

• Look for the Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference special section inside today's SLV Lifestyles.

Shorts

Del Norte Library providing take-home story time kits

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Public Library is offering a "take-home" story time kit series.

For five weeks, the library will provide two books, ideas for activities and props for stories, geared for preschoolers, ages 1 to 4 years old.

Kits can be picked up at the library beginning the week of Feb. 7.

Register by Feb. 2 at the Del Norte Public Library, 790 Grande Ave., Del Norte, or call the library at 719-657-2633.

The kits are possible due to the support of the Buell Foundation through the Growing Readers Together grant.

Annual ALMA & Friends Concert Features Local Musicians on Feb. 19

ALAMOSA — The annual Alamosa Live Music Association & Friends concert is on Saturday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. at Society Hall, 400 Ross Ave., Alamosa. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

ALMA announced that Palmas will kick off the evening with Nueva Eclectica/Flamenco. The Celtic (K)nots will close out the evening with Celtic and early American folk music.

Admission is free for ALMA 2022 members and \$15 for general admission. No advance tickets are for sale, so come early to grab a seat. Masks required.

SHS hosting benefit dinner for Rice

MONTE VISTA — Sargent High School is hosting a benefit dinner on Feb. 19 for Diana Rice, known affectionately as RiceBob, MommaRice, RiceLady.

She was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and is still fighting leukemia.

Rice will undergo breast removal and several chemo treatments. She will need help with expenses that medical insurance will not cover, such as lodging, food, gas, and any surprise expenses that arise.

The fundraiser dinner consists of ribs, ham and beans, baked potatoes with fixings, and a silent dessert auction. The dessert auction winners will be announced during halftime of the varsity boys basketball game. Sargent is hosting Custer County with tipoff at 1 p.m. on Feb. 19. The fundraiser dinner begins at noon in the SHS Cafeteria. Dinner cost is a donation.

Center Schools return to remote learning

By MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — The Center Consolidated School District on Tuesday, Jan. 25, elected to shift its schools back to remote learning via Zoom for all students due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in the county.

According to the Center Consolidated School District, "There will be no school for Center students on Monday, January 24th. Tuesday-Thursday Center schools will transition to remote learning."

Please see SCHOOL on Page 2A

Center Consolidated School District shifted to remote learning this week due to rise in COVID cases in Saguache County. Center students are pictured wearing masks.

Photo courtesy of Center Consolidated School District



Courtesy photo

The 40th Annual Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show will be at the new event center Feb. 1-3.

40th Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference set for Feb. 1-3

Annual event will be held in person at new event center

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — The 40th Annual Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show will be at the new event center Feb. 1-3.

The theme of this year's conference is "Cultivating Ideas For Growth."

The trade show is open to the public at no cost, but all other events are by registration only, with an upfront registration cost to attend.

The conference will be held at

the new event center at the Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista.

Jim Yahn is the keynote speaker. Yahn is the manager of the North Sterling and Prewitt Reservoirs. Yahn has worked with over-appropriated water systems for many years and is familiar with the

Please see EVENT on Page 2A

Republican candidate for governor Lopez campaigns in Monte Vista

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — State gubernatorial candidate Greg Lopez (R) made a campaign stop in Monte Vista on Jan. 22. Lopez was at Rain Brews meeting with people and talking about what makes him the best choice of a crowded field of Republicans.

Lopez is one of 10 candidates running in the Republican primary for governor. Colorado's primary election is June 28. The General Election is Nov. 8.

Gov. Jared Polis (D) has not formally announced if he will seek a second term, but many expect him

to run again.

Lopez is not a stranger to politics and is excited to be running for governor. Lopez is the former mayor and City Manager of Parker. He was also president of the Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

"Some people get into stereotyping that all Democrats are poor, and all Republicans are rich, this is not the case, it is not about how much money you have, it is about your political views and what you believe in," Lopez said.

He said he came from humble beginnings. His parents were migrant workers who always wanted more for

their children.

Lopez said his parents taught him to have strong faith in God, to always be honest, to help people, and to be a hard worker.

Lopez said his parents' beliefs resided within him.

Lopez talked about growing up and wanting a higher education, but

Please see LOPEZ on Page 2A

Republican candidate for governor Greg Lopez made a campaign stop in Monte Vista on Saturday, Jan. 22.

Photo by Marie Mccolm



Center Police arrest wanted suspect after a foot chase

By MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — Center Police Department officers arrested a wanted man after a foot chase through yards and alleyways on Jan. 22.

CPD Reserve Officer Adam Fresquez observed the suspect Jonethan Lopez, 31, of Center, who was wanted by CPD on an assault with a weapon warrant, in the yard of his grandmother's home on Garcia Street.

The warrant stems from an assault upon a female victim who was stabbed in the facial area with a knife.

According to CPD Chief Dale Meek, "Lopez ran first into the residence and then south through the yards. Sgt. Fresquez, Officer Guaderrama and I were called into

Please see SUSPECT on Page 2A

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Public Health release isolation and quarantine guidelines in response to increase in COVID cases

If You Have COVID-19 (Isolate)

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status

If you test positive, follow this guidance whether you have symptoms or not.

- If you have symptoms, start your isolation right away and get tested as soon as possible.
- Stay home for at least 5 days
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days

If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.

If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)

If you:

- Have been boosted
- Recently completed your primary vaccination series and it is too soon for your booster (<5 mo for Moderna or Pfizer, <2 mo for J&J)
- Tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and already completed isolation

OR

If you have not been boosted AND

- Completed your primary vaccination series and it is past the recommended time for your booster (>5 mo for Moderna or Pfizer, >2 mo for J&J)
- Are unvaccinated

You have been exposed if you were within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes total in a 24-hr period

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days
- Test on day 5, if possible

If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home according to Isolation instructions above.

If you have questions contact your local public health agency. For more details, see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation>.

Based on CDC guidance, January 2022

Graphic courtesy of Saguache County Public Health

By MEHEL MEEK
SAGUACHE COUNTY — Saguache County Public Health Director Mona Lovato released an infographic to guide people in how to isolate and quarantine to help prevent the spread of COVID.

The information could also be used to prevent the spread of other infections, like influenza.

With the dramatic rise in COVID cases throughout the San Luis Valley, it is important to remain vigilant regarding health and safety measures, Lovato said.

“There are 48 acute cases in Saguache County as of Tuesday, January 25, 2022,” Lovato said.

The state vaccine bus will be at 210 5th St. in Saguache on Jan. 28 and Feb. 18, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with COVID and influenza vaccines available for free for everyone, no insurance or I.D. required.

According to Saguache County Public Health, mobile COVID testing will continue to be offered every Wednesday from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Community Building in Saguache.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF’S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff’s Office for the period between Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022, and Monday, Jan. 24, 2022.

The Sheriff’s Department’s activity on the road included one crash with property damage, five traffic stops, two traffic complaints and one stolen vehicle. They also patrolled the Town of Saguache five times and assisted two motorists.

In addition, there was one report of criminal mischief and one civil

dispute report. They also responded to 11 controlled burns, two ambulance calls, four alarms, one deceased person, two civil standbys, and one medical call (other), and provided information five times, assisted nearby agencies two times, and conducted two welfare checks.

ARRESTS
• A 31-year-old Center man was arrested on first-degree assault with intent to cause serious bodily injury with deadly weapon and outstanding warrants.

SUSPECT

work. The Rio Grande Sheriff’s Office and the Saguache County Sheriff’s Office also sent deputies to assist us. A perimeter was set up and Lopez was tracked to an empty trailer on the dirt portion of Washington Street. Lopez was located and placed under arrest for his assault with a weapon warrant. A second warrant is suspected to be in the court process as Lopez had missed court on the previous narcotics trafficking and resisting charges from the previous week.”

Chief Meek added that a female caller to CPD dispatch attempted

Continued from Page 1A — to mislead officers searching for Lopez by deliberately and falsely reporting that Lopez was running in the opposite direction from his actual path of travel.

Meek also said that the “call was recorded, is currently being compared to similar calls and I expect charges to be filed against the female caller within the next couple of days.”

Lopez was arrested and booked into jail. The suspect has recent arrests in Center for suspicion of harassment-domestic violence, trafficking narcotics and resisting arrest.

EVENT

impact that communities go through when their water wells are shut off.

The conference will feature Chef Jason K. Morse, who is an executive chef and member of the American Culinary Federation. Chef Morse has been featured in many national and local media settings, including the Food Network.

Featured sessions at the conference include a Grazing Symposium by Jim

Continued from Page 1A — Gerrish; Ag Labor Laws presented by Dan Waldvogel; and Succession Planning presented by Jeff Tranel.

The conference is known for its quality guest speakers and demonstrations to help people in the agriculture community gain more information on how to market and improve their products.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, much of the past two ag conferences were conducted virtually.

For more information on this year’s Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show, visit www.agconferencerm.com.

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1A

remote learning due to the increase in COVID cases in the county. Students will be expected to attend classes remotely all day on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.”

It was known how long the district would be in online learning. A survey was extended to parents

on Jan. 21, to gather information regarding the current increase in COVID cases.

The questions asked in the online survey included; asking parents what their greatest concerns are at this time, how comfortable are they with sending their student to school for

onsite in-person instruction, asking if their students are vaccinated, and what do they think is the best situation for the students at this time, among other questions.

The Center Schools Facebook page stated that the district page would have more information regarding the move

to remote learning.

COVID cases have been on the rise throughout the San Luis Valley, with Center having 21 active cases according to the Colorado Electronic Disease Reporting System (CEDRS). Saguache has 17, Crestone 9 and Sargents has a report of 1 case.

LOPEZ

Continued from Page 1A

to make that happen he chose to go into the military as his parents could not afford to send him to college.

Lopez spent four years in the Air Force. Lopez was a weapon specialist. He lost 87 percent of the hearing in his right ear due to the jet engines. Lopez said the military was worth it though, as this was where he met his soulmate, his wife of 30 years.

Lopez is proud to be a veteran running for governor. He said being in the military taught him the importance of being part of a team and working together. He feels this quality is good to have as a candidate.

Lopez also spoke about being elected mayor of Parker at the age of 27 and being the city manager at the same time. He said he obtained

strong leadership skills doing both.

Lopez was the mayor and city manager for four years and stepped down when his wife requested that he be with his family more.

Lopez said he would represent and reach out to rural and urban Colorado communities equally. Lopez explained that he is a living example of how America offers

opportunities to everyone, regardless of ethnicity or zip code.

Lopez answered questions and talked about his strong belief in family and equality.

Lopez is one of the Republican candidates currently running for Governor in Colorado.

For more information on Lopez, visit www.lopez2022.com.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Blame the woodchuck

As long as there have been people, there have been those among us who have seen it as their life's quest to provide the masses with odd answers to everyday issues.

There are probably as many conspiracy theories floating about today as there are people, not the least of which involves UFOs. Which of course have been renamed Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) as that is a less pejorative meaning. Even Ol' Dutch had to look that one up but it means less threatening, I think.

Having grown up on the cusp of the Roswell UFO incident and the very strange goings-on in the San Luis Valley of Colorado, Ol' Dutch has followed along with the rest of the world just waiting for the next big disclosure. Enough wild theories are going around out there to fill a large gunny sack or two.

As we wait for the disclosures, other stories keep us busy. From theories about JFK's assassination, Princess Diana's untimely death, the possible faked moon landings, the twin towers collapse, chemtrails, microchips, or implanted in our arms. Of course, we've all investigated some portion of it. Come one and admit, who among us did not play a Beatles record backward to hear the subliminal message, "Paul is dead."

And although these are some of the most popular theories floating around out there, there is a myriad of others out there. All of which have one thing in common: someone makes money from them. Whether by selling books, CDs, YouTube ads, or making public appearances, there is a healthy lifestyle to be had for being first in the race to new nuttiness.

Which got Ol' Dutch to thinking — a dangerous pursuit according to Miss Trixie — that maybe it's about time for me to come up with my little twist on the truth and cash in on the masses needing a distraction from their everyday humdrum life.

And although that may seem like a pretty simple thing to come up with a new theory, especially for someone like Ol' Dutch who is full of malarkey, baloney, and leftovers from the dirt in a bull pen, it appears it's not so easy to do.

After all, the really good conspiracy theories have already been taken and in looking online at them, there have been some real doozies down through the years.

One of the problems with coming up with a new money-making idea like this is that any new theory has to have a measure of truth in it to make



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

it appealing to the other nutjobs out there. And since Miss Trixie says that Ol' Dutch never lets the truth get in the way of a good story, well it just may be a tad difficult for me to find my niche in that market.

But Ol' Dutch, ever the resourceful and not to mention handsome devil that he is, put the old noggin to work this morning and maybe, just maybe came up with his own wild money maker.

Let's just say, for instance, you have needed some lumber in the past year and have noticed the prices have skyrocketed. And in searching for reasons for that increase you suddenly realize that maybe, just maybe, it's the woodchucks who have caused all this confusion.

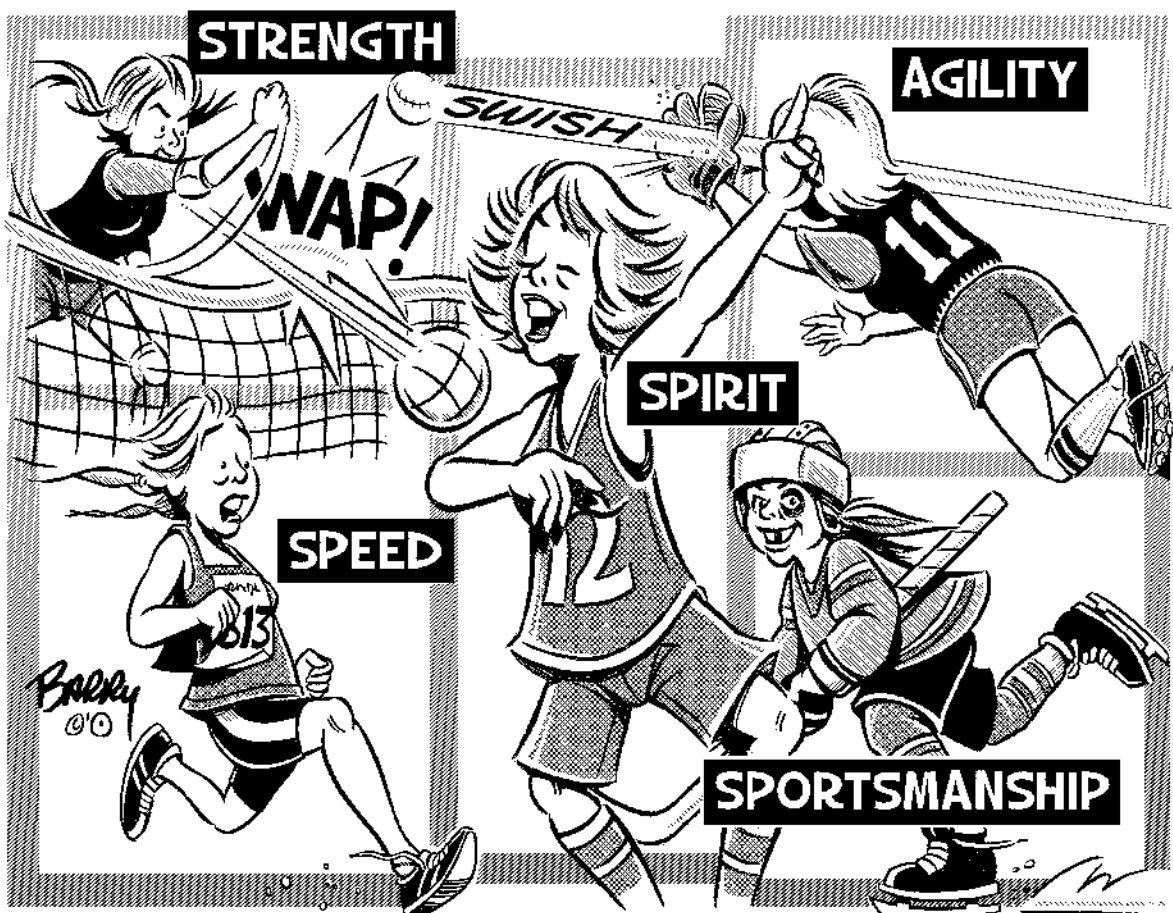
Now hang with me here just a second as I try to explain.

You see, back when I was a kid we all repeated the phrase about how much wood could a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood. And Puxatoney Phil, the most famous chuck of all, was taken seriously by weather forecasters and farmers alike when trying to time the planting of spring crops.

But with the advent of the scientific approach to weather, poor Old Phil has been put on the back burner and I am sure he got his feelings hurt. So he organized all the chucks, and now there is a shortage of woodchucks chucking wood. So there you have it.

I never said it was a good theory but we have to start somewhere and soon Ol' Dutch will be making public appearances everywhere. I wonder if Phil is too busy to come along. I hear he works for peanuts.

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 or on Twitter at TroutRepublic.



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LETTERS

Appreciate work of local law enforcement

Editor,

At this time, I would like to congratulate and thank the local law enforcement departments of the San Luis Valley and the way they can cooperate and solve crimes.

There was a ring of thieves stealing gasoline from local farmers. The

Monte Vista and Center police departments teamed up to get the bad guys.

Center Police Chief Dale Meek and Monte Vista Police Officer Zeke Sisneros both went above and beyond standard duty and solved the crimes.

Through mutual aid with the Rio

Grande County Sheriff's Office they have stopped the criminals and protected and served our local citizens. Please give these officers and their departments the recognition and appreciation they deserve.

*Moe Jones
Center*

Verizon workers were helpful

Editor,

I want to thank the people that work at Verizon in Monte Vista for such great service — the young men and women that work there. They are so patient with old people like me.

Especially Devon Martinez. He has helped me so much, does not

get upset with an old lady, that has trouble figuring out the cellphone.

I really appreciate Martinez and Kyle Noonan for taking time with me.

Some young people will get upset after trying to help older people.

I have been to other Verizon stores,

and never get the help these young men do.

So, thank you, Martinez and Noonan and all the young men and women, who really help old people at Verizon in Monte Vista.

*RL Scott
Monte Vista*

LETTERS POLICY

Letters are welcome and encouraged. They should be fewer than 300 words, unless arranged beforehand with the editor, and they are subject to editing for length and clarity.

All letters must be signed by the author and include a phone number and address where the author can be reached (these are not for publication). Letters forwarded from other organizations or sent to staff and not for print must be designated as such. Letters over 300 words and without contact information will

be returned to the sender or discarded.

We will accept one letter per person, per subject, per four issues. We reserve the right to reject letters for reasons we believe are appropriate. Please send letters to Letter to the Editor c/o Valley Publishing, PO Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or e-mail to bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com (Attention: Letter to the Editor). Deadline for letters is 5 p.m. Friday.

Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.

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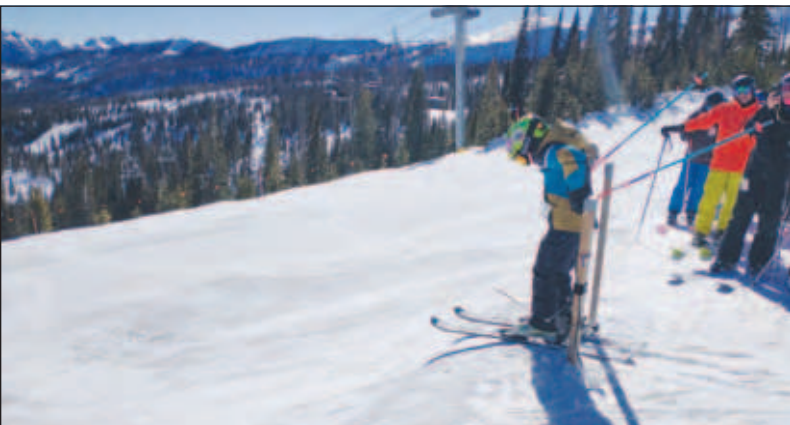
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Wolf Creek holds Second Fun Race



STAFF REPORT
PAGOSA SPRINGS — Wolf Creek Ski Area hosted its Second Fun Race of the season on Sunday, Jan. 23, with a moderate turnout of 39 racers, with many first-time racers coming as far away as Ohio and Louisiana to compete. The modified slalom course on Lower Charisma was fast and nicely groomed after 2 inches of fresh snow overnight.

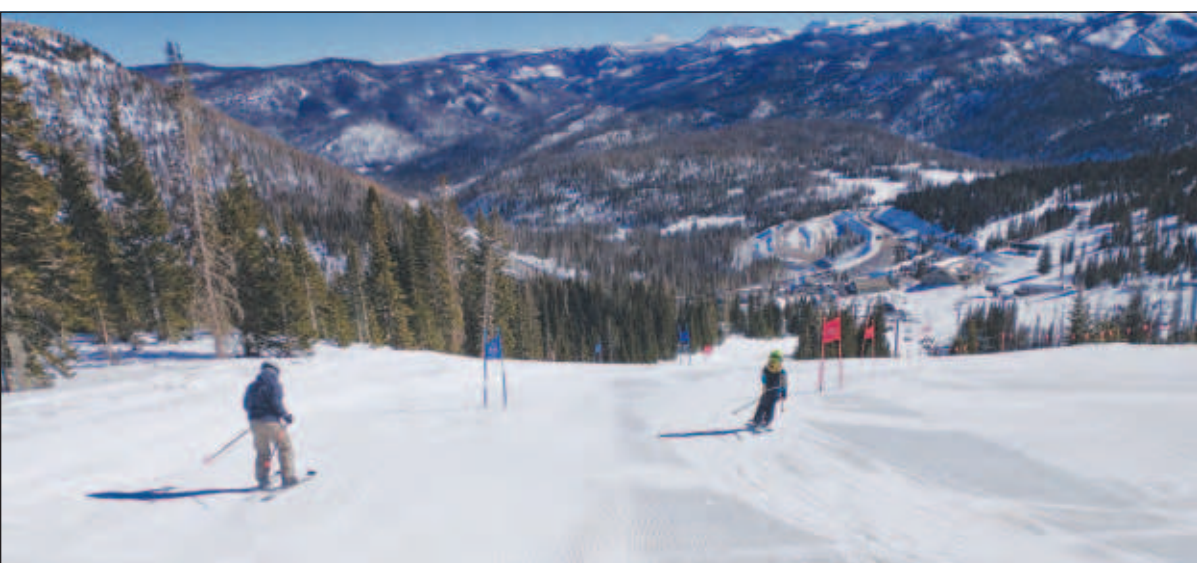
The overall winner for the day was Jakub Labeledz, of Phoenix, Ariz., with the fastest time of 28.78 seconds.

Second place in the men's division was a tie between Kirk Miles, of Fountain Hills, Ariz., and Jarrett Bunch, of Oklahoma City, Okla., both men boasting a time of 29.41 seconds. Third place in the men's race was Paul Smith, of Reno, Nev., with a time of 30.57 seconds.

The women's race was also very close, with first place going to Cathy Lemon of Pagosa Springs, who crossed the finish line with a time of 31.80 seconds. Julie Church, of Phoenix, Ariz., placed second with a time of

32.01 seconds and Lydia Mundt, of Pagosa Springs, followed closely in third with a time of 32.90 seconds.

Wolf Creek will be hosting the first race of its Wolf Creek Challenge Series on Saturday, Jan. 29. The 40-plus gate Giant Slalom course on middle and lower Charisma is open to teams and individuals. Registration is open at shop.wolfcreekski.com/race_registration. Course inspection is from 9 to 10 a.m., and the race begins at 10 a.m. All proceeds support the Wolf Creek Ski Team.



Photos by Sumiko Caldwell courtesy of Wolf Creek Ski Area

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San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2021-2022

BOYS BASKETBALL

Center 44	Monte Vista 43
Centauri 50	Vanguard 40
Buena Vista 48	Alamosa 46
Pagosa Springs 47	Centauri 42
Sierra Grande 57	Evangelical Christian 39

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sanford 49	Sangre de Cristo 46	OT
Sargent 39	Sierra Grande 17	
Center 36	Monte Vista 33	
Vanguard 64	Centauri 29	
Alamosa 33	Buena Vista 30	
Pagosa Springs 47	Centauri 39	
Centennial 52	Caprock Academy 21	
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Sanford 56	Monte Vista 23	

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Antonito volunteers turn up the heat and love for ‘Cano’



Top: Paula Espinoza (left) is joined by other volunteers who turned out on Saturday to raise funds for her uncle Dominic ‘Cano’ Espinoza who lost his home to a fire on Jan. 13.

Right: Joanna Lucero (left) is joined with Dr. Mugabe Walker and his daughter Reagan at the barbecue. Lucero offered, ‘This whole group, we’re all volunteers, all the food, all the time is donated. We have a large group of us, Stephanie, AnnMarie, Paula, Friday Health Plan is helping. We’re here to do anything we can to help one of our local residents get back on his feet. And to serve good food, of course.



Photos by John Waters

BY JOHN WATERS

About a dozen Antonito residents volunteered cooking and serving hamburgers on Saturday, Jan. 22, for Dominic ‘Cano’ Espinoza who lost his home in a fire on Jan. 13.

Between flipping burgers and filling bags of food to go, Cano’s niece, Paula Espinoza said of her uncle, ‘His house burned and he’s very eccentric, the house is very old. His castle is known worldwide. Our community always

gathers when a tragedy like this happens.’

Speaking about the generosity residents of Antonito offer, Deanne Salazar said, ‘We’ve been doing this kind of community work for about 15 years. We started when a mom died and there were three little girls. We helped pay for the funeral and the headstone.’

Ella Quintana said, ‘This is like one big family event. This is a great community.

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Del Norte Library providing take-home story time kits

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Public Library is offering a “take-home” story time kit series. For five weeks, the library will provide two books, ideas for activities and props for stories, geared for preschoolers, ages 1 to 4 years old. Kits can be picked up at the library

beginning the week of Feb. 7. Register by Feb. 2 at the Del Norte Public Library, 790 Grande Ave., Del Norte, or call the library at 719-657-2633. The kits are possible due to the support of the Buell Foundation through the Growing Readers Together grant.

Vali 3 awaiting projector parts

Once repairs are made it can show movies again

By **MARIE MCCOLM**

MONTE VISTA — On January 1st, the Friends of the Vali 3 Theatre announced their movie projector was down.

Friends felt bad about the announcement as a family movie was scheduled for the new year. Friends also announced that the projector being down came at a rough time because the holidays made it harder to order the parts to repair the projector.

With some of the parts expected to come in a week after the notice was put out, the Friends of Vali 3 were hopeful that they could get the projector repaired but unfortunately were unable to do so.

Friends of Vali 3 recently announced that more projector parts are coming before the end of January. They are hoping that the new parts will fix the issue and the projector will be up and running again soon.

Friends of Vali 3 announced it has family passes for sale for \$15 for four people, and people can purchase popcorn from 5-7 p.m. or they can donate \$5 or a cleaning product and receive free popcorn.

Friends of Vali 3 is also looking for new board members. Anyone interested can stop in and ask about their Advisory Board.



Rio Grande Sheriff: Alamosa man arrested for sexual assault

STAFF REPORT

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — An Alamosa man and Colorado State Patrol employee was arrested in connection to a sexual assault, according to the Rio Grande County Sheriff’s Office.

Tony Jackson Hill, 37, of Alamosa, was arrested on Jan. 19 on suspicion of sexual assault, the sheriff’s office reported and was to “be advised” on Jan. 20.

“The Colorado State Patrol has been made aware of allegations and charges against Tony Hill, a Communications Technician employed by the State Patrol and stationed at the Alamosa Regional Communications Center,” CSP officials stated. “Mr. Hill has been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of internal and

external investigations.”

Hill has been employed by the Colorado State Patrol since March 2020 and stationed at the Alamosa Regional Communications Center since his hire date, according to CSP officials.

The Rio Grande County Sheriff’s Office stated it received a sexual assault report at 10 p.m. on Jan. 18 and began investigating.

Hill was arrested at 2:42 p.m. on Jan. 19.

Due to the nature of the incident, the sheriff’s office stated it would not be releasing specific information about the victim.



New Monte Vista School Administration Building



Courtesy photo

Monte Vista School District Superintendent Scott Wiedeman announced that the Monte Vista School District Administration has moved into a new building, 59 N. Broadway in Monte Vista. Signage will soon be on the new building. The former administration building will become an Early Childhood Learning Center. Wiedeman said that the Childhood Learning Center was in the early planning stages.

MVPD makes arrest in stabbing incident on Jan. 22

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — A person was arrested for stabbing a man in the 200 block of Tyndell Saturday morning, Jan. 22, the Monte Vista Police Department reported.

Around 10 a.m. on Jan. 22, MVPD officers responded to the 200 block of Tyndell for an assault. Officers

located a man who has been stabbed. The man was transported to San Luis Valley Health in Alamosa for treatment.

Officers located a suspect who was arrested. MVPD stated this “was an isolated incident between known associates” and that it was not related to a “similar incident a couple of

weeks ago in the same area. However, one of the residences is associated with both incidents.”

A Major Key to Your Breakthrough

A Major Key to Your Breakthrough

Jesus came to earth to show us God’s love and to give His life so we could have eternal life. He was perfect... sinless...and He willingly took our sin upon Himself on the cross to pay the price for our salvation. God’s love for us is so amazing!

John 3:16 (NIV) says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (emphasis mine). And in John 8:31-32, Jesus says, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”

It’s so important for us to know the truth, because the lies we believe—especially about ourselves—can cause many other problems in our lives. That can mean trouble in our relationships, our work, our health, or any other area of our life.

The key to getting free from deception and overcoming the issues that hold us back from the life Jesus died to give us is facing truth. Because when we face the truth about ourselves, we grow spiritually and access more of God’s grace, which gives us the ability to do what we need to do.

I’ve learned to ask God on a regular basis, “Show me truth. Help me to face the truth You show me—especially what You show me about myself.”

I remember when God showed me I needed to stop feeling sorry for myself. I used to have such a problem with self-pity! I’d been abused, I didn’t get to go to college, Dave didn’t spend enough time with me...and on and on.

I blamed my problems on the injustices of my past and complained, “I’m this way because my dad sexually abused me and my mother abandoned me; she knew what he was doing and didn’t do anything to help me. I’m this way because my first husband was a con man and petty thief and he ran around with other women.” God spoke to my heart and said,

“That’s true—that’s why you are the way you are. But don’t let it become an excuse to stay that way.”

I needed to stop wasting my time feeling sorry for myself and begin taking responsibility for my life, specifically my thoughts, attitudes and behavior. It was so hard to accept this truth...but I realized that if I wanted the power of God to work in my life, I had to give up self-pity, trust Him, and obey His Word.

This reminds me of Deuteronomy 7. After God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to lead them to their promised land, He told them, “When the Lord your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites...and when the Lord your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy” (Deuteronomy 7:1-2).

Just as the Israelites had enemies to face to take possession of God’s good plan for their lives, we have our own “ites.” And we have to destroy them totally and “show them no mercy.”

The first thing we must do is take responsibility for where we are in life. You may be in your mess because of something you’ve done or because of something someone else has done that you couldn’t control. But no matter who has caused your hurts or problems, you don’t have to stay stuck there if you will cooperate with God and obey what He puts in your heart to do.

God’s truth is armor! When you start walking in the truth, it gives you the ability to overcome your enemy and get free from the bondages that have held you back.

Ephesians 6:14 says, “Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist...” In other words, when you’re going through something tough, you’d better hang on to God’s

Moving Up Higher with Joyce Meyer



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Remember that God loves you so much He gave His only Son so you could have eternal life. He wants you to be free from any injustice, pain or problem that is keeping you from growing spiritually and becoming everything He has created you to be.

Humble yourself before God and pray, “Jesus, I need You to help me.” Spend time each day in prayer and studying His Word, and do whatever He shows you to do. No matter how hard it is, you can trust Him to give you the ability to do your part in the process and know that He will do what you can’t do.

Even though it’s painful and it may not seem fair, forget everyone else’s part in your problem except your own. God is your vindicator and He will deal with your enemies as you focus on doing what He shows you to do. God makes wrong things right...and He will lead you to your breakthrough!

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s two-teaching CD resource *Keys to Breakthrough*. 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 *AUTHENTICALLY, UNIQUELY YOU* (FaithWords). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

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Basecamp Sweets brings treats to South Fork

BY LYNDSIE FERRELL
SOUTH FORK — After visiting friends in the area in May of 2021, Melissa Crevling and her husband, Steve, decided that South Fork was going to be their new home.

Everything that happened after that was a whirlwind of change for the Crevling family as they packed up their things, two of their grown children and moved to South Fork and opened Basecamp Sweets.

“It was crazy, and it happened so fast, but we couldn’t be happier with the results,” Melissa said.

Crevling and her husband got word that the building near Outdoor Depot was for sale and made the decision to dive in and open their one-of-a-kind business to the South Fork area.

Previously a family photographer, Melissa spent time during 2020 and the beginning of the COVID pandemic making special-order cookies out of her home in Las Vegas, Nev., and from there decided that she wanted to open a sweets and candy store.

“This was so new for us. I started playing with custom cookies during COVID and we knew we wanted to add candy and other sweets when we found a place to open our business and here, we are,” she said.

The open floor plan inside Basecamp Sweets offers a unique and comfortable place to enjoy coffee, ice cream and some of their custom-made sweets including Crevling’s homemade cookies, special-order cakes and a wider range of chocolate and candy.

Crevling made sure that her kitchen featured an open window so that visitors could watch her make all their fresh goods including their cinnamon rolls which have made a name for themselves in the few weeks they have been open.

“We wanted to do the glass in the kitchen so that people could watch us decorate and I think especially the children that come visit,” Melissa said. “We may add a step so that the little ones can see into the kitchen. Everything is still kind of a work in progress because it has been pretty hard to get product.



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell
Melissa Crevling and her husband, Steve, opened Basecamp Sweets in South Fork.

Most of our orders will be coming in soon and then we will be ready for the busy season.”

Crevling has a chocolatier out of Pueblo, Colo., bringing in fudge and other chocolaty treats that mix well with their assorted flavors of saltwater taffy and caramels.

“We have several flavors of cotton candy, rock candy, Pez dispensers, Jelly Belly’s and just all kinds of things,” Melissa said. “We will also be doing more gluten-free options for a lot of our baked goods. We are really excited to see where this goes, and I cannot express enough how supportive and amazing the community and neighboring businesses have been. It really has been so wonderful and so welcoming.”

Not only is Basecamp Sweets becoming the new sweet spot in South Fork, but it has laid claim to be the home of the one and only Sasquatch who comes to visit local businesses and events around South Fork.

Crevling’s husband dons a Bigfoot costume and randomly goes to visit places around South Fork for photo opportunities and just for fun.

“He really enjoys going to do it and I think everyone loves it when he does,” Melissa said. “It’s just something fun to do and people really like it, so we figure we will keep at it for now.”

Basecamp Sweets is open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and is available for special orders in advance. For more information, visit 130 Four Seasons Dr. in South Fork.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Saguache County Sales Tax Grants now available!

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners will be taking Grant Applications for Saguache County Sales Tax Grants until 3:00PM, Friday, February 14, 2022.

To be eligible grant applications must be for either: Emergency Services/Public Health and Safety; Youth and Senior programs, projects, or organizations; or Renewable Energy projects/Business Opportunities and Job Creation.

Grant applications are available on our website at saguachecounty.colorado.gov - use “sales tax grant application form 5” or you can contact the Saguache County Administration office at 719-655-2231 to request a copy of the grant application.

No. 1620 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, January 13, 20 and 27 and February 3, 2022.

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High Valley Community Center weathers on during stormy week

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Hello community members! High Valley Community Center hopes you are enjoying the stormy weather and the much-needed snow!

This week's activity theme was, "Peer Pressure." The activities centered around the theme are meant to show the kiddos the importance of learning life skills as a tool to combat peer pressure.

As always, even though we cover important topics, we aim to make activities fun and engaging for the kids. This week the kids made flowers stating their favorite things about themselves to promote self-esteem, made spring rolls to build cooking skills, and learned how to sew while making felt owls.

Basketball has been going well

and we have enjoyed seeing the kiddos' skills progress! We strongly encourage parents and guardians to sign up for the Procure app to stay up to date with schedule changes. Regular season will finish on Feb. 4 followed by tournaments for the boys 3-4 and 5-6 grade teams. More information to follow.

This past week, participants in the Encore Program were treated to an afternoon at the Stars and Strikes Bowling Alley. We have enjoyed spending time with the participants and welcome new members as well. If you are a member of the 50 plus community and would like to attend free fitness and art classes as well as monthly outings, we would love for you to join our Encore Program.

Questions? Concerns? The HVCC

staff is more than happy to help you! Feel free to give us a call at 719-657-2172 or

email us at Hvcc@theHVCC.org. We happily accept volunteers as well.

We hope you have a happy and safe week!



Photo courtesy of HVCC

High Valley Community Center welcomed students back after the winter break and is gearing up for the second half of their after-school program. Students are participating in several daily activities.

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Photo courtesy of Boulder County Wildfire Fund

A man stands in the rubble of a destroyed house in Boulder County following the Marshall Fire.

How to help people devastated by the Marshall Fire

BY MECHEL MEEK
SAGUACHE COUNTY — On Dec. 30, 2021, Colorado looked on in horror at images of the devastating Marshall Fire in Boulder County. The unusual winter fire swept through two towns in Boulder County, destroying entire neighborhoods and businesses. To date, 991 structures were destroyed in the Marshall Fire. The devastation was immense, with 553

homes in Louisville, 332 homes in Superior, and 106 homes in the rural areas as of Jan. 8, with possibly more added to the total in the coming weeks. Three people were still reported missing, many people lost their beloved family pets, farm animals, and their businesses. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, and theories range from downed power lines to a structure fire, according to Boulder County officials.

“We don’t know that the shed or anything else around it was the start of the fire or if it was secondary and it’s complicated,” stated Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pelle of the investigation. “We’re going to bring in the best people in the country. We’re going to do this right and we’re not going to rush.” The fast-moving fire was fanned by over 100 mph wind gusts and was exacerbated by drought conditions. **Please see HELP on Page 4**

Resources available for people at risk of suicide

BY MECHEL MEEK
SAGUACHE COUNTY — Mental wellness is a problem that can be seen in all parts of the country, even in rural areas. People can suffer from a crisis at any time in their lives and become at risk of suicide. Resources to help people struggling can be a big help and some are free. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and can be reached via phone call or text. The numbers are 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or text HELLO to 741741. Every call or text is confidential.



others, they will contact the person and refer them to psychological resources instead of inflaming the situation by confronting the person. Last year, CPD dealt with a situation involving a suicidal person who was home alone. “This type of situation is a condition in which we can call the person and speak to them while referring them to other resources,” Chief Meek said. “This incident led to the successful de-escalation and transport of the person to the hospital so they could meet with a mental health specialist, a highly desired conclusion. No one outside of the residence was in danger and this incident ended well but I want the community to understand something very important. A lone suicidal person who is armed will typically not be contacted in person by law enforcement. You have to consider two main factors in this decision by CPD. One, it is not a crime to harm yourself. Two, we do not want to add to the ability of a person to commit suicide by rushing an officer.” It is important for people to be aware **Please see LIFELINE on Page 4**

MV Coop adding state-of-the-art fertilizer building

BY MARIE MCCOLM
MONTE VISTA — Monte Vista Coop’s footprint continues to expand. Its latest project — an 8,000-ton fertilizer building — is hard to miss. The new Dry Fertilizer Shed and Chemical Building will allow MV Coop to meet the needs of the San Luis Valley’s hearty agriculture industry efficiently and quickly. It is scheduled to be open to the public in early March, with a grand opening slated for the summer. MV Coop Agronomy Manager Mike Hampel said the state-of-the-art fertilizer building was the natural next step in MV Coop’s evolution. “It began about two years ago as a dream,” Hampel said. “This is a very well-ran organization, so it kind of evolved on its own, as the markets are changing, we had to adjust to

the markets. A few sketches, some thoughts and planning, and us coming together to try to figure it out, and we now have this fertilizer building that has allowed us a lot of efficiency for fertilizer.” Breaking ground on the project took place in July of 2021. Concrete was poured and it grew in the landscape next to the primary office of Monte Vista Coop on the east end of town. Marcus Construction is leading the build. Hampel said that the building will provide faster and more efficient times for mixing, loading, and dropping fertilizer than the old building. Hampel said the old fertilizer building, like many in town, is old, about 60 years old to be exact. And while tried and true, it is also slow **Please see MVC on Page 3**



Monte Vista Coop broke ground on its Dry Fertilizer Shed and Chemical Building in July of 2021. Construction is expected to be completed in March.

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Level building spot on the 10th Fairway at the Rio Grande Club and Resort with stunning views. Just minutes away from World Class skiing and the Rio Grande River known for Gold Medal fishing- This is a perfect spot for your dream home on a Championship Golf Course. Don't let this one slip away! **\$47,000** MLS#781025



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Prime Commercial Property! Awesome building on Highway 285 that would work great for any type of business. This building is insulated, heated, and has a beautiful office space with huge hanging doors on both ends of the building. The building is located on a 0.75 acre commercial lot! **\$179,000** MLS#787380



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This lot has beautiful views all around with year round access, and is close to the Alamosa River, Rio Grande National Forest, La Jara Reservoir State Wildlife area, and Hot Creek SWA for easy access to hunting and fishing. The area would be a great place to build a comfortable home on. Call to view! **\$5,999** MLS#787432



Legends Premier Properties
Klayton Gosar, Associate Broker
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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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! **\$40,000** MLS#789152



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SOLD



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FOR SALE

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

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FOR SALE Organic Peddler Casita Bonita Inn located in Del Norte, Colorado DEEDED ACREAGE: 47 Acres +/- Almost 3 full lots IMPROVEMENTS: Currently there are a total of 4 great rental units on the property with a historic small log cabin that provides a lot of possibilities. 1. 648 sq. ft. Cozy 1 Bedroom Casita includes a living room, bath, and kitchen. 2. 920 sq. ft. Log cabin has an open floor plan with one bedroom, bath, and kitchen. 3. 2240 sq. ft. Building has been remodeled into 2 separate rental units: **The beautiful Cordwood unit is 861 sq. ft. with one bedroom, bath, living room, gourmet kitchen, gas fireplace, and fabulous attached courtyard. **The Historical adobe 1556 sq. ft. home has 3 bedrooms, one bath, full kitchen, living room, and nice front yard. 4. 168 sq. ft. historic log cabin that can be remodeled into an additional rental unit. The views are panoramic in all directions providing a peaceful atmosphere. ACCESS: Year-round off U.S. Hwy 160. ZONING: Residential/Commercial **\$690,000** MLS # 770529 14475 U S 160 • Del Norte

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181 Doe Circle • South Fork

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SOLD



FOR SALE This 2500 sq. ft. building is located at 102 North Main St., in the thick of tourist traffic, in historic Creede, Colorado. The building is divided into two separate and operating retail spaces, but a common interior door could make this a large operating space. 1. Elk Country Boutique on the corner of the building is a T-shirt Shop 2. Creede Olive Oil Shop. Both businesses draw visitors as they walk the town shopping for unique gifts. Utilities include electric, pellet stove, Creede wafer & sewage, and phone. Each business has its own electrical meter and is paid for by that tenant. 1. Elk Country Boutique T-shirt Shop has an extremely high recap rate but will need to be kept as a T-shirt shop to obtain maximum income on the building. 2. Creede Olive Oil shop rents for \$1300 per month year-round. The estimated total recap rate based on the above description is 15% to 20% annual return on investment. This historic building is located on Main Street in Creede, Colorado, and is a thriving business. Creede is a major vacation destination and sportsmen's dream paradise. **\$692,000** MLS #774985 • 102 N Main Street • Creede

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

0 Escondida Drive • South Fork

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FOR SALE



LOOK IMPROVED PRICE \$66,900 Seller Motivated!

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SOLD



FOR SALE

Wonderful custom home site located on the Rio Grande Golf Course in South Fork, Colorado. Beautiful fairway and mountain views and just moments from the Rio Grande River. A perfect place to to build your dream home or vacation home with year round access and public South Fork water and sewer. Enjoy the beautiful outdoors, great golfing, fishing and magnificent skiing at Wolf Creek during the winter season. Call and schedule your viewing today! **\$62,900** MLS #784728

134 Rio Grande Club Trail • South Fork
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MVC Continued from Page 1

with inbound fertilizer and slow with outbound fertilizer.

For example, Hampel said at the old facility it would take about three-fourths of a day to unload one rail car, which carries 100 tons of dry fertilizer. The new facility will do the same amount in less than an hour.

Hampel said unloading a semi-truck would take about an hour in the old building, and in the new building, unloading could be accomplished in about 10 minutes.

Hampel said the efficiency will be seen for loads going out. Depending on the size of the order, it would take most of a workday at the old building to fill it. At the new building, that same order could be filled in about an hour.

Hampel said the facility is also set up to electronically blend. Although the hoppers in the facility must be loaded manually, something as simple as a cell phone could be used to order and start the blend.

Hampel is excited about the building.

“This building will serve our community, with high-quality fertilizers and chemicals and more,” he said.

Hampel said that the efficiency of the new building is great, but they will still need skilled employees to run the machinery and connect with valued customers.

“Employees are the heart of MV Coop,” Hampel said, adding that with the new building MV Coop is expecting it to be busier than ever.



Photos courtesy of MV Coop

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Encouraging Avalanche Awareness

The mid-morning sun caused the snow crystals to glimmer in the bright light as they danced from the tracks I was creating in the snow. My snowshoes compressed the six inches of new snow that had fallen overnight, covering the firmer carpet of the early winter's bounty. As I looked back on my tracks, I noted the valley floor was shrinking and realized that I had gained significant elevation. No wonder my legs were getting tired.

Staring out across the vast expanse of the valley, I couldn't help but to reflect on how lucky I am to have the San Luis Valley (SLV) and surrounding mountains as a playground. The legendary Colorado bluebird day had my spirits soaring, helping me ignore the fatigue in my legs as the top of the hill beckoned me. "Just a little farther," I thought as I started out again. The ridge was not that far away, and I knew the view to the other side was stunning. I can make it.

A minute later my world changed drastically as I felt the snow give way from under me and the weight of countless tons of snow began its violent descent down the mountain bowl I was trekking up. Seconds into the avalanche, I began tumbling for what felt like an eternity, with large chunks of snow relentlessly pummeling me as I fought for my life. Mercifully, the snow came to an abrupt halt and I managed to stop with my hands and head above the surface of the dense avalanche debris. I gathered my bearings and began the torturous task of digging myself out with only my cold hands to use as a shovel. I'm not sure how long it took me, but I finally dug out and hobbled back to the truck with one snowshoe and a severely bruised

body. I was lucky. That, I knew for sure. This scenario never actually happened to me and is completely fictitious. But it is a possible scenario under the current conditions we are seeing in the mountains around the SLV. The early season snows on the north aspects have settled into a fine mess of "sugar" snow that has trouble bonding with anything, let alone the snow above. The heavy snows over the holidays brought glorious amounts of snow to a large area of the mountains on the west side of the SLV and Upper Rio Grande. This snow is settling, prompting the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) to rate current danger as "Low." The rating should not infer that there will not be avalanches. It just means that they are less likely to occur. But CAIC has been warning us all week that when avalanches DO occur, they have high possibility of breaking in very large slabs and becoming huge and dangerous avalanches.

Taking a quick look at the earlier scenario we can find some of the basic winter backcountry travel rules that were broken. The list is not all inclusive. First, I was alone. That is not always inherently bad but, combined with other mistakes, it can prove to be a fatal one. Second, I didn't have anyone tracking me. Third, my travel route was up the middle of a bowl. A better route would have been on the ridge. It depends on the snowpack, aspect, steepness, weather and my ability. Visiting the CAIC website would surely have advised me on a better route to travel that day. It also would have given me a fair warning on the consequences I faced if I did cause an avalanche. Finally, while I only inferred it, I didn't have

any avalanche safety equipment with me. Being alone, an airbag and shovel could have helped me stay near the top of the churning snow and provided me with a tool to help dig out.

The forest hosted a well-attended online Avalanche Awareness session presented by CAIC last week. Local forecaster, Matt Huber, outlined some of

the basic safety tips but more importantly, strongly urged winter outdoor recreation enthusiasts to get educated, get the gear and practice with it, before venturing out onto the steeper slopes that hold some degree of avalanche danger. Echo Matt's words as I remind my readers that the scenario above truly IS possible, and perhaps, without the favorable outcome.

Land, Water & People BY GREGG GOODLAND

Please don't let it happen to you. The CAIC website is: <https://www.avalanche.state.co.us>

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

HELP

Continued from Page 1

With this type of extreme event, many people are wanting to help the people who lost everything. The best option to help those affected by the Marshall Fire is to give to a reputable charity organization.

It is a sad fact that scammers often use well-publicized tragedies to take money from people wishing to help victims. Fake Go Fund Me pages, false Facebook donation pages, calls from people posing as charity workers and similar scams have been seen so far.

The best way to avoid these scams is to donate directly to the charitable agencies in the Boulder County area. The Boulder County Community Foundation has created the Boulder County Wildfire Fund and is accepting cash donations for victims of the fire.

You can donate at www.coloradogives.org/bouldercountywildfirefund. This is a tax-deductible donation as the Boulder County Community Foundation is a non-profit organization. As of Jan. 5, the fund had raised over \$12 million to help those affected by the fire.

Neptune Mountaineering was also holding a coat and shoe drive. They were accepting donations of new or like-new winter layers and shoes for people who lost clothing in the fire. Donations can be made at their store in Boulder at 633 South Broadway.

LIFELINE

Continued from Page 1

of the signs that someone you know may be contemplating suicide. The warning signs to watch for suicide include talking about wanting to die or wanting to kill themselves, talking about feeling hopeless, feeling empty or having no reason to live, talking about feeling trapped or having no hope, feeling unbearable pain either emotional or physical, stating they are a burden to others, withdrawing from friends and family, saying goodbye to family and friends including giving away important possessions, talking or thinking about death and dying often, taking risks that could lead to death, and putting their affairs in order such as making a will.

Other signs include extreme mood swings, making a plan to kill themselves including researching suicide methods or buying a gun or stockpiling pills, excess emotions of rage, anxiety, agitation, guilt or shame, and excessive drug or alcohol use.

To learn more about suicide prevention or to get help go to <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>.



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02 CARD OF THANKS
03 MEMORIALS
04 LOST & FOUND
05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
06 PERSONALS
EMPLOYMENT
07 HELP WANTED
08 WORK WANTED
09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
FOR RENT
10 APARTMENTS
11 ROOMS
12 HOUSES
13 MOBILE HOMES
14 BUSINESS PROPERTY
15 WANTED TO RENT
16 VACATION
REAL ESTATE
17 REAL ESTATE
18 LOTS & ACREAGE
19 FARM & FARMLAND
20 BUSINESS PROPERTY
21 MOBILE HOMES
22 PROPERTY WANTED

MERCHANDISE
23 LAWN & GARDEN
24 GARAGE SALES
25 AUCTIONS
26 ANTIQUES
27 APPLIANCES
28 HOUSEHOLD GOODS
29 MUSICAL ITEMS
30 ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS
31 HEALTH
32 FUEL & HEATING
33 BUILDING MATERIALS
34 OFFICE EQUIPMENT
35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT
36 MISCELLANEOUS
37 WANTED
38 MACHINERY, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
39 SPORTING GOODS
40 AUTO PARTS
FARMER MARKET
41 FARM EQUIPMENT
42 FEED & SEED
43 FARM PRODUCTS
44 FARM SERVICES

ANIMALS
45 ANIMAL BREEDING
46 PASTURE FOR RENT
47 HORSES & CATTLE
48 PETS & SUPPLIES
49 ANIMAL CARE
50 LIVESTOCK
RECREATIONAL
51 BOATS & EQUIPMENT
52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT
53 TRAILERS
54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S
55 R.V.'S/CAMPERS
FINANCIAL
56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
57 INVESTMENTS
TRANSPORTATION
58 MOTORCYCLES
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- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Partner to "oohed"
 6. Relaxing places
 10. Humorous monologue
 14. Simple elegance
 15. Bearable
 17. Disobedience
 19. Express delight
 20. Gov't attorneys
 21. Wake up
 22. A type of band
 23. Remain as is
 24. Turfs
 26. Battle-ax
 29. Volcanic crater
 31. The mother of Jesus
 32. One's life history
 34. "Rule, Britannia" composer
 35. Doubles
 37. Jacob __, American journalist
 38. House pet
 39. S. African river
 40. Broad sashes
 41. Establish as a foundation
 43. KGB double agent Aldrich __
 45. Part of a book
 46. Taxi
 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
 49. Train group (abbr.)
 50. Frames per second
 53. Have surgery
 57. Formal withdrawal from a federation
 58. Guitarist sounds
 59. Greek war god

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18							
19					20			21				
				22			23					
		24	25				26			27	28	
29	30						31				32	33
34					35	36				37		
38				39						40		
	41		42					43	44			
			45				46					
	47	48				49				50	51	52
53						54			55	56		
57									58			
59					60				61			

60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Helps escape
27. Acquired brain injury behavior science (abbr.)
28. Thirteen
29. Partner to cheese
30. Member of a Semitic people
31. One thousandth of an inch
33. Former CIA
35. Most lemony
36. Engage in
37. Small Eurasian deer
39. Provisions
42. All humans have them
43. Swiss river
44. Storage term (abbr.)
46. Famed Broadway lyricist Sammy
47. Dutch colonist
48. Full-grown pike fish
49. Egyptian sun god
50. Flute
51. Flew off!
52. Scottish tax
53. Young women's association
54. Populous Brazilian city
55. Malaysian Isthmus
56. Pointed end of a pen

- CLUES DOWN**
1. Currency exchange charge
 2. River in Tuscany
 3. Breakfast dish
 4. Defunct European currency
 5. Upper class young woman
 6. Part of a purse
 7. Self-contained units
 8. Boxing's GOAT
 9. Legislators
 10. Flightless birds
 11. U. of Miami's mascot is one
 12. Floating ice
 13. Low, marshy land
 16. Seldom
 18. Lyric poems
 22. Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
 23. Full extent of something
 24. __ Claus
 25. Naturally occurring solid material

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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Please register each person (x) for specific days; One day \$50 or entire conference \$100. Spouse is \$30/day or \$60 entire conference. Please indicate which days you will attend. Thank you!

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Tues., Feb. 1st ()	Tues., Feb. 1st ()
Wed., Feb. 2nd ()	Wed., Feb. 2nd ()
Thurs., Feb. 3rd ()	Thurs., Feb. 3rd ()
Total \$ _____	Total \$ _____
Spouse	Spouse
Tues., Feb. 1st ()	Tues., Feb. 1st ()
Wed., Feb. 2nd ()	Wed., Feb. 2nd ()
Thurs., Feb. 3rd ()	Thurs., Feb. 3rd ()
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Celebrating 40 years of agriculture education in the San Luis Valley

By LARRY BROWN
Farming and ranching in the 21st century can be complicated, expensive and risky. In the San Luis Valley, farmers and ranchers drive much of the local economy despite these challenges.

Recent Colorado Department of Agriculture statistics show the value of crops and livestock produced in the San Luis Valley at \$370 million annually and USDA statistics show SLV ag production up to \$435 million in good years.

But good years don't come easy. Farmers and ranchers are constantly studying and learning throughout the year, striving to expand their knowledge and improve their practices. The Southern Rocky

Mountain Agriculture Conference is one of the key places producers go for continuing education.

Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, the Ag Conference is scheduled for Feb. 1-3 at the new event center at Ski Hi Park in Monte Vista.

Combining the best of Extension educational programs

The Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference was born from CSU Extension's Potato and Grain School, founded by Extension Agronomy Agent Merlin Dillon in the early 1980s and held annually in February. A few years later, SLV Extension Livestock Agent Larry Brown started

an annual Livestock Producer's Seminar, held in early December. In the late 1990s, these two Extension educational events combined to become the Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference. Since then, the conference has grown exponentially. The last full conference in February 2020 had about 100 vendors and 300 producers attending the educational program.

Practical education for producers

The Ag Conference provides the latest local and regional research information available for producers to not only improve their operations but to become more successful. The agenda in-

cludes educational programs on a breadth of topics including crop and livestock care, grazing best practices, ag law and economics, family farm succession and estate planning, drought resiliency and groundwater management, soil health and more.

Learn more and register today

The Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference provides information for sustainable and profitable production and management strategies for potato growers, small grain, forage growers and livestock producers in the San Luis Valley. Register for the upcoming conference online at www.agconferencesrm.com.

For more information, call Larry Brown, director of the SLV Area CSU Extension Office, at 719-852-7381.

About CSU Extension

CSU Extension empowers Coloradans to address important and emerging community needs using dynamic, science-based educational resources. For over 100 years, CSU Extension has helped people in Colorado find the answers they need for a healthy home life, successful business and thriving community. We bring the University's research-based resources to local communities across the state. Learn more at extension.colostate.edu.

A look back at history of Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference

By LYNDIE FERRELL
SAN LUIS VALLEY — Looking back over the past 40 years, the Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference began as a small, educational conference for local and visiting agricultural leaders.

According to local historians, there were a couple of ag-related educational events and product shows happening at different times in the San Luis Valley that ultimately joined forces to become the Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference.

An article in the 1982 Monte Vista Journal writes about the formation of the Monte Vista Cooperative in 1949 which later led to the Monte Vista Product Show and the annual Monte Vista Cooperative meeting which took place in the spring of 1982.

During that time, the Monte Vista Cooperative welcomed guest speakers like Current General Manager Doyle Smith and even an appearance by Denver Broncos receiver Steve Watson. The first show included an agricultural history



File photo

Demonstrations were plentiful at Monte Vista Co-op product show

presentation slide show of agriculture in the San Luis Valley which was created by Don Proffer through the Don J. Proffer Production Company.

The two-day event featured contests and prizes, special events


for ranchers, farmers and agricultural leaders, merchandise sales, and even a chance for one lucky lady to win \$6,100 to go toward a new kitchen. Guests also attended a pancake dinner

Please see SHOW on Page 3






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KEYNOTE SPEAKER Jim Yahn — Manager of North Sterling ID



When it comes to diminishing water supplies, Jim Yahn knows what he is talking about, especially related to working with an over-appropriated system, well curtailment, and the impact on a community when wells are shut off. The similarity to circumstances in the San Luis Valley makes what Yahn has to say highly relevant.

Jim Yahn is the manager of the North Sterling and Prewitt Reservoirs, a position that he has held for over 29 years. He is responsible for overseeing the diversion and distribution of water to over 350 farmers. Together the reservoirs are a source of irrigation water for approximately 70,000 acres.

Yahn was appointed by the Governor to the Colorado Water Conservation Board to serve as the South Platte Director in 2016 where he served for five years, including one year as chairperson. Jim has also been a member of the South Platte Basin Roundtable since its inception in 2005, serving as chair from 2009-2012. He currently serves as the roundtable's

representative to the Interbasin Compact Committee.

Jim is a registered professional engineer, receiving his B.S. in Agricultural Engineering from Colorado State University. Prior to his employment with the North Sterling and Prewitt he worked as a private consulting engineer in Fort Collins for 5 years. He is a native of Colorado growing up on a family ranch, which used water from the North Sterling Reservoir System.

Jim Yahn is the Keynote Speaker, presenting on Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 1:30 p.m.



Flowers of spring

File photo by Mechel Meek

Potato fields in bloom are common sight in the area, along with alfalfa, canola, various grains and many other crops growing in the rich farming communities in the San Luis Valley.

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SHOW

Continued from Page 2

and competed in a pie-eating contest.

In the years since the first product show, long-time Monte Vista resident and Monte Vista Agriculture Committee member through the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce, Karla Shriver, said that the chamber created a committee for the agricultural show that was held at the Adams State University campus and served as an educational seminar and conference for members.

In 1987, Shriver joined the agricultural committee and was later appointed Chair in 1988 and that was the first year it moved to Monte Vista and became the only agricultural show for the area.

"I became chair of the committee in 1988 which was the first year it was in Monte Vista. Previously it was held in Alamosa at Adams State University for a few years, before moving to Monte Vista. It was primarily educational then — not many vendors. It was moved to Monte Vista as there was no place

at the college to display large pieces of equipment and we didn't have a large space for vendors to display their products for farmers-ranchers to look at," Shriver said.

At the time, Janice Schnieder was the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce manager, and the committee did everything from setting it up to taking it down, Shriver said.

"We had a good group of people on the committee," Shriver said. "We did everything. We set up the booth spaces, tables and chairs, made coffee, did the janitorial duties every morning — sweeping the floor and hauling out the trash whenever needed. The building was completely full of vendors even back then. We also used the McMullen Building for display of large equipment back then, too. That was about the time the bowling alley opened. We had our first social hour at the bowling alley. It was a good party. We never did that again. The money raised by

the Agricultural Committee from this event supported the operations of the whole chamber even back then. It still does today for the most part."

Now, 40 years later, the Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference has grown to something that is looked forward to every year by ranchers and farmers from throughout the state.

This year's conference on Feb. 1-3 will host keynote speakers including Jim Yahn, manager for North Sterling Irrigation District, Jim Gerrish, a grazing expert, consultant, and speaker, Dan Waldvogel, director of External Affairs for Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, and Jeff Tranel, Colorado State University Regional Extension Specialist — Agricultural and Business Management Economist.

Guests and visitors can enjoy the new Ski Hi event center. For more information and a full agenda of the Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference, visit www.agconferencesrm.com.

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Event center ready to shine for SRM Ag Conference

By MARIE MCCOLM

The new Monte Vista event center at Ski Hi Park is making its official grand debut as it will be in full use for the 40th annual Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference on Feb. 1-3.

The project is nearly complete, enough so that it will be utilized for the ag conference. It was used partially last year at the Ski Hi Stampede and the San Luis Valley Fair.

The building was a want for the area for years and gained momentum in recent years as fundraising for the multi-million project began in earnest spearheaded by the Friends of Ski Hi.

“The vision behind the new Ski Hi building had been there for a really long time,” stated Karla Shriver, chairperson for the Friends of Ski Hi. “This idea was there as early as 2006, 2007, the only thing that was not, was the funding. The funding really came from grants and community donations and involvement; it really just took off from there.”

On Sept. 4, 2019, Friends of Ski Hi Park presented the idea and preliminary design to the City Council for a multi-purpose Ski Hi building, and other changes to the Ski Hi complex in Monte Vista. The plan included the demolition of the multipurpose building and pool area on the property and replacing it with a 30,000 square foot event center.

The new building would occupy the same space but would be slightly narrower from north to south, and slightly longer, by about 30 to 40 feet from east to west. The main entrance would be on the west side of the building, and the picnic area would be moved to the west side.

Representatives from Alcon Construction were excited to voice their



opinions at this meeting, citing that the multi-purpose recreation area would be designed and constructed in consideration of multiple events taking place in the area including roller derby, basketball, wrestling, volleyball and other potential events such as dances and festivals.

The goal was to have the project completed by March of 2021. Former Monte Vista Forest Neuerburg discussed using the proposed one-cent sales tax at the introductory meeting in 2019 to maintain the Ski Hi complex. The proposed plan was passed by the council thus starting the early phase of the Ski Hi project.

In 2020, the Friends of Ski Hi along with the City of Monte Vista and Alcon Construction, officially announced that the building for the Ski Hi complex had been ordered. The \$8 million project kicked off in 2020 with a local donation campaign early in the year. Within months, over \$772,000 had been raised by the community to go toward the project.

The full demolition of the Ski Hi complex began and was complete in July of 2020 and, the new steel



structure frame for the new building came together in January of 2021.

At a City Council meeting in December of 2021, new City Manager Gigi Dennis announced that the Ski Hi complex was nearly complete. Dennis said the City of Monte Vista was excited to see it ready enough to be used for the ag conference in February of 2022.

“All of the hard work that has happened because of our community involvement in donating and dedication by the city and so many wonderful people and workers has really paid off,” Dennis said in a

recent interview with Valley Publishing. “The city is excited to see this project come together.”

Shriver said the project was a testament to a lot of challenging work by many people and a giving community.

“It’s great to see this near completion,” Shriver said. “We are so thankful for the outpouring of donations from the community, for the city’s hard work and dedication to

Courtesy photos of the project, for Alcon Construction who put in many donated hours of hard work for this project. We are grateful for the grants, for all of the people who really brought this together, for everything.

“It’s been amazing, to watch our community come together and really make this happen,” Shriver said.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony at the complex has been planned for February.



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Jason is a Certified Executive Chef and member of the American Culinary Federation. Jason has been featured on the Food Network, National and Local Media segments, was a morning show chef for a Denver Radio station and currently produces the Colorado Department of Agriculture monthly recipes for local Colorado media. Jason has been published in the

Colorado Classique Junior League of Denver Cookbook, and various local publications. Chef works with many Colorado Agricultural groups like, Colorado Farm Bureau, Colorado Beef Council, Colorado Pork Producers, Colorado Potatoes, Colorado Wool Growers Association and the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

Jason works with and supports groups like the Ace Foundation, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and The Colorado FFA Foundation.

Chef Jason attended Johnson and Wales University in Charleston, SC and graduated Summa cum laude and was honored with the Apprenti Cuisinier award for Classic French pastry, among other prestigious



culinary honors. Chef Jason Morse is presenting a potato cooking demonstration on Tuesday, Feb. 1, for Social Hour at 5 p.m.

Full Conference Registration

- \$103.50
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Ag Conference Schedule

Tuesday, Feb. 1

- 8 a.m. — Welcome, Intro & Survey, Larry Brown, CSU Area Extension Director & Agent
- 8:10 a.m. — Ag Labor Law Update, Dan Waldvogle, Director of External Affairs, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
- 8:45 a.m. — Legislative Update, James Henderson, Vice President, Colorado Farm Bureau
- 9:15 a.m. — Potato Profit Value, Tanner Ehmke, Lead Economist, CoBank
- 10 a.m. — Break
- 10:30 a.m. — Family Farm Estate Planning, Jeff Tranel, Regional Ext. Specialist, CSU Extension & Norm Dalsted, PhD, Professor CSU (Blue Room)
- 10:30 a.m. — Input Cost, Trevor Geist, Colorado Area Manager & Chad Hodgson, Division Marketing Manager, Nutrien Ag Solutions
- 10:30 a.m. — DEMO: Bubbler Systems, Wade Henderson, PE, Ski Hi Engineering, McMullen Building
- 10:50 a.m. — NPC Political Update, Mike Wenkel, COO, National Potato Council
- 11:25 a.m. — Marketing Update, John Toasperm, Chief Marketing Officer, Potatoes, USA
- 12 p.m. — Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. — Reveille Seed Panel, Samuel Essah, Associate Professor, Potato Management and Physiology & Isabel Vales, PhD, Associate Professor, Texas A&M
- 1:30 p.m. — DEMO: Powder River Livestock Equipment, Justin Gilmore, Monte Vista Coop, McMullen Building
- 2:30 p.m. — Breeding for Disease Resistance, New Breeder Intro — David Holm PhD., Prof of Horticulture (Potato Breeding)
- 2:30 p.m. — Running on all Cylinders-cultivating being healthy and Happy, Dan Waldvogle, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (Orange Room)
- 3 p.m. — Break
- 3:30 p.m. — Storage and Warehouse Practices to Improve Tuber Quality, Sastry Jayanty, PhD, Associate Professor, Post-Harvest Physiologist, SLV Research Center, CSU
- 3:30 p.m. — Soil Health Research, Jorge Ibarra Caballero, PhD, CSU Research (Orange Room)
- 3:30 p.m. — Nutrition by Hubbard, Monte Vista Coop, McMullen Building
- 4 p.m. — Historical Perspectives for the Value of Potato Varieties Grown in Colorado, Rebecca Hill, PhD, Research Scientist/Scholar II, CSU

- 4 p.m. — Colorado Certified Seed Update, Andrew Houser, PhD, PCS Manager, SLV Research Center (Orange Room)
- 4:30 p.m. — The Risk of Powdery Scab in Potatoes — Increased knowledge on Environmental Factors that encourage disease development, Yuan Zeng, PhD, Dept of Agricultural Biology, CSU
- 4:30 p.m. — Introduction and Q&A of new pathologist, Mohamed Chik-Ali, New Pathologist (Orange Room)
- 5 p.m. — Social Hour — Gourmet Cooking, Sponsored by CPAC

Wednesday, Feb. 2

- 8 a.m. — Welcome, Survey, Larry Brown, CSU Area Extension Director & Agent
- 8:10 a.m. — Soil Health Connection to Water Conservation, Gabriella Coughlin, Middle Rio Grande Conservation District in New Mexico, Agronomist/Agroecologist
- 8:10 a.m. — Grazing Symposium, Jim Gerrish, American Grazing Lands Services, LLC (Orange Room)
- 8:45 a.m. — Current Insurance Programs, Chayito Espinoza, Mountain West Insurance
- 9 a.m. — Soil Moisture Sensors, Patrick O'Neill, Soil Health Services
- 9:10 a.m. — Drought Tolerant Alfalfa Varieties, Ian Ray, PhD, Professor of Agronomy-New Mexico State University
- 10 a.m. — Break
- 10:20 a.m. — Diamond Sponsor Commercial
- 10:30 a.m. — Grazing Symposium: Drought Resiliency, Grazing Croplands, Jim Gerrish, American Grazing Lands Services LLC (Orange Room)
- 10:30 a.m. — Family Farm Estate Planning, Jeff Tranel, Regional Ext. Specialist, CSU Extension (Blue Room)
- 10:30 a.m. — Alfalfa Deficit Irrigation, Perry Cabot, Water Resources Specialist—Western Region, Western Colorado Research Center, CSU Extension
- 10:30 a.m. — DEMO: Combine Calibration for Grain Harvest, US Tractor & Harvest, McMullen Building
- 11:15 a.m. — Colorado State University Extension Roll out, Larry Brown, CSU Area Director and Agent & Zach Czarnecki, SLVRC Manager, CSU
- 11:30 a.m. — Soil Health for Pasture Systems, Annie Overlin, Regional Extension Specialist — Range, CSU Extension (Orange Room)
- 12 p.m. — Lunch

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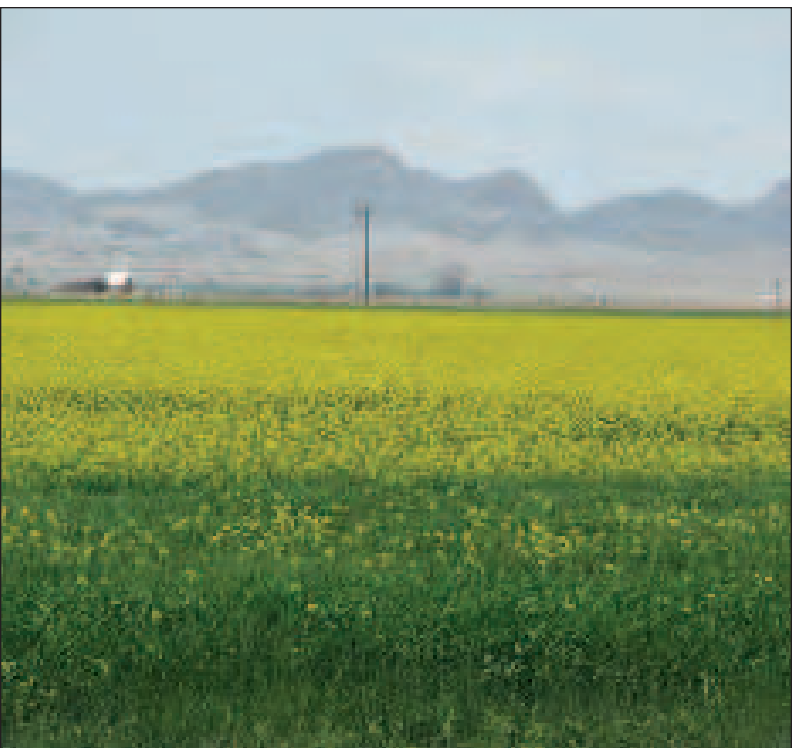
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Ag Conference Schedule — Continued

- 1:30 p.m. — Keynote Speaker
- 2:30 p.m. — Third Trimester Nutrition for Cattle, Michael Fisher, Interim Extension Co-Regional Director, CSU (Orange Room)
- 2:30 p.m. — Producer Input for \$20,000 Investment in SLV Value Added Ag, Becca Jablonski, PhD, Asst. Prof. Ag and Resources Economics (will continue at 5 p.m. in Blue Room)
- 3:30 p.m. — Meat Goat Panel — Kendra Carpenter, Remington Durre, Jordyn Neely
- 3:30 p.m. — Ag Adventures Kids Kamp, Morgan Young, 4-H Youth Development and Coordinators (Green Room)
- 3:30 p.m. — Calving, Neonatal Nutrition, PAP Testing & EPDs, Tim Holt DVM, Clinical Sciences, CSU & Curtis Crawford DVM, Alpine Veterinary Clinic (Orange Room)
- 4:30 p.m. — Q & A, Tim Holt, Michael Fisher & Annie Overlin, CSU Extension (Orange Room)
- 5 p.m. — Social Hour — With Ag Adventures Kids Kamp by CSU Extension (Green Room)
- 5 p.m. — Continuation of Producer Input with Becca Jablonski, PhD (Blue Room)

Thursday, Feb. 3

- 8 a.m. — Welcome, Survey, Marisa Fricke, Program Manager Subdistrict 1
- 8:10 a.m. — Water Conditions Update, Craig Cotton, Division Engineer, Division of Water Resources
- 9 a.m. — The Hard Truths of Groundwater, Marisa Fricke, Program Manager Subdistrict 1; Amber Pacheco, Program Manager Subdistrict 2,3 & 6, Chris Ivers, Program Manager Subdistrict 4 & 5, Clinton Phillips, PhD, Davis Engineering
- 10 a.m. — Break
- 10:30 a.m. — Anatomy of Augmentation, Heather Dutton, Manager, SLV Conservation District, Marisa Fricke, Program Manager Subdistrict 1, Tod Smith, Water Rights Attorney, Jim Yahn, Manager, North Sterling Irrigation District
- 12 p.m. — Intro to Master Irrigators
- 12:15 p.m. — Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. — Commercial Applicators & Private Applicator Continuing Education 7-Core Credits, Don Henderson, DP Ag Services, (Orange Room) Register at door



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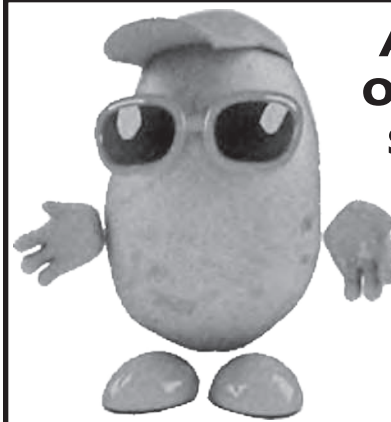
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CSU RESEARCH FARM & EXTENSION

Hear from CSU Research Farm and Extension on what research is being conducted and new staff in the valley. Meet the new pathologist and plant breeder at the research farm. Hear research from CSU campus faculty.

SOIL HEALTH

Gabriella Coughlin and Annie Overlin will both be presenting on Soil Health topics for crops and livestock. Understand how to incorporate soil health practices into your operation.

LIVESTOCK SESSIONS

There will be a slate of livestock producers discussing nutrition, calving, vaccine protocols, and an entire panel on meat goat production. Featured speakers: Micheal Fisher CSU Extension, Tim Holt CSU Vet, Alpine Vet Clinic, Meat Goat Panel: Kendra Carpenter, Remington & Kendra Durre, and Jordan Neeley.

WATER IN THE SLV

Come to the conference for Thursday's, Feb. 3, hard-hitting conversation about all things water in the SLV. Discuss the current state of the valley's aquifer, climate and snowpack. Presentations will include Hard Truths about Groundwater, Anatomy of an Augmentation Plan, and intro to Master Irrigators course.

HANDS-ON DEMOS

Come see exciting hands-on demos such as a Bubbler Package on Pivot Irrigation, How to Set Up Your Combine for Grain Harvest, and Powder River Livestock Handling Equipment.

FEATURED SESSIONS GRAZING SYMPOSIUM



• Jim Gerrish — Grazing Expert, Consultant, and Speaker
Jim Gerrish will be discussing drought resilience, grazing croplands, using low input costs for profit. Jim is an independent grazing lands consultant providing services to farmers and ranchers on both private and public lands across five continents.

For more about Jim, visit his website www.americangrazinglands.com.

AG LABOR LAW

• Dan Waldvogel — Director of External Affairs for Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
Learn the new regulations affecting Ag Labor including hand weeding, overtime provisions, shade and water restrictions, access to service providers and arbitration process.
Dan Waldvogel is the Director of External Affairs at the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union where we represent family



farming and ranching operations and rural communities across New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming. Dan has a ranching background and has also worked in land access and succession programming to ensure the stewardship of our working lands.

POTATO PROFIT VALUE



• Tanner Ehmke — CoBank Lead Economist, Dairy and Specialty Crops
In Tanner's session, he will help producers find economical ways to farm in these current conditions and economy.
Tanner Ehmke is lead economist for dairy and specialty crops in CoBank's Knowledge Exchange research division, where

his focus is on providing market and industry research for the dairy and specialty crops sectors. Prior to joining CoBank in 2015, he marketed seed for his family's seed company in western Kansas, where his family has farmed since 1885.

SUCCESSION PLANNING

• Jeff Tranel — CSU Regional Extension Specialist — Agricultural & Business Management Economist
Jeff will lead farm succession planning sessions on both days to help new and old generations navigate transitioning farm ownership.
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