa passenger operations

BY JOHN WATERS AND KEITH R. CERNY

ALAMOSA — SkyWest Airlines, operating as United Airlines, will discontinue Alamosa flights sometime this summer.

The airline uses CRJ-200 aircraft between the San Luis Valley Regional Airport in Alamosa and Denver under subsidies provided under the federal Essential Air Service program (EAS). That program was created in 1978 to guarantee small communities like Alamosa are served by commercial airlines.

In a statement to the Valley Courier, SkyWest stated, "As a result of an ongoing pilot staffing imbalance across the industry, SkyWest expects to discontinue service in Alamosa beginning this summer. SkyWest has long been a supporter of the Essential Air Service (EAS) program and the critical need it fills in our national transportation infrastructure. We appreciate our partnerships and the support of the community, and we are committed to delivering a solid, reliable product through this transition. Our ground staff at Alamosa will be offered various options, including transfers within the company. Customers booked beyond the service date will be contacted to make alternate arrangements.

toward solutions that would enable us to reconnect this community to the National Air Transportation System in the future, and we are committed to remaining flexible and adjusting our plans if the situation improves more quickly than currently expected."

Alamosa Airport Board President Randy Wright confirmed learning of SkyWest's decision at Thursday's board meeting during a Zoom call with Daniel Belmont of SkyWest. He called the action a challenge for the board.

"People were finally looking at us as a place to get to by air," Wright said. "This is a real punch in the gut."

Wright went on to point out that the San Luis Valley has always been resilient and "we'll figure this out and get a new provider." He noted that the two-year agreement with SkyWest was ending in 2022 and requests for quotes for the next two-year Essential Air Service (EAS) contract is scheduled to go out in September.

Wright said there are only a handful of EAS providers potentially able to serve the SLV airport including Boutique Air who preceded SkyWest in that role. He added that it could be a challenge finding new providers with 29 airports currently in the same dilemma, and that the Department of Transportation (DOT) might have to be involved.

DOT manages EAS agreements across the country.

Valley professionals honored at Colorado Emergency Management Conference

STAFF REPORT

Because of COVID, the Annual Colorado Emergency Management Conference was cancelled last year. It has been two years since Colorado Emergency Managers have met in person; the 2022 Colorado EM Conference in Loveland Feb. 22-25 was an opportunity to get back together and share ideas.

San Luis Valley Emergency Management was well represented by directors at the conference from Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache counties. Representatives with the SLV American Red Cross, Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) and Healthcare Coalition were also in attendance at this multi-day event.

Conejos County Director of Emergency Management Rodney King was awarded the coveted regional Emergency Manager of the Year Award from the Colorado Emergency Management Association (CEMA) and his peers. This was his second time receiving this award for his outstanding leadership, professionalism and commitment to his communities that he daily demonstrates.

King has been a mentor to many leading the way for emergency management in the future. He may be one of the longest serving Emergency Management professionals in the State

of Colorado.

Rio Grande County Director of Emergency Management Art Wittner was awarded the statewide Rookie of the Year Award as a new emergency manager in Colorado. Director Wittner came onboard joining the SLV team just as the COVID response initiated.

Saguache County Deputy Director of Emergency Management David Frees was awarded the prestigious Mike Gelski Award for outstanding volunteerism and community service. Deputy Director Frees has dedicated thousands of hours to Saguache County and the SLV through his work on the Northern Saguache Fire Department, Saguache County Search and Rescue Team (SAR) and Emergency Management.

Saguache County Director of Emergency Management Robert "Bobby" Woelz was also recognized by CEMA and the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) for becoming a State Certified Emergency Manager and for completing two State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) task books for both Public Information Officer (PIO) and Planning Sections Chief (PSC).

The SLV Emergency Management Team is a professional group of dedicated Responders serving the SLV Region.



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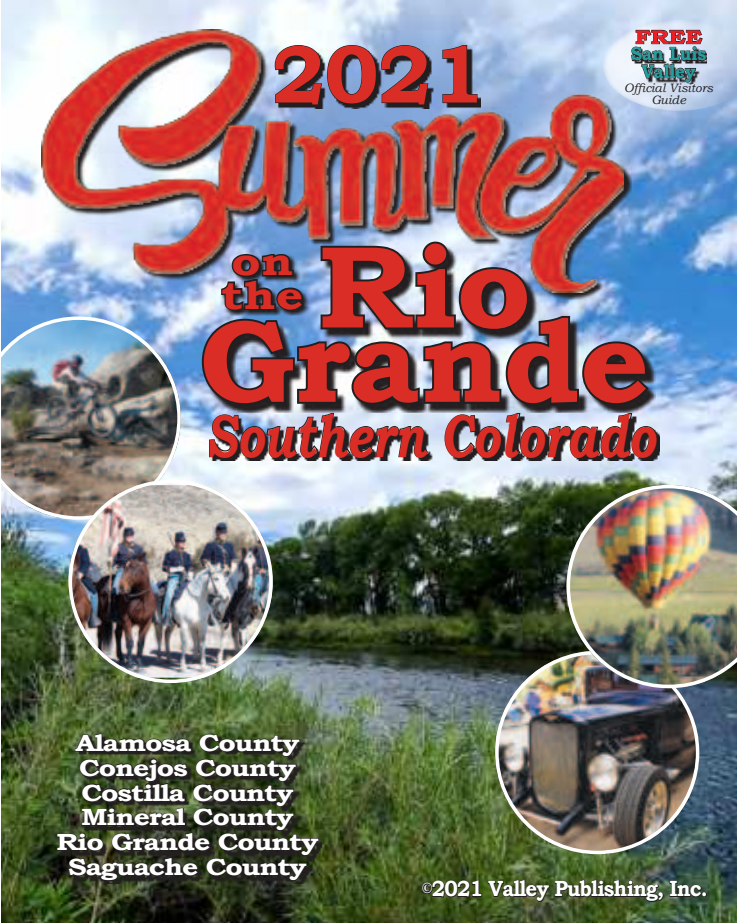
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Seven Peaks music festival moves to San Luis Valley after 2021 COVID cancellation

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

BY JASON BLEVINS
Colorado Sun

CRESTONE — The Seven Peaks Festival has found a new home.

The world's top concert promoter, Live Nation, last summer canceled its 20,000-person Labor Day weekend country music concert in Buena Vista after Chaffee County commissioners refused to raise coronavirus-related capacity limits. Saguache County com-

missioners last week approved a special use permit for Live Nation to host as many as 20,000 concertgoers in the San Luis Valley, just outside the tiny hamlet of Villa Grove.

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

It will be the largest event in the history of Saguache County, a rural valley with a population of about 6,600 people and four municipalities, one of which, Bonanza, has

Please see MUSIC on Page 2



Photo by John Waters

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



Photos courtesy of High Valley Community Center

High Valley Community Center students enjoyed a visit from the Creede Repertory Theatre last week when cast members put on a small play titled 'Ms. Joy.'

HVCC spotlights efforts of OST Coordinator Brisa

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

DEL NORTE — Hi, community members! We hope you are enjoying the nice weather as of late. All of us at High Valley Community Center had a wonderful time at our community night last week. It was great to see both new and old friends join us for "Ms. Joy," a short play followed by a homemade dinner. Thank you to the Creede Repertory Theatre for organizing such a great performance. The kiddos had a great time!

This month, we highlighted Ms. Brisa in our HVCC monthly

Please see HVCC on Page 2



Premio Hilos Culturales Music Award recipient is Rubén Domínguez

BY HERMAN MARTINEZ

ALAMOSA — Rubén Domínguez recalls converting his musical teachings provided by his father Ramón and his uncle Ryan Domínguez into a focused pursuit of guitar and vocals. His repertoire which began with tunes of the Eagles, evolved to build on the classics by Daniel Valdez and now includes the music of Red River's Michael Hearne.

"I loved traveling with my mother, María Trujillo Domínguez, in my youth, leaving Española and traveling throughout northern New Mexico to attend my father's performances as a member of the Santa Fe-based musical Trío Zía... My father taught me chord progressions and song melodies and my uncle taught me guitar leads."

Experiencing the loss of both parents in a span of eight years, Rubén came to Manassa in the San Luis Valley to live with his Godparents,

Please see DOMÍNGUEZ on Page 3



Photo courtesy of Herman Martinez

Rubén Domínguez received the 2022 Hilos Culturales Music Award.

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HVCC

Continued from Page 1

newsletter. Brisa is the OST Co-ordinator who is responsible for coordinating after school activities and Friday trips as well as assisting with sports and other HVCC events.

Brisa graduated from Center High School, has a 4-year-old son and a 2-year-old daughter, loves caffeine and spicy things, speaks fluent Spanish, shops whenever possible, and thinks summer is the best season. Brisa's positive attitude and great work ethic are part of what makes her such an asset to the organization!

In the world of HVCC sports, soccer registrations are available for kids grades K-7 on our website, www.TheHvcc.org. Please also note that all sports are organized through HVCC so if your child plans to play sports, they must also be registered with HVCC to play. Not sure if your child has an active registration? Give us a call at 719-657-2172 or send us an email at Hvcc@TheHvcc.org. Practices began the week of March 7 and games will start in April. More information is available on our website.

There is a whole new lineup of Fabulous Fridays this month. We will kick off the month swimming at the Sand Dunes swimming pool in Hooper, followed by a visit to the Colorado Gator Farm, a Creede Repertory Theatre workshop, and finishing with an HVCC Fun Day. There is so much fun to look forward to!

Please note that HVCC will be closed March 22-25 for Spring Break. We will re-open on Tuesday, March 29. Enjoy your week everyone!

MUSIC

Continued from Page 1

three residents. "This has never happened before," said Amber Wilson, the county's land use administrator. "It is exciting."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"If I could tell everybody who is

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

Lovato said attracting as many as 20,000 visitors to his county "is

going to fill our coffers for sure."

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

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CDOT to begin CO 149 improvements later this month

Location of work will be north of Creede and north of Lake City

STAFF REPORT

The Colorado Department of Transportation is scheduled to begin a major road improvement project later this month north of Creede and north of Lake City on Colorado Highway 149. Work is expected to begin on March 28 and continue through late October.

The locations of the surface treatment and safety improvement project will be on the west side of Creede and continue north for 19 miles to the Mineral-Hinsdale County line, between Mile Posts 23 and 42; and from the south side of Lake City, continuing through town, north for 22 miles, including Hinsdale and Gunnison counties, between MP 70 and 92.

CDOT will be resurfacing and restriping the roadway. Deep patch repair of the existing asphalt will be done if needed.

Two new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) wheelchair-accessible ramps will be installed in Creede on the northeast and northwest corners of 7th and South Main streets.

Work will also include installa-

tion of new bridge rail at MP 86.7 — 13 miles north of Lake City — and removal and replacement of existing guardrail.

Tentative work plan

- Late March through early May — guardrail replacement.

- Early May — pavement recycling and resurfacing will begin at the north end of the project, MP 92, and progress south toward Lake City.

- When asphalt recycling is completed in the northern segment, crews will move the recycling operations south to Creede (MP 23) and progress north.

Travel Impacts

- Daytime work hours will initially be from approximately 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and will likely change with available sunlight. Saturday work may be possible.

- Motorists will encounter single-lane, alternating traffic guided by flagging personnel.

- It is possible that up to four separate work zones will be active. Two within each 20-mile stretch, north of Lake City and north of Creede.

- Up to a 15-minute delay at each site.

- Speed limit will be reduced to 40 mph through the work zones.

- Travelers are urged to be aware

of the nearby US 50 Little Blue Creek Canyon. For information on this project, visit online www.us50info.com; email us50LittleBlue@gmail.com; and or call 970-340-4333.

For more information about this project, visit online www.cdodt.gov/projects/co-149-creede-lakecity-resurface, call 719-588-2724, or email co149resurfacing@gmail.com.

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DOMÍNGUEZ

Continued from Page 1

Alberto and Rosa Vialpando. At his new home environment, Rubén naturally engaged himself in the musical pursuits of Los Cancioneros del Valle, who had just premiered their two CD set recording “Dos Voces, Dos Guitarras – Tradicional.” Los Cancioneros del Valle, a duo composed by his tía Rosa and her uncle (Rubén’s great uncle), Salomón López of San Antonio.

Rubén transitioned into the family’s ensemble, converting into Trío Los Cancioneros del Valle, while attending Centauri High School. Rubén received Recognition Music Awards performing at the New Mexico Hispano Music Association Youth Talent Competition in Española and Pan American Day at Adams State University. Upon high school graduation

he enrolled at ASU in Alamosa and continued his musical pursuits and enrolled in the university’s Jazz Band and Corazón del Valle Mariachi ensemble programs; in addition to forming his variety band, the Sol Boyz.

Rubén announced at this past Friday’s, Feb. 25, evening musical presentation at Society Hall that Trío Cancioneros del Valle is anxiously awaiting the debut of their recently recorded CD titled “Serenata” that will be released early this Spring 2022.

El Premio Hilos Culturales award presentation completes a cycle of three honors for Trío Los Cancioneros del Valle; 2009 recipient – Salomón López, 2017 – Rosa Vialpando, and 2021 – Rubén R. Domínguez.

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but is also a little on the nervous side. He's about 2 years old and is a German Shepherd mix. All you have to do to get on Rex's good side is grab a leash and he's ready to go! Rex is stronger than he looks, but does great with kids. He's a lovebug who loves his belly rubs! Come see if it's meant to be today!



well as with you, and be wherever you are. She's about 2.5 years old and is a Rhodesian Ridgeback/Lab mix, so she's a very smart girl, and needs someone who can keep up with her curiosity. Does well with children and other animals, so come by today and see if she steals your heart away!

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

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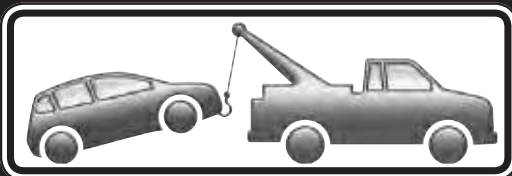
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Ecodynamics Inc is hiring a pump technician! This includes, but is not limited to, pulling & resetting water well pumps, shop time, cleaning & maintenance. Valid driver license and drug free are non-negotiable requirements. Call 719/852-2662 for more info, prefer drop off of resumes in person at 5492 US Hwy 160 E, east of Monte Vista.(3/30)

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A glimpse of what's possible in their future

700 high school students attend SLV BOCES career and academic fair

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
ALAMOSA — Close to 700 students from 12 high schools across the San Luis Valley attended the San Luis Valley Board of Cooperative Educational Ser-

vices (BOCES) spring career and academic fair.

With information booths ranging from welding to wildlife management and nursing to the Colorado National Guard, more than 50 different agencies, organizations and businesses had booths staffed with people working in their respective fields, providing students with an

idea of the various options waiting for them in the future.

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

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

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



Students learn about the possibilities in mechanical engineering from the Adams State University Mechanical Engineering Program.



Virtual welding gives students a sense of the skill involved from the Trinidad State University Welding Program.



A student practices taking a pulse from the Trinidad State University Nursing Program.

Photos by Priscilla Waggoner

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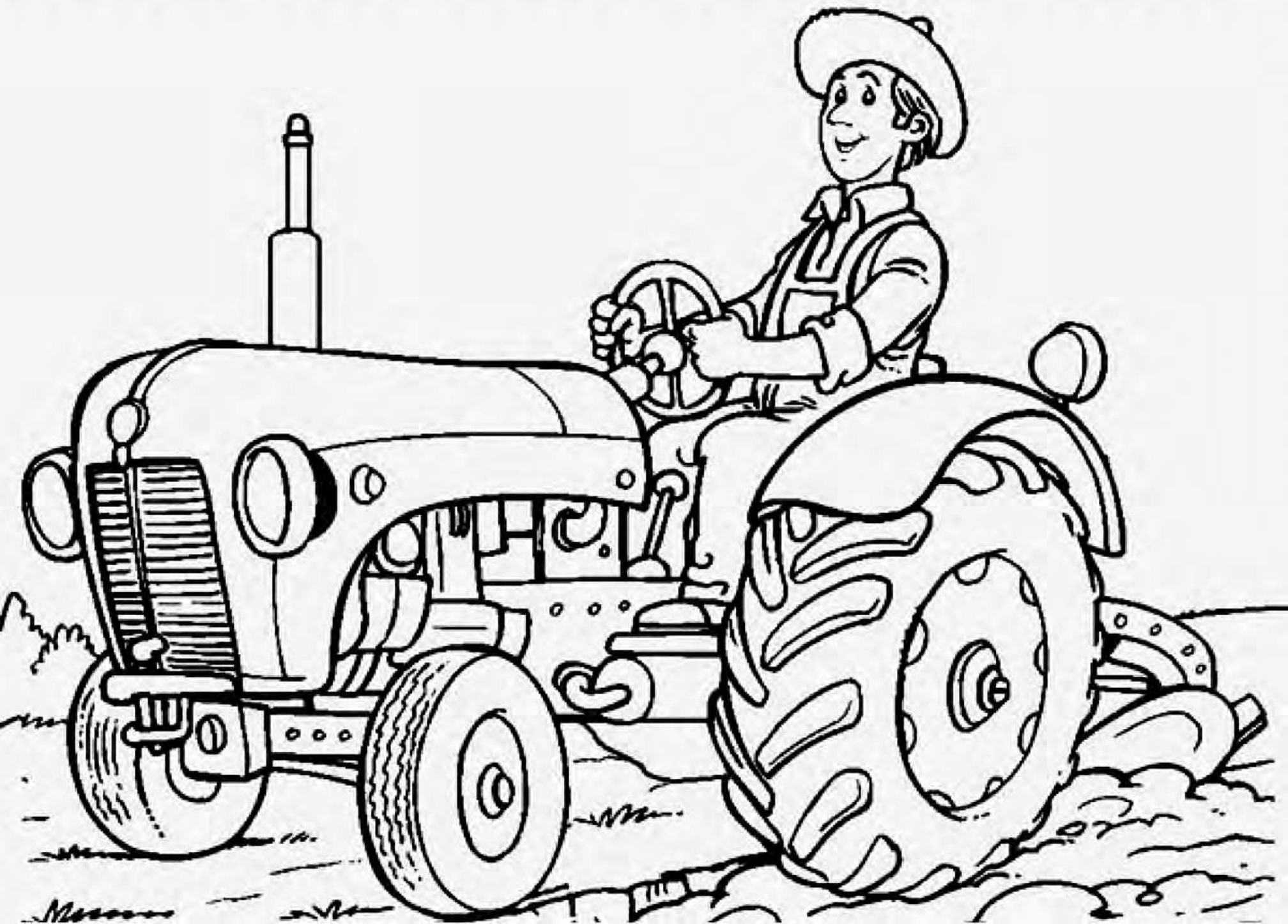
¹Based on market share of CMS enrollment data (July 2021). Plans are insured through UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company or one of its affiliated companies, a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract and a contract with the State Medicaid Program. Enrollment in the plan depends on the plan's contract renewal with Medicare. Benefits and features vary by plan/area. Limitations and exclusions apply. Depending on your level of Medicaid eligibility, costs may vary. OTC and Healthy Food benefits have expiration timeframes. Call the plan or refer to your Evidence of Coverage (EOC) for more information. © 2022 United HealthCare Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Y0066_211109_031115_M SPRJ69276_H0264-001-000

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Coloring Contest



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

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

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

Contest Prize
 ·\$50 gift card to the Monte Vista Coop

ENTRY DEADLINE

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022

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

Mail entries to:
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Around the Valley

Youth Basketball Camp registration is open

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

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.

Gardening workshop at La Jara Library on March 19

CONEJOS COUNTY — Mark your calendars for March activities at the Conejos Library District. The first is a gardening workshop presented by guest gardener-educator Antonette Trujillo. She will share her expertise in successful

seed germination, and how to plant and harvest microgreens. It will be on Saturday, March 19 from 10 to 11 a.m.

The Tiny Tour presented by the Creede Repertory Theatre is an engaging interactive performance

designed for our youngest learners, ages 5 and under. It will be held Thursday, March 31 at 3 p.m.

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

Last day of Sargent Kindergarten Round-up

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — Sargent Elementary is having a Kindergarten Round-up on March 15 and 16 at the school. The event is for kindergarten enrollment for the 2022-23 school year.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, call Michelle at 719-852-4024.

Parents or guardians can register

their child at this time for kindergarten and meet the teacher and principal. Children will also be prescreened.

To be eligible for kindergarten in the 22-23 school year, children must be 5 years old on or before June 1, 2022. Parents or guardians will need to bring their child's birth certificate and immunization records.

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

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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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| R | E | A | P | | F | R | G | | R | A | H | | | | | |
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| | D | A | I | | | H | E | R | | | | R | H | E | E | |



Courtesy photo

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

Twelve registered nurses honored at SLV Nightingale Dinner

STAFF REPORT
ALAMOSA — Twelve San Luis Valley registered nurses who were honored at the 17th SLV Nightingale Dinner on Feb. 25 at Adams State University.

Lauriann Blakeman Rio Grande Hospital, Krystynn Cano Rio Grande Hospital, Tandra Dunn San Luis Valley Health, Bryan Garcia SLV Health, Shannon Goldsberry Rio Grande Hospital, Loretta Lowder Rio Grande Hospital, Dana Martin Alamosa School District, Nicole Martinez Rio Grande Hospital, Brittany Sours SLV Health, Beverly Strnad Alamosa

County Public Health, Joelle Valdez SLV Health and Sally Wert Rio Grande Hospital were recognized for their commitment to their patients and providing excellent nursing care.

The dinner was attended by family members and co-workers. Cano, Garcia, Goldsberry, Martin, Strnad and Valdez were selected as luminaries for the statewide event in Denver on Aug. 13 at the Hilton Denver Inverness.

Organizers thanked SLV Health, Rio Grande Hospital, SLV Area Health Education Center and SLV Federal Bank for their generous donations that made the event possible.

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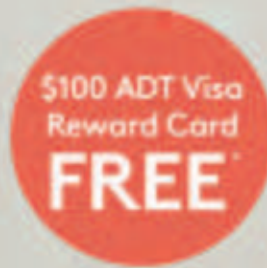
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VWHS CEO Arnoldi selected to Health Center Workforce Diversity group

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — Valley-Wide Health Systems recently announced that CEO Jania Arnoldi was 1 of 25 people selected to serve on the Health Center Workforce Diversity Data and Metrics National Advisory group.

“Representing Valley-Wide and Southern Colorado in a nationwide advisory committee is an honor that I am excited to be a part of. It is so important for rural communities to be represented at the national level, and I am humbled by the opportunity and will work to represent us well,” said Arnoldi.

This group will be working with The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) in collaboration with The George Washington University (GWU) Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity.

This advisory group aims to build a data collection tool to objectively measure the workforce diversity in Community Health Centers across the country. The committee hopes Community Health Centers will be able to use this tool to measure the diversity of their workforce on many levels, including socioeconomic, ethnicity, gender, race, sexual orientation, languages, and more. This tool will also support the creation of best practices to recruit, hire and retain people who bring diversity of thought and experiences to the work Community Health Centers do. After this data has been collected and analyzed,



health centers that did well will be identified, and their best practices will be shared at state and national conferences.

“Diversity in the Community Health Center workforce is important in order to better serve the community members who receive our care,” said Arnoldi. “I believe participating on this advisory committee will allow our organization, from rural Colorado, to be on the cutting edge of diversity, equity and inclusion efforts as well as ensure we have the correct hiring, recruiting and retention practices in place.”

The National Advisory Group will be meeting periodically starting in February through the end of the calendar year.

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Why you need dental insurance in retirement.

Medicare doesn't pay for dental care.¹

As good as Medicare is, it was never meant to cover everything. If you want protection, you need to purchase individual insurance.

Early detection can prevent small problems from becoming expensive ones.

The best way to avoid large dental bills is preventive care. Experts recommend checkups twice a year.

Previous dental work can wear out.

Your odds of having a dental problem only go up as you age.²

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

Unexpected bills, like \$189 for a filling, or \$1,219 for a crown³ can be a real burden, especially if you're on a fixed income.

When you're comparing plans ...

- ▶ Look for coverage that helps pay for major services.
- ▶ Look for coverage with no deductibles.
- ▶ Shop for coverage with no annual maximum on cash benefits.

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

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

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Dental50Plus.health/Mvjrn1



Includes the Participating (GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Product not available in all states. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, LA, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). Rider kinds B438, B439 (GA: B439B).

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



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

Legends Premier Properties
 Tracy Gosar, Broker/Owner 810 First Ave. • Monte Vista
 719-850-1815(cell) • 719-852-0450 www.legendspremierproperties.com



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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 Tracy Gosar, Broker/Owner 810 First Ave. • Monte Vista
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Charming country home and ranch! This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is located on about 26 acres between Alamosa, and La Jara. The home offers baseboard heating, a fireplace, beautiful stainless steel appliances, and many built in additions. Attached to the garage is a 1 bedroom apartment with a newer refrigerator. There are additional out buildings and fencing on the property. Come and see this home if you are ready for some great country living! **\$435,000** MLS#790848

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 Tracy Gosar, Broker/Owner 810 First Ave. • Monte Vista
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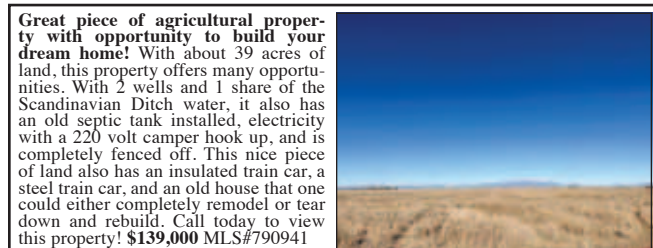
Great access with 101 feet of exposure just off of US Highway 160! This property offers multiple options! It would work great for mobile homes, developments, or a commercial building. All utilities are available, but would need to be tapped into. This is the perfect property for your next project! Call to view! **\$175,500** MLS#789021

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FRESHLY UPDATED HOME ON OVER 1 ACRE WITH NEW PAINT (INSIDE AND OUTSIDE), NEW VINYL FLOORING, STAINLESS STEEL APPLIANCES, METAL ROOF, 1 CAR ATTACHED GARAGE AND MOVE IN READY. COUNTRY LIVING WITH EASY ACCESS TO ALAMOSA, WHICH IS 10 MILES. ENJOY BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN VIEWS FROM BOTH THE FRONT AND BACK OF THE HOUSE. JUST A SHORT DISTANCE TO THE GREAT SAND DUNES AND HOOPER HOT SPRINGS POOL. CREATE YOUR OWN LANDSCAPING IDEAS OR JUST SIT BACK AND TAKE IN THE MAGNIFICENT COLORADO MOUNTAIN SCENERY! \$240,000 MLS#790664

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 Debbie Milne, Broker 810 First Ave. • Monte Vista
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Great piece of agricultural property with opportunity to build your dream home! With about 39 acres of land, this property offers many opportunities. With 2 wells and 1 share of the Scandinavian Ditch water, it also has an old septic tank installed, electricity with a 220 volt camper hook up, and is completely fenced off. This nice piece of land also has an insulated train car, a steel train car, and an old house that one could either completely remodel or tear down and rebuild. Call today to view this property! **\$139,000** MLS#790941

Legends Premier Properties
 Klayton Gosar, Associate Broker 810 First Ave. • Monte Vista
 719-852-0450 www.legendspremierproperties.com



Perfect level building spot in desirable location. Just minutes from world class skiing, championship golf and gold medal fishing on the Rio Grande River. Time to build your dream home in Colorado's best kept secret!. **\$49,000** MLS#775795

Legends Premier Properties
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SOLD

\$433,000 MLS #789027
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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

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SOLD

\$658,000 MLS #785486
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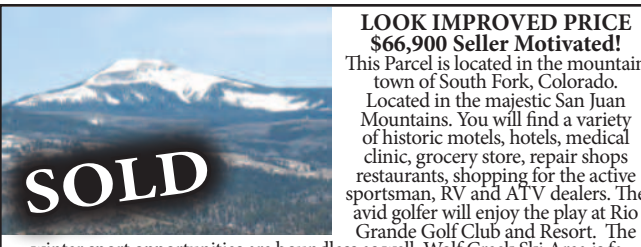
2.07 AC Lot in beautiful Beaver Mountain Estates. Level building site with views of the surrounding mountains. Plenty of wildlife roam this area and are a joy to see, including mule deer and wild turkeys. Central sewer and water tap, paved roads and local utilities. Moments away from the South Fork River, 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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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**

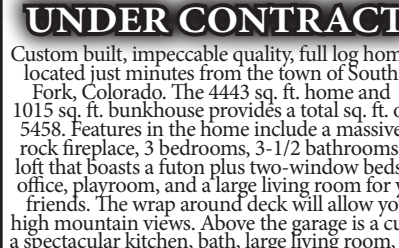
0 Escondida Drive • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
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LOOK IMPROVED PRICE \$66,900 Seller Motivated! This Parcel is located in the mountain town of South Fork, Colorado. Located in the majestic San Juan Mountains. You will find 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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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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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**

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March 13-19, 2022

NON-PROFIT WEEK

A special tribute to San Luis Valley Non-Profit Organizations

Published jointly by the *Valley Courier* and *Valley Publishing*.



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Community Foundation of the
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SFSLV.ORG

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development organizations – in one central location.*



San Luis Valley Trout Unlimited

• Trout Unlimited (TU) is America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation Organization

- San Luis Valley Chapter of TU is an entirely volunteer organization with members from across the country
- Often mistaken for a fishing club, TU is composed of dedicated anglers and conservationists
- We work closely with many local, state and national organizations, government agencies and businesses

• Recent SLV Trout Unlimited Projects

- **Jim Creek** - An on-going project to protect habitat of this Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout stream. Home to a core conservation population of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, this project has protected and restored over two miles of riparian habitat and enhanced stream habitat. In 2021, two bottomless culverts were installed to improve aquatic organism passage and reduce water quality impacts. Work will continue in 2022 with a workday scheduled for Saturday, May 28th
- **Conejos Meadows Resilient Habitat Project** - Completed in the fall of 2021 a few miles downstream from Platoro this project will enhance wintertime/refuge habitat, and connectivity during low flow conditions on a

2-mile section of the Conejos.

- ✓ A model for projects that benefit fish habitat and wild self-maintaining trout populations all while providing benefits to irrigation water users below a working reservoir
- ✓ A Project is possible thanks to Conejos River Anglers and donations through their annual Superfly contest
- ✓ A Over \$31,000 raised and donated to SLV TU since the Superfly began in 2008.
- ✓ A This project recently received two grants leveraged with Superfly donations, one from the Colorado Water Conservation Board and a second grant from the Fishing is Fun program, for a total of \$219,000
- **Sand Creek Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Reclamation Project** - Located in Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.
 - ✓ Will be the most extensive Rio Grande Cutthroat reintroduction project ever completed in Colorado
 - ✓ SLV Trout Unlimited provides support for all partners in this project including Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the US Forest Service, and the National Park Service.
 - ✓ Phase 1 was completed in the fall of 2020. Included removal of all non-native species. Reintroduction of cutthroat began in 2021

✓ Phase 2 is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2022

- Other recently completed projects: Habitat improvement on the Hidden Mile of the Conejos/two new boat ramps on the Rio Grande/ Rio Grande access fishing map/ provide awards for the SLV Regional Science Fair

• Conejos River Anglers - Partners on all of our Conejos River projects.

- The San Luis Valley Chapter of TU is incredibly grateful to the folks at Conejos River Anglers for their generous support over the years
- The fly shop located in Mogote, Colorado - owned and operated by the Blankenship family and features a full-service fly shop, guide operations and comfortable lodging on site
- The shop does 100% of the work to organize and host the Superfly event, to give back to the resource and enjoy it at the same time
- The Conejos Superfly event for 2022 is scheduled for April 1-3. For more information on Conejos River Anglers visit www.conejosriveranglers.com or call 719-376-5660
- **Annual Fundraiser Auction** - Scheduled for May 21st. Features live online and on-site auctions. Held outdoors and will provide an

opportunity for socializing while supporting cold water conservation. More information will be available soon

- **Membership** - We are trying to grow our membership and encourage any community member interested to become involved. If you are considering joining us please contact us at slvtroutunlimited@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page or our website at www.https://troutunlimitedslv.org/. We would love to talk to you about TU and welcome your interest!

"Our mission is to bring together diverse interests to care for and recover rivers and streams so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon."



SAN LUIS VALLEY IMMIGRANT RESOURCE CENTER

225 6th Street, Suite B, Alamosa CO 81101

(719) 587-3225 www.slvirc.org



Providing services to residents of the San Luis Valley since 2002

Our mission is to connect and empower immigrants with resources to achieve legal documentation, fulfill their economic needs, and integrate into the community.



Legal Assistance Program

- Family petitions, naturalization, and more
- BIA Accredited; Minimum-fee basis

Por Ti Misma Program for Crime Victims

- Immigration legal assistance - U-Visa and VAWA Self-Petition
- Housing and Utility assistance

Punto de Vista Education Program

- English and Citizenship Prep classes

Center for Restorative Programs has continued to offer services amidst the ever-changing circumstances of the past two years. We are excited to have our office once again staffed regularly—we can be reached at our office, 716 Main Street or (719)589-5255, Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm.

Here's a bit about each of our programs:

Diversion Team: We work with youth and adults referred from the justice system and other referring agencies. Our programs focus on taking responsibility, understanding the impact of one's actions, and working to repair harm that was caused.

School Team: We collaborate with SLV schools and after-school sites to help build cultures focused on Restorative Principles. During the pandemic, we've worked to help schools stay connected, maintain relationships, and bridge conflict.

Wraparound Team: We work with families to create individualized plans that meet their unique and complex needs, based on the strengths and culture of each child and family.

Intensive Case Management Team: Our programs include Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) and other community programs designed to support individuals who are struggling with substance use. We utilize harm reduction, wraparound, and restorative justice principles.

To learn more about our work in the community, please visit our website at www.restorativeprograms.org



Center *for* Restorative Programs

Mission

Strengthen community in the San Luis Valley by building connection, transforming conflict, and healing relationships

Vision

Restorative Practices are the foundation of a healthy and just community throughout the San Luis Valley.

Values

Relationship: We all have a need for healthy connection and relationship with others. All people deserve the opportunity to build healthy relationships rooted in deep understanding.

Community: Community is built on complex and interdependent relationships, including interpersonal, organizational, and systemic. A healthy community requires mutual understanding and respect rooted in deep listening and authentic communication.

Meaningful Accountability: Our words and actions have ripples of impact. True accountability is possible when we own the impact of our words and actions; when we take responsibility for our own behaviors and allow others to take responsibility for theirs; and when we strive to repair harms as meaningfully as possible.

Equity and Justness: We currently live in a society where systemic obstacles in the justice system, education, and access to resources often negatively impact marginalized groups. Preventing and repairing harm in individual relationships and within systems helps interrupt racism, misogyny, homophobia, and other forms of oppression, allowing everyone to have greater access to achieving their full potential.

Empowerment: We all have the right to transform our lives and heal from the impact of harm we have caused or experienced. When we have agency to act and speak on our own behalf we grow stronger and more resilient.

Dignity: Every person has dignity and value. Our community is stronger when each person has an opportunity to be heard and respected, particularly those that have been historically marginalized.



About Tu Casa, Inc.

Tu Casa, Inc. is the umbrella organization for the SLV Children's Advocacy Center and Tu Casa. Tu Casa, Inc. has a hotline that is staffed 24/7 to provide callers with advocacy and crisis intervention. The hotline number is (719) 589-2465.

Tu Casa provides free, confidential, bilingual advocacy and outreach services to adult victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, elder abuse and hate crimes throughout the six counties in the San Luis Valley.

The SLV CAC provides forensic interviews, advocacy services, outreach, and SANE exams. The goal of the SLV CAC is

Tu Casa, Inc.

Empowering all children and adults to live healthy, violence-free

to ensure that children are not further victimized by the intervention systems designed to protect them.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering is a great way to make connections and give back to the community. Tu Casa, Inc. is currently looking for volunteers.

For more information about how to apply to be a volunteer, please contact the volunteer coordinators at Tu Casa, Inc.

Tu Casa — Michelle Resendiz

micheller@slvtucasa.net

CAC — Shelly Martinez

shelly@slvtucasa.net

More Information

For more information about Tu Casa, Inc. and the services provided or job listings, please contact Theresa Ortega at (719)

589-2465 or visit our website at www.slvtucasa.net.



Tu Casa, Inc. staff.

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Why Ag Education is Important

We hope that all students, parents, and community members find this useful in understanding what the Ag Department and FFA Chapter are doing here in Alamosa. By seeing what we are doing/offering students you are better able to develop your ideas on the importance of these classes and programs for high school students. However, just seeing what is offered may not tell the story as to why Agriculture Education is vitally important for high school students.

Ag Education is made up of 3 crucial components: Classroom, FFA, and SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience). The reason for 3 components within Ag Ed is to allow students to take what is learned in the classroom and apply that knowledge and those skills in the FFA Chapter and then to actually apply

them to their own life in a real-world setting through an internship like program known as SAE. SAE can be a business

that student either works at by being hired or they may choose to become entrepreneurs and develop their own business. These 3 components begin to mold young people into adults that are able to function and succeed in today's society. While many students may never have a career remotely related to agriculture, the skills they learn from Ag Education

are easily applied to any career. Skills in job interviewing, public speaking, written communication, basic business and economic knowledge, handyman skills, and the ability to think for themselves are all skills that are learned and enforced in Ag Education but can be used in any setting

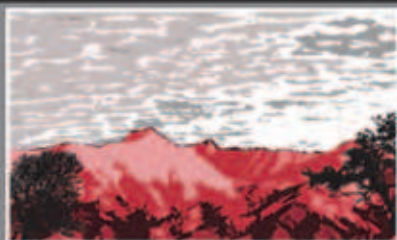
of their life, agriculture or not.

Whether you come from a farm, live in the country but not on a farm, or have spent your entire life in a town/city, all are welcome and fit right into the curriculum and purpose of Ag Education and is to encourage students to take a class or two. If anything else, students are able to better respect and understand the industry that feeds and clothes them (and also dictates the economies in our local communities and the state of Colorado). Please feel free to contact the Agriculture Education Department at your high school with any questions.



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

sangreheritage.org



CRHDC Brings Homeownership Pathways To The SLV

Our vision at Community Resources and Housing Development Corporation (CRHDC), reads, "A Colorado where every community is a place of opportunity with safe, affordable, and attainable housing for all." CRHDC developed phase 2 of Tierra Del Sol Estates in Monte Vista which is set to have just under 60 buildable lots. Xcel Energy is in the process of providing gas and electric to the site. A group of eight families are set to begin construction in Tierra Del Sol later this Fall.

Our mission is to "provide pathways to home and asset building opportunities to benefit low-moderate income communities throughout Colorado." USDA Rural Development is the lender for the 502 Direct Home loan programs. Applicants must qualify for the mutual self-help program and eligibility results in 100% financing with no down payment.

Participants work 30 hours per week with a team of 5 to 6 families; this is termed as "Sweat Equity." Families attend pre-construction meetings, select their house plans, lot, cabinets, flooring, paint colors, along with other individual choices. Families commit to build 65% of their home while learning invaluable lessons of homeownership, construction, and maintenance. Once the homes are complete, everyone gets their keys, and the homeownership journey truly begins.

CRHDC is a HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) approved Housing Counseling Agency, offering free housing counseling and educational services to our communities. Our experienced, bi-lingual staff will provide guidance and solutions to help you understand your housing options. Even in these uncertain times, CRHDC was able to help 276 families prepare for and access home ownership via homebuyer and financial education, and mortgage lending assistance.

"Your Path to Homeownership" starts with you! Our services are detailed on our website, www.CRHDC.org, and registering for them just got easier. Simply visit our website and find the 'Get Started' button located at the top of the page. Fill out a quick application, and you will be in our system instantly, all on your favorite device! CRHDC is located at 1016 West Avenue Unit 5, Alamosa, CO. Call us at (719)589-1680

Services Include:

Mutual Self-Help Program
Housing Counseling
Rental Assistance
Mortgage Lending
Apartment & Storage Rentals



"At first I was a little nervous and scared of what I was getting myself into, but I knew this was going to change my life and my daughter's life. I got to build not only my house and my neighbor's houses but I built great relationships with people I will cherish for the rest of my life."

- Brenda Perez, Homeowner,
Mutual Self Help Client



Community Resources
& Housing Development
CORPORATION

www.CRHDC.org

(719)589-1680

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La Puente is our community's response to address the effects of poverty by providing a safety net of services, where individuals and families get what they need to stabilize, heal, strengthen, and ultimately thrive.

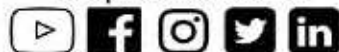


How you can support us:

- Volunteer on a regular or one-time basis
- Participating in our community events
- Invite us to a speak at your organization
- Take a tour
- Give financially
- Donate material goods



Learn More:
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KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE on
August 13, 2022

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Visit our website for other specialty services

If you do not have health insurance, you may qualify for financial assistance.
We have a program to assist uninsured, low-income patients with payment of medical bills.