

Shorts

County asks for bids for survey of Sargents

Commissioners seeking public comment on Firewise Projects

BY MECHEL MEEK

SAGUACHE — Saguache County is accepting bids for a survey of the Town of Sargents. The request for bids is a result of public comments regarding the roads and right of way in Sargents and the need for a comprehensive survey.

According to Saguache County, "Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope with 'Town of Sargents Survey' written on the front of the

Please see SARGENTS on Page 10A



Photo of Sargents by Jeffrey Beall

Saguache County is accepting bids for a survey of the Town of Sargents.

COVID increases in Center, Saguache County



BY MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — Saguache County Public Health is asking residents to continue to follow all social-distancing guidelines and safe practices such as masks indoors to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Saguache County.

According to the daily report released by Mona K. Lovato R.N., Saguache Public Health Director, from the emailed daily report on Sept. 14, "Acute cases 25; two in Saguache, 12 in Center, eight in KV Estates, one in Moffat, two in Villa Grove. One current outbreak in Haskin Elementary School

Please see COVID on Page 10A

Center School District recently quarantined a third-grade class and a freshmen class due to the spread of COVID-19.

Photo courtesy of Center School District

Town of Center lowers speed limit

BY MECHEL MEEK

CENTER — A recent Town of Center Trustees meeting approved the lowering of the speed limit to 25 mph on all roads that do not have a speed limit posted.

The speed limit on these roads, which are mostly residential roads within the city limits, was 30 mph. The 30 mph limit was a result of a nationally adopted limit on all non-posted public roadways.

According to Center Police Department

Chief Dale Meek, "I recommended the change to the Center Town Council and they agreed unanimously to change the speed limit. The ideology behind the change is the amount of children and adults that walk or play on the roadways."

Center has few sidewalks within the town, mostly confined to the commercial areas of town on Worth Street.

Meek also explained, "The average

distance a vehicle needs to stop at 30 mph is 75 feet (six car lengths). This distance reflects a driver observing a need to stop and quickly apply the brakes. The distance needed to stop a

Please see SPEED on Page 11A

Town of Center Trustees approved lowering the speed limit to 25 mph on all roads within the city that do not have a posted speed limit.

Photo by Mechel Meek



Bennet talks and listens in Alamosa

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Surrounded by parents, the superintendent and assistant superintendent of Alamosa School District, Alamosa Mayor Ty Coleman, the Director of Human Resources for Alamosa County Myra McKibbin, staff associated with the Boys and Girls Club of the San Luis Valley and local residents interested in learning more about the program, Senator Michael Bennet (D) hosted a roundtable discussion on Thursday morning, Sept. 9, to hear how the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) is benefiting families in Alamosa.

Held at the Friends Pavilion, Bennet opened the discussion by setting the context of how childhood

poverty in the United States ranks in comparison to other nations in the world and highlighting the benefits he has been hearing since the expanded Child Tax Credit took effect in July.

"Out of 41 developed nations in the world, the United States ranks 38th in the numbers of children impacted by childhood poverty," Bennet said. "But since July, these payments have helped an overwhelming majority of parents afford things like childcare, groceries, school supplies and other necessary expenses."

Please see BENNET on Page 10A

Sen. Michael Bennet listens to ASD Asst Supt Luis Murillo at Thursday's CTC roundtable in Alamosa.

Photo by Priscilla Waggoner



Saguache County Tax Bills Due

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The Saguache County Treasurer's Office will begin advertising for delinquent taxes on Oct. 7. To avoid extra fees from advertising, landowners of real property and minerals need to pay their taxes by Sept. 20 by 4 p.m.

According to Saguache County Treasurer Connie Trujillo, "You may mail your check, pay in person or pay online on the County website under the Treasurer's link."

The annual tax lien auction will be held on Nov. 1-3. The sale of real property will only be held online, and sales of mobile homes and minerals will be held at the Treasurer's office at 10 a.m. on Nov. 3.

D Mountain Park and Rec District meeting is Sept. 28

DEL NORTE — The D Mountain Park and Recreation District is having a public meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Rio Grande County Annex Building, 965 Sixth St., Del Norte, to hear people's views on building an indoor recreation center in Del Norte.

DMountainParkandRecreation District has hired consultants Ballard*King and Associates to conduct a feasibility study. Public input is critical to the success of the process, D Mountain Park and Recreation District officials stated.

Music in the Park concludes Sept. 19 in Creede

CREEDE — The Creede Arts Council Music in the Park program at Basham Park will conclude on Sunday, Sept. 19, from 2-4 p.m. with musician Bruce Hayes. Bruce Hayes plays rhythm and Celticgrass music, a fusion of musical styles that combines acoustic and electric instrumentation with elements of rock, bluegrass, celtic, and R&B music.

Collaborating with The String Cheese Incident and Acoustic Junction, Hayes helped define the acoustic jam band sound. He continues this tradition performing original songs and arrangements on mandolin, guitar, dobro, foot board and his latest creation, the stratobassto.

For more information, visit online.creedeartsCouncil.com.

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OBITUARIES

Ken G. 'Bunky' Arnett

Longtime Monte Vista resident Ken G. "Bunky" Arnett, 81, died July 17, 2021, at the San Luis Care Center in Alamosa.

Ken was born in Alamosa, Colo., on April 13, 1940, to Kenneth and Emma Becker Arnett. He married Mary Ann Carpenter on May 21, 1966, and they enjoyed 55 years together.

Bunky loved cruising in the evenings looking at wildlife and checking his stock around the refuge. He also enjoyed going to the cabin, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling and telling jokes. He had a passion for always helping people. He and Mary Ann owned and operated Monte Vista Auto Parts for 47 years.

He is survived by his wife Mary Ann Arnett of Monte Vista; his children Christi (Manuel Perez), Gary (Traci) Arnett of Durango, Robert (Candice) Arnett of Lakewood, Finnley Arnett, Ariel (Dion) Fuentes, Janine (JP) Jiron, Charlotte, Jariah, Rayne, Camilo; his sisters Margaret (Bill) McGaffin of Nevada, Barbara (Frank) Potts of Denver. In-laws Virginia Depriest, Betty Carpenter, Don (Billie) Carpenter, Larry (Connie) Carpenter, Carolyn (Charles) Gustafson, Teresa Harrison, Vicki (Art) Jones; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Bunky is preceded in death by his parents Kenneth and Emma Arnett, his in-laws LT and Alice Carpenter, Warren Carpenter, Leland Depriest,



Harold and Isla Crawford, Galen Harrison and many of his buddies.

Cremation was chosen and a Celebration of Life will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Monte Vista Elks Lodge on Saturday, Sept. 18. Contributions in his memory may be made to National Rifle Association at <https://donate.nra.org/donate>, The B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge No. 2456, 121 Washington St, Monte Vista, CO 81144, or to the Rio Grande Headwater Land Trust at <https://riograndelandtrust.kindful.com/>.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes, words of comfort and remarks for Bunky's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

David Samuel Nickerson April 10, 1927-Aug. 21, 2021

David Samuel "Sam" Nickerson, 94, a 30-year resident of South Fork, Colo., passed away Aug. 21, 2021, in Manchaca, Texas.

Born in Kingsley, Mich., Sam was passionate about education, working 40 years in elementary education in Corpus Christi, Texas, first as a classroom teacher, then as a principal.

He moved to South Fork, Colo., in 1990, to the land he bought from his brother Nick.

He raised hay, trained horses, learned to downhill ski, hunted elk, hiked, line danced, ran for public office, was active in the Kiwanis Club, fished, and rafted regularly. He and Ann, along with Nick and his wife Ellie, loved Creede Repertory Theatre, and the annual mushroom foray in Creede. Sam, a member of the 7th Cavalry reenactors, led the charge to honor Colonel Pfeiffer's gravesite, located on County Road 15.

A family man as well as an outdoorsman, he loved including even his youngest children and grandchildren in his outdoor adventures.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Ann, his sons AJ and Mark, and five siblings.

He leaves his daughter, Lucy Nickerson Frost, his stepson Mark



Applewhite and his wife Judy, stepdaughter Lane Hissong and husband Keith, grandchildren Hannah Overton and husband Larry, Michael Nickerson, Amy Applewhite, David Nickerson and wife Sarah, Ben Applewhite and wife Devin, Nate Saenz and wife Ashley, and Max Frost. He also leaves 15 great-grandchildren and a host of extended family and friends. He will be greatly missed by all.

A Celebration of Life and scattering of ashes will be held in the South Fork area at a date to be determined.

The family asks: To honor Sam's memory, spend some time in nature. And take a kid with you.

Mary Virginia Sessums

Mary Virginia Sessums, 87 of Thornton, Colo., passed away Aug. 30, 2021. She was born May 7, 1934, to Robert and Ray Sproul of Eldorado, Texas.

Mary graduated from Eldorado High School and attended San Angelo Junior College. She married Robert Sessums of San Angelo, Texas, and raised three children on the family farm in Monte Vista, Colo.

Mary is survived by her children Steve (Gloria) Sessums of Sand Point, Idaho; Hunter (Carol) Sessums of Monte Vista,

Colo.; Leslie (Eric) Packer of Eagle, Colo.; her grandson Logan Sessums of Grand Junction, Colo.; her sister Bette Allen of San Antonio, Texas, and her brother Carroll Sproul of Eldorado, Texas.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Robert; her granddaughter Larissa Sessums; her brother Robert Sproul and her sister Jean Hunnicutt.

Graveside services will be held on Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021, at Fairmount Cemetery in San Angelo, Texas.



SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between Sept. 6 and 12, 2021.

The Sheriff's Department's activity on the road included 13 traffic stops, one traffic complaint, four abandoned vehicles, one hit and run, and one stolen vehicle. They also assisted with one lockout, assisted with ambulances nine times, assisted motorists six times, patrolled the Town of Saguache seven times and the Town of Crestone four times, and conducted two VIN inspections.

In addition, there were six civil dispute reports, four reports of

suspicious activity, two reports of harassment, three alarm reports, eight animal problem reports, two reports of assault, one missing person report, one theft report, two welfare checks, two citizen assists, one lost property report, one noise complaint report, one utility problem report, one juvenile problem report, one mental subject report and one property damage report.

They also monitored five controlled burns, provided information 10 times, assisted with two search and rescue calls, and two warrant checks.

Arrests

• 45-year-old Moffat man, DUI

alcohol, drugs or both, operated uninsured motor vehicle on public road.

• 45-year-old Center man, warrants Chaffee County.

• 23-year-old Center man, second-degree burglary, theft \$2,000 to \$5,999, harassment.

• 23-year-old Cuba, N.M., man, warrant Alamosa County.

• 37-year-old Center man, warrant Saguache County.

• 48-year-old Erie man, DUI alcohol, drugs or both, failure to drive in designated lane.

• 28-year-old Millersberg, Ohio, woman, third-degree assault, child abuse, domestic violence.

• 38-year-old Center man, probation hold.

VFW Scholarship Program honors local students

STAFF REPORT

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The Veterans of Foreign War Posts and Auxiliaries of District 7 recently announced the winners of the 2020-21 "Voice of Democracy" essays.

VFW Auxiliary 8121 had four winners. Each student received a certificate of participation and money.

The theme was "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?" The first-place winner was Sargent High School senior Caleb U. Rabon. He received \$100. The second-place winner was Del Norte High School senior Soren K. Wheeler Bailey. She received \$50. The third-place winner was Sargent High School senior Autumn L. Yocom. She received \$25. The fourth-place winner was Sargent High School senior Christopher Brandt. He received \$15.

For the Patriots Pens Essay in the middle schools, there were no local

entries.

"VFW and its Auxiliaries would like to encourage high school and middle school students to participate in our scholarship programs," local officials stated. "These essays are open to public, private and parochial schools and home-schooled students."

VFW will be going to schools at the beginning of the school year with posters and entry forms. The 2021-22 theme for Voice of Democracy is "America: Where Do We Go From Here?" And the theme for Patriots Pen is "How Can I Be A Good American?"

"Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliaries would like to thank all of the winners and all the participants who entered these scholarship programs. And a special thanks to the teachers for encouraging the students," officials stated.

For more information, contact Peggy Martinez, chairman Auxiliary

8121 Del Norte/South Fork, at 719-850-3066; Nadia Florez, chairman Auxiliary 899 Alamosa, at 719-580-4949; or Sharon Chavez, chairman Auxiliary 4849 Antonito, at 719-580-2217.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

California friends

This past week Miss Trixie had the pleasure of entertaining a load of her friends from the land of fruits and nuts — California.

These are friends from when Trixie used to travel the world and they all hung out together and took on the moniker of “dirt bag” friends.

Dirtbag, for all you who don't know, is an honorary term coined by Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard to describe early day rock climbers in Yosemite National Park. They are people who loved rock climbing so much, they'd use dirt as their sleeping bag. Or they smell like dirt. It's all basically the same.

And while that still doesn't sound too nifty to Ol' Dutch it seems it's more about a lifestyle of free living, traveling for great adventures, couch surfing when necessary but having the time of their lives. So, it can't be all bad. I mean they did appear to be well-showered when they were here, at least. And Miss Trixie takes enough showers for four grown people so it's not about the dirt, I guess.

They are a great bunch and love to hike, climb, bike, ski and travel together. You can find them in Rockefeller accommodations in pup tents or on a rock ledge and they are comfortable, no matter what. I envy them that ability as the last time Ol' Dutch thought about camping out was when the Boy Scouts invited me along to some Jamboree in the woods.

Filthy facilities, outhouses full of flies, crappy food and no showers pretty much dealt me out of being a member of that organization but that lack of wanting to live off the land so to speak did keep me safe from lawsuits about sexual harassment, too.

So anyway, last Friday, saw Miss Trixie working her magic and taking them all to Creede to see the sights and take a ride up Bachelor Loop. But as luck would have it Ol' Dutch somehow found an elk to harvest and so the day became a whirlwind of activity trying to get the meat out of the forest. Miss Trixie offered to let them shop in Creede but all of them opted for the “adventure” of dragging out a dead animal from the forest.

None of them had ever been around that before and arriving on the scene some hours later, they were treated to the sight of boned out meat hanging from Spruce trees everywhere. They said it looked like a bomb had gone off scattering elk all over hell's half acre.



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

Ol' Dutch was pretty much spent by the time they finally found me in the forest. It was hot, dry and cutting up a huge animal by yourself is no job for the weak. Thanks to the dirtbags and a last-minute save by our friend MoonDoggy, we got every piece of meat off the mountain and in a big cooler to age. This week, we'll be packaging up the scrumptious steaks and burgers for our winter larder.

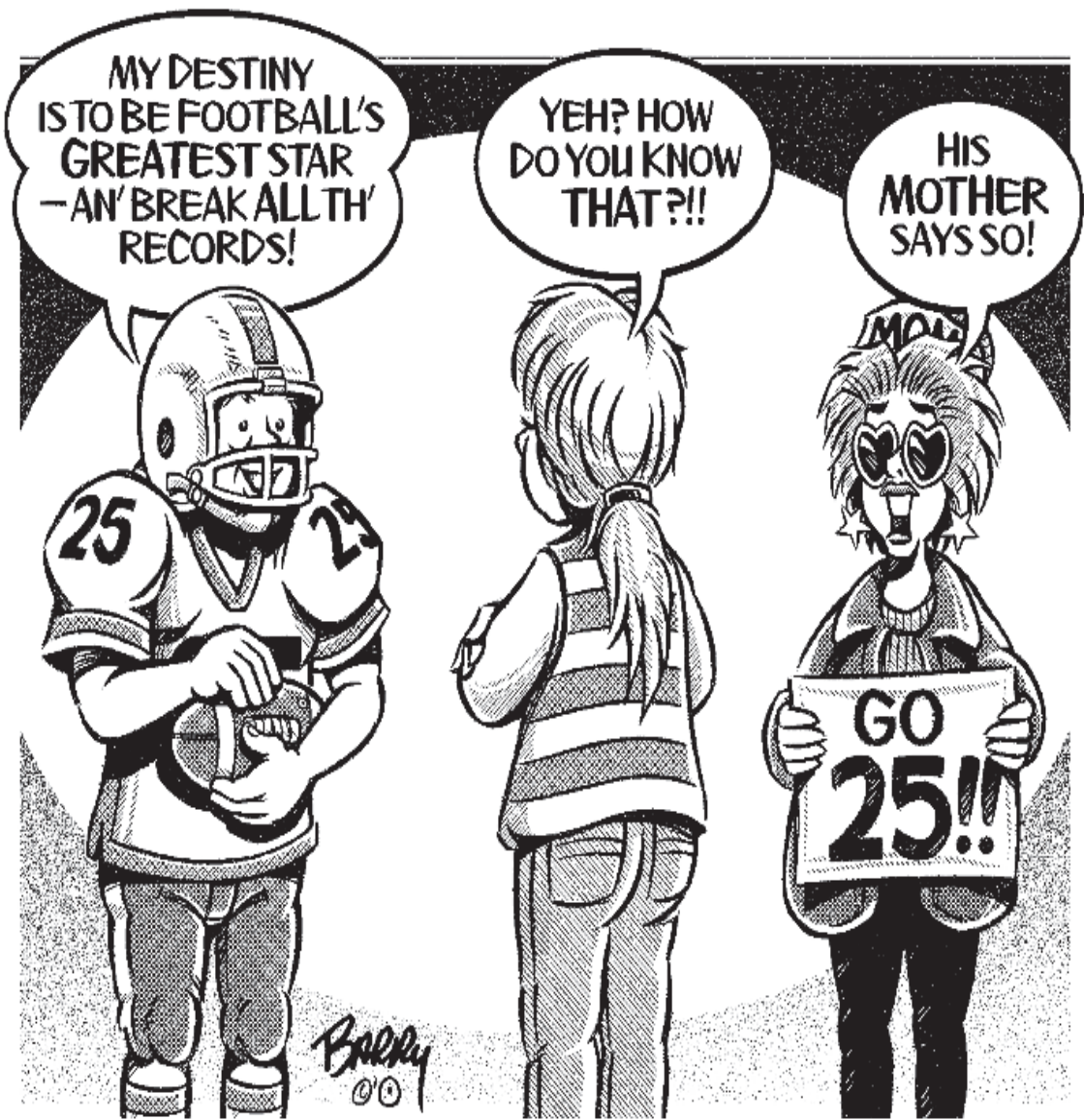
All that is left to do is find a big, fat, ole bear to go into the freezer, too, and we will be set for our yearly meat supply once again. One did walk by this past week and his actions pretty much answered the age-old question “does a bear poop in the woods” as he did his duty within sight of Ol' Dutch.

My number one son Bubs along with his wife Tinkerbelle and two of the cutest grandkids ever are coming out to hunt this week so it will be a great time and guaranteed to generate a column, or two.

On a lighter note, famous musician and singer-songwriter Dallas Holm will be giving a concert at The Chapel of the South Fork on Sept. 18 at 6 p.m. You will not want to miss out on this special event and the cost of admission is free. You can't beat that with a big stick.

I am not sure Ol' Dutch will make it as I may still be out in the woods seeing if bears do poop there. But come on out and enjoy the time. I am certain Miss Trixie will be there and would love to meet one and all who show.

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



YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

Cassiopeia the Queen

We're finally getting some clear nights to look at our beautiful sky. It's been too windy to set up my telescope, but I can still go out and enjoy looking at the Milky Way. What do you see when you look at the northeast? Cassiopeia the Queen, of course. It's currently about half-way up the sky and hard to miss the five-star W or M depending on the time of year you're looking at it. Currently it's sideways with the bottom of the W pointing to the right.

Cassiopeia never goes out of the sky since it circles around the North Star Polaris. Even though the full moon is on Sept. 20, Cassiopeia is bright enough to be visible even with a bright moon. Although this constellation only looks like a W or M, she has a long history of being a Queen. She was a queen in ancient Greek mythology, and she got into trouble for boasting that she was more beautiful than the Nereids, the daughters of the Sea God Poseidon.

Her boast angered Poseidon who sent a Sea Monster Cetus to ravage the kingdom. To pacify the monster,

her daughter Princess Andromeda was left tied to a rock by the sea. Andromeda volunteered to do that to protect her country. Cetus was about to devour her when Perseus the Hero looked down upon her from Pegasus the Flying Horse. Perseus rescued the princess and they lived happily ever after.

The gods were so pleased that all these characters were elevated to the heavens and stars. Only Cassiopeia suffered an indignity. Her vanity caused her to be bound to a chair placed in the heavens so that as she revolves around the north celestial pole (Polaris) she is sometimes upside down.

Perseus is the constellation just below Cassiopeia, and the Andromeda constellation is to the right of Cassiopeia. The Andromeda galaxy sits just at the top of the Andromeda constellation and is wonderful to observe. It's the only galaxy that we can see with the naked eye.

There are several open star clusters in Cassiopeia that can be seen with binoculars. Currently the upper part of the sideways W is pointing to M 52, which is slightly to the upper left of Cassiopeia. With binoculars you should be able to see at least eight clusters in Cassiopeia. Then the bottom of the upper part of the W points over to the Andromeda galaxy on the right.

So go out and see what you can find around the Queen. Don't forget to give your eyes about 15 minutes to adapt to the darkness. Then you'll be amazed at how many things you can see. Even just 5 minutes will make many more things visible and the Milky Way will begin to shine brightly.



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Healing images speak a language people of the Valley understand

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Over the last 18-plus months, professionals in the health community have reached out to engage with the public perhaps more than anyone can recall in recent memory. Messages on billboards. Articles in local newspapers. Catchy phrases that can be easily remembered. All created to communicate key information related to people's health.

Now, the Colorado Area Health Education Center (COAHEC) in association with the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center has envisioned a unique way of speaking to people. Remember the phrase "a picture speaks a thousand words?"

Yeah. That. In communities throughout Colorado, COAHEC is commissioning the creation of "informative and beautiful murals" bearing health-related messages. But the organization is going one step further. Instead of a one-mural-fits-all approach, they are seeking to "speak" in a language people identify with and understand, a powerful, evocative, visual language that culturally resonates with who people are and reflects the specific community where those people live.

And they're using the hands and imaginations of exceptionally talented, local artists to do it.

"The dovetailing between art and medicine... speaks to traditions of healing that are deeply imbedded in unique cultures and helps western medicine and cultural healing to not only co-exist but to become one," the website says.

The woman behind the work

When sculptor, painter and designer Bianca Maestas says she has "always had art in her life," she's not exaggerating. Born in San Luis into a family of well-known artists, Bianca's earliest memories are of, as a baby, being placed beneath a pottery wheel, hearing it turn and smelling the clay. She remembers hearing her father teach a class on color theory when she couldn't have been more than 3 years old. At the age of 12 years old, she was already working alongside her father in his foundry.

"By the time I was doing my own artwork," Maestas says, "it wasn't something I had to really even learn. It was almost like a muscle memory in my hands."

If there is a case to be made for the power of both nature and nurture in influencing who people become, Maestas is it. But this native of the San Luis Valley is much more than a sum total of her genes and early immersion into the world of art. The land where

she grew up also played, and continues to play, a significant role in her work.

"I was always around art, but I was also around a lot of farming," she says. "My grandmother was an amazing gardener, and I grew up knowing all the herbs and eating healthy food that came from the earth. There's a lot of history here. That's why I like the Lady of Guadalupe — not in a religious sense but because she reminds me of my grandma. When I think of her and this area, I think of healing plants. Healing plants portray the Valley to me."

And the harmony of those elements — her inherent understanding of color that can be seen in her painting, her sense of space that comes from sculpting and her history of a personal connection to healing plants reminiscent of her grandmother — run throughout the vibrant, engaging mural Maestas was commissioned to create on the walls of the AHEC building on Ross Street in Alamosa.

The project was truly collective with several community meetings held where people were asked what colors they wanted to use and what symbols they wanted to see in the mural. Bianca also collaborated with COAHEC and incorporated their medical messaging into the design.

But, at the organic level, the mural embraces what Maestas sees as symbolic of the SLV.

"I wanted to portray those medicinal plants that grow here — herbs and flowers," Maestas says. "And, of course, the medicine wheel. I also know a lot of people who are healers and used a photograph of a friend who practices healing."

Her overall concept of "old medicine and new medicine" is not only reflective of the marriage between traditional healing and western medicine but something that she has witnessed growing up in San Luis.

"I'm definitely a believer in science and modern medicine," she says, "But it always comes back to drinking the teas and using the herbs that keep people alive. It really is...like a circle. And there were so many different ways to represent that."

The project was funded with money from COVID relief, requiring images related to COVID be part of the mural. It was a requirement Bianca endorsed. The pandemic is a historic event. Also, a significant loss her family suffered likely because of the virus, made it personally imperative. And, so, she did it in her own way.

"I wanted it to be easy on the eyes. Easy on the spirit," she says.



Courtesy photos

Bianca Maestas was commissioned to create the colorful mural on the walls of the AHEC building on Ross Street in Alamosa.

The mural, which covers all four walls of the building, was completed after 10 days of intense work, thanks to help from a small, diverse group of locals who stopped by and contributed their time.

When asked how the whole project came together so quickly and still resulted in a mural that is genuinely "informative and beautiful" and born of her own imagination, Bianca thinks for a moment before answering. "I had a vision of what I wanted to do and then...I just let my hands take over."

Due to concerns related to COVID, the ribbon cutting ceremony has been postponed until further notice with more information coming. In the meantime, the mural can be seen at SLV AHEC located at 300 Ross Ave. in Alamosa.

Maestas wishes to express her deepest gratitude to Leslie Minnis of Taos, her niece, Soleil Maestas, Jeremiah Benton, Augustina Briones, Davion Fisher, and Roy and Jaydan Sanchez who contributed their time and energy



to helping complete the mural. She also thanked COAHEC and SLV AHEC who made the project possible.

Her other works can be seen on Instagram @bianca_sketchgarden or her website www.biancamaestas.com

To learn more about the mural project, go to murals-overview.pdf (cuanschutz.edu).

This project was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$190,910 with 50 percent funded by HRSA/HHS.

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Tuesdays and Wednesdays the month of October

San Luis and Rio Grande Railroad may go to auction

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

SAN LUIS VALLEY — For almost 150 years, the San Luis and Rio Grande Railroad has served the San Luis Valley first coming to Alamosa over La Veta Pass in 1878.

When the railroad hit the San Luis Valley floor for the first time, the Valley was in the first stages of becoming what it is today. Businesses flourished, mines at the western end

of the Valley boomed and the lumber trade brought places like South Fork to the peak of its economic prime in the 19th century.

Now, nearly 150 years down the road, or track to be more specific, the San Luis and Rio Grande Railroad is experiencing a new challenge — possible extinction. According to reports coming from the bankruptcy courts, the railroad will be up for sale

in a matter of weeks. The line went bankrupt earlier last year. It has been tied up in court and may be sold to the highest bidder.

“We received notice from the bankruptcy trustee about a motion to be heard in front of a bankruptcy judge and that they are talking about going to auction on the San Luis and Rio Grande Railroad later in July,” stated Noffsfer. County Attorney Ryan Dunn stated that the trustee had begun soliciting bids for the line as of June 18.

Noffsfer has taken the lead on the railroad issue and has kept up to date with the proceedings after the line filed for bankruptcy. During a November meeting, Noffsfer announced the bankruptcy of the

line stating, “The Rio Grande Scenic Railroad is in receivership. Ed Eillis has been fired and they have shut down the excursion train. We have done an analysis as best we could and the economic impact on the Valley from not having the train is huge. Right now, it is in federal bankruptcy court and there is a lot of technical things going on. At the end of the day, we are hoping to get to have a chance in court because this railroad owes close to \$2 million in property taxes in several counties.”

Now according to sources, there may be a potential buyer and the line may yet be saved. The railroad has been important to commerce in the San Luis Valley and as a draw for

tourism and the loss of the line would be felt in all communities.

Several counties signed a movant in July of 2020 to show solidarity to the bankruptcy courts and only time will tell if it was successful. A movant is an individual or group of entities that make a motion before a court and ask the judge to decide in their favor or after considering all needs before deciding.

“We basically want to the best interest of the public and their needs to be heard by the judge before a decision is made. There are people here and in surrounding communities who rely heavily on the railroad for commerce and even tourism for economic growth and stabilization,” said Noffsfer.

SLV Health mandates COVID-19 vaccines for employees

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — San Luis Valley Health announced Tuesday, Aug. 31, it will require all employees, providers, volunteers, and partners to be vaccinated for COVID-19 by Oct. 31.

The vaccine mandate will increase safety for all patients, visitors, and care team members, helping protect them from COVID-19, SLV Health stated in a press release.

“Vaccines are essential in the fight against COVID-19,” Carmelo Hernandez, Chief Medical Officer at San Luis Valley Health, said in a statement. “With safe and effective vaccines widely available, the decision for all of our staff to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 affirms our commitment to the safety and care for our team members and

for those we serve.”

San Luis Valley Health joins a growing number of employers across Colorado and the nation to require COVID vaccines for their staff.

On Monday, Aug. 30, the Colorado Board of Health, Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE), announced a statewide COVID-19 vaccination mandate of all employees, direct contractors, and support staff at 3,800 licensed health care facilities.

“We know that vaccinations will also improve the health and safety with the communities that SLVH serves, and we want to set an example and help bring an end to this pandemic. SLV Health will continue to maintain all measures to maximize the safety of our staff and protection of our patients,” stated Hernandez.

Temporary closure for the Poage Lake area on Divide Ranger District

STAFF REPORT

DEL NORTE — The Rio Grande National Forest’s Divide Ranger District announced Tuesday, Sept. 14, that an area closure around Poage Lake would go into effect immediately.

The closure is needed to provide for public safety during logging operations, according to RGNF.

The closure affects the area adjacent to the north and east sides of Poage Lake including the road up to the parking area.

This is a full-area closure which means both being on the road or in the restricted area are prohibited.


“This closure is necessary to keep the public safe while logging operations harvest the dead trees from areas adjacent to the lake,” said Martha Williamson, the Divide Ranger District’s district ranger. “The

heavy logging equipment used can be very dangerous to people unfamiliar with those operations. It is best to allow the operator to conduct the activities more safely and efficiently, without the risk of unsuspecting visitors in the area.”

The district is pleased to be making progress towards removing dead trees, despite the short-term impact on recreation at the lake. Nearby fishing opportunities include Beaver Creek and Million Reservoirs.

The operator will begin logging immediately and plans to finish in the area by the end of the year. Should the operations be completed earlier, officials will evaluate the closure order and rescind it, if it is deemed safe to do so.

For information on the closure, call the Divide Ranger District at 719-850-2374.



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Child (6-12)	\$379	\$473	
Tot (5 & under)	\$53	\$66	


SUPERSAVER PASSES		-41 Blackout Dates-	
	Pre-Season Rate	Regular Rate	
Adult	\$723	\$903	
Senior (65 & older)	\$318	\$397	
Student (13-18 in school)	\$558	\$697	
Child (6-12)	\$285	\$356	
Tot (5 & under)	\$41	\$50	

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Football

Centauri 45	Pagosa Springs 13
Alamosa 42	La Junta 6
Sanford 74	Simla 50
Las Animas	20 Sargent 6
Mountain Valley 37	Cotopaxi 25
Sierra Grande 80	La Veta 6
Peyton 14	Center 8
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4-H Creative Cooks contest winner is Grand Champion at State Fair

BY LYNDSIE FERRELL
MONTE VISTA — When Aubrey Pargin was younger, one of her favorite past times with the local 4-H was the Creative Cooks Contest and after working with 4-H members, Pargin thought it was time to bring the contest back and the results were nothing short of delicious.

This year the Creative Cooks Contest took place during the San Luis Valley Fair at the end of August and there were several participants.

The contest was open to any 4-H members wanting to try their talents at creating worldly dishes and table displays for the judges.

Each participant was asked to create a menu that needs to include flavor, color, texture, shape and nutrition details. After the menu was complete, participants created one dish off of their

menu and set the table with intricate displays that highlighted their dish.

“What really inspired me to start this contest again was that I realized the power of bringing people together around a table of great food and the fun and creativity possible when you prepare dishes to gather people together. It was a wonderful way to inspire hospitality in the next generation,” Pargin said.

Each menu needed to be balanced and include the essential food groups as a way to educate people on the benefits of healthy eating. 4-H members were judged on a list of requirements and the winners advanced to test their skill at the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo, Colo.

Participants were also required to learn about food safety, including cooking temperatures and how to display their meals in unique table settings.

This year featured dishes from country café cooking to one student who chose to do a Thanksgiving theme.

Each youth that participated enjoyed



Kix Rizzi and Kyra Griffin were two of the three 4-H Creative Cooks to advance to the Colorado State Fair this fall for the 4-H Creative Cook Contest. Griffin was the overall Grande Champion.

Courtesy photos

Fall Festival and Quilt Show is Sept. 18

STAFF REPORT
SAGUACHE — The Saguache Chamber of Commerce is busy preparing for the 28th Annual Fall Festival and Quilt Show. The event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 18, in Otto Mears Park.

The Saguache Sagebrush Quilters will be inside the Community Building at the same location, 525 7th St. in Saguache.

Live entertainment has been assembled starting at 10 a.m. and continuing until 3 p.m. — Andy Hackbarth, Dusty Mountain Boys, Ahgadaze and featuring Sandy Wells.

The Salida Circus will be on hand along with vendors from all over the San Luis Valley. The Saguache Volunteer Fire Department will be selling food and beer.

View the winners of the Saguache Photo Competition at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall on the corner of 6th Street and Christy Avenue starting at 9 a.m.

People can make a bid on items offered in the silent auction inside the Community Building.

This is the only fundraiser the Chamber has each year. The park opens at 9 a.m.

the contest and was looking forward to next year, according to Pargin.

Three SLV 4-H members moved on to the state fair, including Kix Rizzi who

did a safari theme and made a pineapple cheesecake for the contest.

Kyra Griffin was a Grand Champion and Cooks Choice award winner at the

Colorado State Fair.

Rorie Tillman qualified for the state fair and exhibited in the Creative Cooks Contest at the State Fair.



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2nd Annual Steamroller Printmaking Event is Sept. 18



STAFF REPORT

CREEDE — The 2nd Annual Steamroller Printmaking Event is on Sept. 18. It is hosted by the Creede Arts Council, a non-profit organization in Creede.

This event takes place outdoors on Main Street in Creede during the Crusin' the Canyon Car Show.

“Our goal is to fulfill our mission to promote the arts and humanities in our community through education, exhibition and performance and to foster local artistic talent,” CAC officials stated.

The event will take place at the intersection of North 1st Street and North Main Street from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Artists have created and carved woodblocks of their own original design. The day of the event, with volunteers from the Creede Arts Council, the artists and the community, the boards are inked by hand, placed on the street with paper placed over the boards where a steamroller (road-bed compactor) will roll over them pressing the paper onto the board.

“The resulting outcome is a colossal fine art print,” CAC



officials stated.

All works will be offered for sale the day of the event with 50% going to the artist and 50% to support the Creede Arts Council programs. Artists will be present on the day of the event to discuss their work and be a part of the

live printing.

Images included are of the prints in process. Final artwork will be printed on archival paper and will be for sale the day of the event.

“We thank our generous sponsors for supporting the Creede Arts Council and in return we ask you

to support them: Quiller Gallery, Creede Hotel & Restaurant, Del Norte Bank, Chuck and Kay Harbert and El Pomar Foundation,” CAC officials stated.

The Creede Arts Council will be following CDC guidelines for COVID on the day of the event.

Date of Notice: September 10, 2021

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN TARIFFS ON LESS THAN 30-DAYS' NOTICE

Atmos Energy Corporation (“Atmos Energy”)
1555 Blake Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

You are hereby notified that Atmos Energy has filed with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission of the State of Colorado (“PUC”), in compliance with the Public Utilities Law, an application for permission to file certain changes in tariffs, affecting all residential, commercial, interruptible and other consumers in its Colorado divisions to become effective October 1, 2021, if the application is granted by the PUC.

The purpose for this filing is to change rates by revising the Company’s existing gas cost adjustment tariff to reflect changes in the rates charged Atmos Energy by its suppliers for natural gas purchases. The present and proposed natural gas rates are as follows:

<u>Class of Service by Division</u>	<u>Present Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates¹</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
	<u>Total Volumetric</u>	<u>Total Volumetric</u>	
North Colorado*			
Residential	\$0.70527	\$0.84286	20%
Small Commercial, Commercial	\$0.59327	\$0.73086	23%
Irrigation	\$0.57866	\$0.71625	24%
Transportation	\$0.13817	\$0.13795	0%
	<u>Average Monthly</u>	<u>Bill Projected Average</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
		<u>Monthly Bill</u>	
North Colorado*			
Residential	\$55.53	\$64.06	15%
Small Commercial, Commercial	\$253.74	\$05.89	21%
Irrigation	\$237.84	\$283.80	19%
	<u>Prior Year's Peak</u>	<u>Projected Peak</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
	<u>Month Bill</u>	<u>Month Bill</u>	
North Colorado*			
Residential	\$103.49	\$121.37	17%
Small Commercial, Commercial	\$491.64	\$598.96	22%
Irrigation	\$757.48	\$926.99	22%

*Notification Published in our North Rate Area Newspaper

The proposed and present rates and tariffs are available for examination at the business office of Atmos Energy Corporation located at 1555 Blake Street, Suite 400, Denver, Colorado, or at the Public Utilities Commission at 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, Colorado, 80202.

Anyone who desires may either file written objection or seek to intervene as a party in this filing. If you only wish to object to the proposed action, you may file a written objection with the Commission. The filing of a written objection by itself will not allow you to participate as a party in any proceeding on the proposed action. If you wish to participate as a party in this matter, you must file written intervention documents under the Commission’s rules.

Anyone who desires to file written objection or written intervention documents to the proposed action shall file them with the PUC, 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, Colorado, 80202 at least one day before the proposed effective date.

Members of the public may attend any hearing and may make a statement under oath about the proposed change whether or not a written objection or request to intervene has been filed.

Atmos Energy Corporation has filed a separate gas purchase report in accordance with Rule 4607 of the Commission’s Rules Regulating Gas Utilities and Pipeline Operators to begin the initial prudence review evaluation for the gas purchase year ended June 30, 2021.

Atmos Energy Corporation
Colorado-Kansas Division
By: Bart W. Armstrong, \\
President

Mineral County SAR assists on 12-hour rescue of injured hunter

BY LYNSIE FERRELL
MINERAL COUNTY — According to Mineral County Search and Rescue (SAR) Director Terri Wetherill, the team spent 12 hours on Sunday, Sept. 12, rescuing a hunter that was thrown from his horse and sustained potential severe injuries.

“Mineral County SAR coordinated with Upper San Juan (USJ) SAR (Archuleta County) to get an injured hunter out of the backcountry up the West Fork of the San Juan River,” Wetherill said. “The hunter had been thrown from his horse and sustained a potential broken back and significant head injuries.

We utilized both Flight for Life (FFL) and the High-Altitude Air National Guard Aviation Training Site (HAATS) to complete the mission successfully. Initially, FFL evaluated for a landing zone in the vicinity of the patient, after determining there was no landing zone available within 1 1/2 miles down mountain from the patient, FFL then made two trips to airlift four members from the USJ SAR Team to the ridge above and about 1.5 miles from the injured hunter.”

Simultaneously Mineral County SAR commenced hiking up from Bornes Lake Ranch about 5.5 miles to support the operation. Together the two teams had 12 people in the field and additional logistical support from personnel in both counties.

“While four members were tending to the patient, the other members in the field were utilizing

hand saws and good old manual labor to cut down and clear beetle-kill trees so that there would be a landing zone available near this location as this was the second significant mission we have had here in the last three years. Both of which were successful,” Wetherill said.

The teams were able to get the patient packaged and hoisted off of the side of the mountain by a Blackhawk helicopter from the HAATS team. The Blackhawk then flew to Stevens Field in Pagosa Springs and turned the patient over to the FFL helicopter, which was more equipped for advanced medical patient care, and then flew the patient to Mercy Regional Medical Center in Durango.

In addition to the rescue, Mineral County SAR has been working to delegate the money recently donated to them by the Friends of Mineral County Emergency Service and have dedicated \$10,000 to the future Emergency Services Building Fund.

“We are raising money to build an Emergency Services Building which will be located just South East of the School that would house SAR equipment in addition to a Fire Engine and Ambulance which would provide some flexibility on responding to emergencies which are not in the Creede City district,” Wetherill said. “Our SAR board is working to determine the best use of the rest of the money. We will be meeting this Wednesday evening to make some final decisions. We require five more dual-band radios at a cost of \$3,000 apiece so that



Courtesy photos

Mineral County Search and Rescue aided in a 12-hour rescue mission on Sunday, Sept. 12, in the backcountry near Bornes Peak. The team helped with the extraction of a man who had suffered injuries while out hunting.

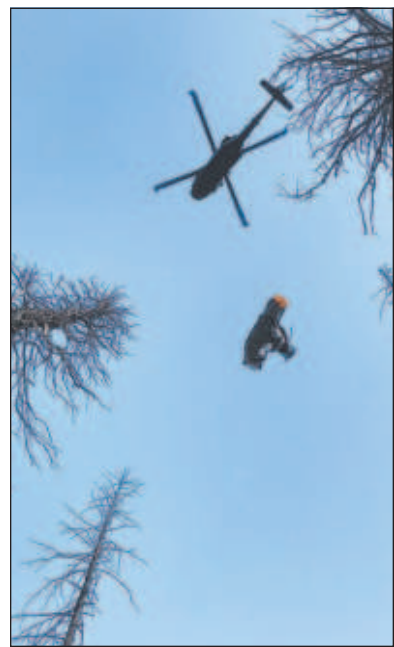
each member of the team has full communication capabilities. Our SAR vehicle is a 1997 Chevy Suburban with a very tired engine and some other issues. We are looking into having the engine refreshed and some general repairs to bring the truck up to a reliable status, that may cost about \$10,000.”

The Mineral County SAR team is also considering the purchase of a few electric bicycles and a bicycle trailer that can be converted to carry an injured adult. The advantage of the electric bicycles would be they can cover a significant amount of ground with less energy expended by the rider, that coupled with the fact SAR teams would be able to hear people calling to them especially at night, could be a game-changer when searching for

lost, stranded or injured people. The type of electric bicycle required for mountain riding costs about \$5,000.

“Our SAR Team has been very blessed with support by our community, Friends of Mineral County Emergency Services (FOMCES), Mountain Views at Rivers Edge RV Resort, Wolf Creek Ski Area, and very generous donations from a few specific individuals. This has truly enabled Mineral County SAR to better equip and train our team to respond to any and every type of SAR mission which is a big deal when you consider how much of our county is rugged backcountry,” Wetherill said.

For information on joining the Mineral County SAR team, contact Wetherill at 719-850-0515 or email at mineralcosar@gmail.com.



Rio Grande BOCC approves ‘premium pay’ for county employees

One-time payment to county staff who worked through the pandemic

BY LYNSIE FERRELL
RIO GRANDE COUNTY — During a special meeting held by the Rio Grande County Commissioners on Wednesday, Sept. 8, the board approved what is being called “premium pay” for county employees who worked through the pandemic. The vote passed with Commissioners Gene Glover and Scott Deacon voting yes and Commissioner John Noffske voting no.

The special meeting was the result of several work sessions and discussions on the topic once Rio Grande County received federal grant money to be used for several projects, current employee retention, and employee recruitment purposes. The funds are from the American Rescue Plan that was passed earlier this year and will include two payments to the county totaling just over \$2 million by the end of 2022.

Two resolutions were discussed but only one was passed at the meeting. The resolution that passed will use a portion of the grant funding received through the American Rescue Plan to give current county employees a one-time premium payment as compensation and gratitude for everyone who worked during a pandemic.

“This is something I completely

and totally support. This is federally funded grant money and not a dime comes from the county’s general fund. Our employees deserve this,” said Glover.

Previous to the resolution passing, the board and county employees discussed the premium pay and how the money should be spent throughout the county. Several department leaders voiced their opinions, stating that they felt their employees that put their health and safety at risk during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic deserved compensation for their efforts.

Commissioner Noffske said that he was not in favor of the premium pay for employees because he felt some may take advantage of the situation, get their money, and leave.

“There has to be accountability for the sake of retaining employees,” he said.

The county received previous funding through the COVID Relief Funds last year and spent the majority of funds to help small businesses who received monies through a grant created by a board. Now, with the new funding coming through, the county will use the majority to fund projects such as a new roof for the Rio Grande County Jail and other needs.

“This premium pay for employees is only a small portion of what we will be receiving and I for one, think it’s worth it. We have discussed this as much as we can and now it’s time to do something,” said Commissioner Deacon.

The resolution passed and will be implemented in the coming weeks.



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COVID

Continued from Page 1A

(third-grade class). Zero fatalities have been reported.”

Center School District was the site of the largest group of new positive tests. According to the CSD newsletter, “Center Schools continues to work in partnership with Saguache County Public Health in following the established guidelines for the state, county and public school districts. Last week, we quarantined one third grade class and the freshmen class due to several positive cases in those groups.”

Currently, the school district strongly recommends that all students and staff wear masks indoors, but it is not a requirement. There is currently no mask mandate for public schools.

According to Center School District, “As this pandemic is an ever-evolving situation, and the safety of our students and staff is our top priority, we will continuously assess the situation and respond to the medical guidance of experts.”

Mobile testing is available at the Saguache Community Building on Wednesdays from 3 to 7 p.m. Vaccination clinics are also ongoing,

in Center at the EMS Training Center on Sept. 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., in Saguache at the Community Building on Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and one to be scheduled in Crestone at the end of the month with details to be released soon.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is now recommending that people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised should receive a third dose of the mRNA version of the vaccine (either Moderna or Pfizer) after they have completed the two-dose series. This third dose should be administered at least 28 days after the completion of the first two doses.

According to Diana Herrero, Deputy Director, Division of Disease Control and Public Health Response at Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, “We have enough vaccine inventory in the state to begin administering an additional dose for these immunocompromised Coloradans.”

The vaccine is available for free to all Coloradans at any of the vaccine centers and mobile sites.

SARGENTS

Continued from Page 1A

envelope which contains the sealed bid. Bids must include proof of liability and workers’ compensation insurance coverage. Bids are to be submitted to the Saguache County Administration, 505 3rd Street, or PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 and must be submitted by Friday, Oct. 1, 2021 at 3 p.m.”

Public comment is also being requested by the County on three different wildfire mitigation programs that would use forest service funds to expand the Crestone Mountain Firewise Community, to continue the Saguache Firewise program and the E3 KFM Kundalini Fire Management.

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners is soliciting public comment on a proposal to spend Forest Service Title III funds for the following project: Crestone Mountain Zen Center, is requesting funding to be used to enhance and expand the Crestone Mountain Firewise Community.

Public comment is requested on a proposal to spend Forest Service Title III funds for the following project: Daniel S. Johnson — Saguache County Firewise Program, to continue running the Saguache County Firewise Team to do free wildfire hazard assessments, educational presentations and hands-on

mitigation projects in Saguache County.

The final program that public comment is requested on is the project: E3 KFM Kundalini Fire Management, requesting funding to continue to reduce hazardous fuels, support of the creation of a new Firewise Community, initiating local prescribed burning for lowering fire danger, increasing biodiversity, and raising the health of the land.

Firewise programs are a voluntary program that communities can join to help them reduce wildfire risk.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, “The national Firewise USA recognition program provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors in a geographic area get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community and to reduce wildfire risks at the local level.”

All written comments may be addressed to the Saguache Board of County Commissioners and are to be submitted to the Saguache County Administration office before Oct. 29 at 3 p.m. The Commissioners will be discussing these projects and any public comment during their regular monthly meeting on Nov. 2.



BENNET

Continued from Page 1A

Luis Murillo, Assistant Superintendent of ASD, mentioned similar stories, including a parent being able to pay off a family car, which frees up money to care for children, and a mother who was able to buy clothes for her children.

“My kids are really active in school, and they go to dance at a studio in town,” said Ruby Beltran, a parent and member of the SLV Early Childhood Council. “This tax credit has helped me pay for their dance shoes and other costs that are a part of extracurricular activities.”

“I’m a single parent. The child tax credit has helped me pay my rent. It’s also helped with my girls who participate in sports,” said Amberly Atencio, parent, and member of the SLV Early Childhood Council.

After suggesting that there be a stronger “educational component” for the public about how the Child Tax Credit works, Mayor Coleman spoke of the positive impact the tax credit was having on the quality of life among those who are part of the Alamosa community.

“The Child Tax Credit give families facing financial challenges the hope to move forward. It gives them the freedom to not have to choose between paying the utility bill or buying groceries,” Coleman said.

Another parent attending the roundtable discussed how the Child

Tax Credit was helpful to couples who live in an area with relatively low wages and having to choose between a second income and one of the parents foregoing a job because they could not afford childcare — a dilemma experienced by families that could be considered middle class.

The roundtable was interactive with participants asking questions about the source of funding for the Child Tax Credit — which was part of President Joe Biden’s American Rescue Plan — or the likelihood of it being extended past tax year 2021 — which Bennet suggested was likely if the reconciliation bill passes. Bennet answered each question, occasionally making notes of suggestions offered concerning education and access online.

Sherri Valdez, moderator of the roundtable and Executive Director of the Early Childhood Council San Luis Valley, weighed in.

“The Child Tax Credit provides a historic investment in working families,” she said. “As the director of a local non-profit organization, we work with over 200 children and their families each year that live in poverty or have additional risk factors for optimal child development and school readiness. The Child Tax Credit is helping our families cover the cost of childcare, groceries, and housing, alleviating some of the stress they

experience and helping them access basic needs and additional services. Legislation making the increased Child Tax Credit permanent would be a game changer for Colorado kids and families.”

Bennet closed the roundtable on an optimistic note.

“As we saw here in Alamosa, the expanded Child Tax Credit is already making a huge difference in the lives of families in Colorado and boosting incomes. I’ll take the stories I heard today back with me to Washington next week as we work to lock in this tax credit expansion for years to come,” Bennet said.

Sen. Bennet has championed the expansion of the CTC for years. In

March 2021, President Biden signed into law a one-year expansion of the CTC, based on Bennet’s American Family Act, in the American Rescue Plan Act.

This expansion has the potential to cut nationwide child poverty nearly in half this year and benefit 90% of American children.

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau released in August found economic hardship declined in households with children following the first payments of the expanded CTC in July. The data also shows food insufficiency dropped in households with children.

In his American Families Plan, Biden proposed permanent full refundability of the CTC, as

well as extending the enhanced CTC value and monthly payments through 2025. The president also committed to working with Congress to make the full, expanded CTC permanent. Bennet and his colleagues continue to push for a permanent expansion of the Child Tax Credit in the Build Back Better package.

Whether in DC and hosting an event online, having call-in town halls or meeting with parents and local leaders in Colorado while the Senate has been on recess, Sen. Bennet has spent a significant amount of time holding similar conversations and discussions as the expanded Child Tax Credit becomes a reality, for however long, in the lives of Colorado families.

Free from Every Fear You Face

It’s amazing how many things people can be afraid of. There’s the fear of sickness, job loss, failure, commitment, and public speaking. Some people are afraid of things like taking tests, swimming, animals, insects, heights or even what the future holds—and the list goes on!

Whatever the fear may be, it’s important to know that it does not come from God. In fact, fear is one of the primary weapons Satan uses to keep people from fulfilling God’s destiny for their lives.

So I ask you: *What are you afraid of today?* Is there a situation or circumstance that threatens to overwhelm you? Is something stealing your peace and causing you to worry? If so, I want to encourage you to know that God sees you, He loves you, and He wants you to trust Him to help you!

First John 4:18 says, “There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear...” (NIV). Understanding how much God loves us and desires to help us is the antidote for fear.

When I think of my own children—especially when they were younger—there’s almost nothing I wouldn’t do to help them if they were in trouble. If we feel this way about our children, then how do you think God feels about us? And unlike us, He has no limitations. Nothing is impossible with Him—He can help us in every situation, on every occasion.

Hebrews 13:5-6 says: “... God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?’”

God wants you to know that He’s always going to take care of you as you place your trust in Him—*always*. You don’t have to know His exact timing or *how* He will do it, but you can be assured that He will always meet your needs.

“Do It Afraid!”

We need to understand that when the Lord tells us not to fear, He’s not saying we will never *feel* fear. We will all feel afraid at various times in our lives; however, He is telling us not to allow fear to control us and prevent us from moving forward.

True courage is moving forward in the face of fear. You still feel fear, but you are determined—with God’s help—to move forward anyway.

When we feel fear, we have a choice—we can do it *afraid!*

In the early days of my ministry, I was invited to speak at a conference. One of the speakers had canceled, and I was their replacement. I wasn’t one of the primary speakers—they asked me to conduct one of the smaller workshops.

When the day came, all of the workshop speakers had to get up on stage and share what they would talk about the next day. I remember the other speakers having titles like pastor, reverend, and so forth. But I was just Joyce from Fenton, Missouri—a *nobody from nowhere*.

When it was my turn to talk, I was absolutely petrified. The 900 people in the audience looked like nine million to me. I was so scared that when I opened my mouth, nothing came out but a squeak. Right then, I wanted to run off the stage. I could hear the enemy’s thoughts running through my mind: *What do you think you’re doing here! Who do you think you are?*

But in spite of the fear, I took a deep breath, started again, and shared what my workshop was about. The next day, to my surprise, many people came to hear me speak. I thank God I didn’t run from fear that day, because I would have missed out on a great opportunity He had in store for me!

Satan wants us to shrink back in fear and live tiny, useless lives. But God desires for us to live free from the effects of fear and live big, fulfilling lives!



In John 14:27, Jesus says, “Peace I leave with you; My [perfect] peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. [Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge]” (AMP).

This is both a promise and a command. Through Jesus Christ, we can enjoy supernatural peace that goes beyond anything the world can offer. But we also have a part to play. God is saying, “Don’t allow yourself to be paralyzed with fear. Refuse to let the enemy stop you!”

Remember, whatever you’re facing today, God is bigger than your worries, your problems and your fears. He knows every one of your needs before you ever have them, and He delights in taking care of you. So you can confidently say, “The Lord is my Helper—I will not fear!”

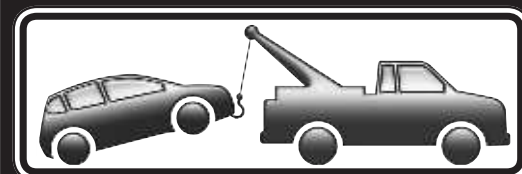
For more on this topic, order Joyce’s four-teaching CD series *Living a Life of Total Freedom*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored 130 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *HOW TO AGE WITHOUT GETTING OLD* (FaithWords). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

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

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HVCC had a 'great first week back'

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Hello community members! We hope everyone is happy and healthy. We are happy to share that we had a great first week back!

The theme of the week was, "Welcome to High Valley Community Center." The kiddos attempted to build the tallest tower, participated in partner painting and painted all about me portraits. On the first Fabulous Friday, the kids visited the Sand Dunes Swimming Pool where they learned new swimming skills and enjoyed playing outside. Every Friday in September,

the kids will be returning to the Sand Dunes Swimming Pool for swimming lessons.

Even though we have a few more weeks left of HVCC football and volleyball, it is time to register for basketball! Girls' basketball (grades 3-6) will be the first season and will begin in October. Boys' basketball (grades 3-6) and co-ed basketball (K-2) will begin in December after the conclusion of girls' basketball. Please note that you must be registered through HVCC to participate in youth sports.

Registration is on our website, www.thehvcc.org under the "Register" tab. As the basketball

season gets closer, we will share a schedule with everyone.

We are happy to share that the Del Norte Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 2021 Scarecrow Bash! The contest will begin on Sept. 22 and will conclude on Oct. 8. Registration will be available on the Del Norte Chamber website, www.delnortechamber.org. Fifty-dollar gift certificates will be given to the top three residential winners and a \$100 prize will be given to the top business participant. Chamber members will not be judging the scarecrows. It is up to the community members to tour the scarecrows and vote for their favorites. All you need to do is take a picture next to your favorite scarecrow — one residential, one business — and then tag

DNFALL2021 to the number 1-833-455-0652. If you have questions, please reach out to the Chamber at 719-657-9081.

Do you like spending time with children? Do you like tutoring children? Would you rather assist with various sporting events? If any of these apply to you, we would love to have you join us! We have many opportunities for volunteers with varying time commitments. If you are interested, please give us a call at 719-657-2172 or email us at HVCC@TheHVCC.org.

We hope everyone has a great week! If you are curious to see how we operate, you are welcome to stop by our front desk at 595 Grand Ave. here in Del Norte and we will be happy to show you around!



ASU Theatre presenting 'Night of the Living Dead Live'

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — Six strangers, a lonely farmhouse, surrounded by brain-eating zombies — what could go wrong?

Kicking off its 95th year, Adams State University Theatre presents "Night of the Living Dead Live" — a fun re-imagining of George Romero's horror film. Tickets went on sale Monday, Sept. 13 at the ASU Theatre Box Office.

Set in 1968, the play is a horror parody of the classic zombie movie. Directed by John H. Taylor, Ph.D., chair of theatre, the comedy re-creates live on stage the original film in the first act. In the second act, it presents a series of alternative endings which hilariously tests the question: Can anyone survive a

night of the living dead? "After a year plus of going through a pandemic, it seems appropriate to me that we welcome back audiences into our theatre with a comical zombie apocalypse. Why not?" said Taylor.

As in the film, the threat is not from only outside of the farmhouse in which the characters are hiding. It is inside the home. The real conflict is between those in the house as they argue and fight amongst themselves. To survive, they must work together or they will perish at the hands of the living dead. In playing out a series of comical "what ifs," this comedy shows the challenges of defeating zombies.

Taylor adds: "For fans of the original movie, I hope they find our work to be a loving tribute to

it. In fact, this script is officially authorized by the Romero family. If you have not seen the 1968 film, you will still find the evening to be full of frights and laughs."

Public performances of Night of the Living Dead Live runs Sept. 24 and 25, Oct. 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 3 at 2 p.m. in the SLV Federal Bank Main Stage Theatre, located in the Adams State Theatre Building.

Tickets are \$10 for the general public, \$9 for seniors and students, and free to Associated Students and Faculty with current Adams State identification. The production is recommended for ages 12 and older.

All audience members are required to wear masks while inside of the theatre building. The box office number is 719-587-8499.

ASU Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship program seeking volunteers

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship program is still seeking volunteer cancer survivors through Sept. 17 to participate in the fall study. The program is free to participants.

All cancer survivors ages 18-years or older are welcome, regardless of gender, type or stage of cancer. The fully funded 10-week program includes group-based exercise classes supervised by Adams State University kinesiology students in partnership

with San Luis Valley Health and the Colorado Cancer Coalition. Nutritional education will also be included in the program.

If interested, stop by the Alamosa Family Recreation Center during class meeting times at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., or 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday.

For more information call Payton Billingham at 720-933-4217, email billinghamp@grizzlies.adams.edu or De'Aijah Paulk 719-641-8519, email paulkdi@grizzlies.adams.edu.

Bill could do big things for SLV farmers and ranchers

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

SAN LUIS VALLEY — This past week, 167 new bills went into effect in Colorado. Nestled in among legislation related to affordable housing, gender identity and reporting stolen firearms is a bill named the "Agricultural Soil Health Program." And while the bill might not grab big headlines in Denver, it could give a significant and much needed boost to farmers and ranchers in the San Luis Valley who recognize the value of healthy soil.

"I think we all recognize and understand the importance of healthy soil," says Sen. Cleave Simpson (R-District 35), the SLV farmer and rancher who sponsored the bill. "But we don't always have the resources to either measure and track soil health or have access to all the newest information and practices. I expect

the Soil Health Program to highlight the importance and the value as well as connect producers with the most appropriate resources."

As Simpson explains it, the concept of a specific Soil Health Program has been around for some time, and many of the state's soil conservation districts already provide a variety of services and support for healthy soil programs. But not all soil conservation districts do that, and they're not done consistently across the state.

However, there is federal funding available to address that inconsistency. According to Simpson, Congress has funding in place to support healthy soil practices, but there was a catch. States are required to stand up specific Soil Health Programs to take advantage of the funds and give the Department of Agriculture authority to receive dollars

from private and governmental sources.

Simpson's bill being passed into law paves the way to meet that requirement.

The \$4,500 approved with the bill will be used to stand up the advisory committee to the Commissioner of Agriculture to set up the details of the program as well as the mechanism to potentially award grant dollars to ag producers who apply.

With the bill now in effect, Simpson says the Department of Agriculture will be seeking grant dollars from both federal and private sources, while the advisory committee is being organized.

Sen. Simpson suggests that any producers interested in taking part in this program stay in contact with their local soil conservation district or visit the Colorado Department of Agriculture website at <https://ag.colorado.gov> for details as the program gets organized and funded.

SPEED

Continued from Page 1A

25 mph is reduced by 25 feet which can make a significant difference if an emergency stopping situation is required. The difference in the speed limit has been scientifically shown

to reduce the risk of a motor vehicle crash by 40%."

The reduction in the speed limit on these roads will begin immediately and will be enforced by Center

Police. This reduction only applies to non-posted roadways and not areas in which the speed limit is posted, such as on Highway 112 or Central Avenue.

SPEED (MPH)	STOPPING DISTANCE (FT)*	CRASH RISK (%)†	FATALITY RISK (%)†
10-15	25	5	2
20-25	40	15	5
30-35	75	55	45
40+	118	90	85

* Stopping Distance includes perception, reaction, and braking times.

† Source: Traditional Neighborhood Development: Street Design Guidelines (1999), ITE Transportation Planning Council Committee 5P-8.

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Meeting Room located at 305 - 3rd Street, Saguache, Colorado, on the following date:

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 at 2:30 PM

to consider proposed changes to the Saguache County Land Development Code changes. To view the 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 view the changes on our website at www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov. Written comments will be accepted until Friday, September 24, 2021 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.

By: Tim Lovato, Chairman
Chairman, Saguache County Board of Commissioners

No. 1604 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, September 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2021.

Saguache County is requesting comments on a proposed resolution to support wildlife habitat preservation and mitigation and migration corridors.

The Board would like to hear from the public on how you feel about this proposed resolution! Draft Resolution included!

Let us know what ya'll think!!

Your written public comment needs to be back to the Administrator by Friday September 20, 2021 at 3pm.

You can mail the comments to PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 or email to wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov. Comments can also be hand delivered to 505 3rd Street, Saguache, CO.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT WILDLIFE HABITAT PRESERVATION AND MIGRATION CORRIDORS

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Saguache County, Colorado is concerned with the health safety and welfare of the citizens of Saguache County; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Saguache County, Colorado is concerned about declining populations of wildlife and beneficial insects locally, nationally and globally.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Saguache County Colorado declare their support for:

- 1) actions that preserve wildlife habitat in Saguache County on Private lands, Conservation Easements, State and Federal Lands.
- 2) actions that minimize human impact in areas that are critical to maintain Wildlife populations.
- 3) actions that maintain or enhance Wildlife Migration Corridors that may cross political and or Managing Agency Boundaries.
- 4) Work with various Non-Profit, County, State, and Federal Agencies to accomplish the aforementioned goals.

READ, MOVED and APPROVED this _____ day of August, 2021.

Voted as follows: Commissioner Tim Lovato: _____
Commissioner Lynne Thompson: _____
Commissioner Tom McCracken: _____

Chairman/Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board

No. 1605 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, September 2, 9 and 16, 2021.

Cruising the Canyon Car Show set for Sept. 18

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

CREEDE — As Creede revs the engines for fall, the town is gearing up to welcome the 13th annual Cruising the Canyon Car Show on Sept. 18. It is beginning to become clear that autumn is just around the corner as trees in the western end of the San Luis Valley are starting to turn and now is a great time to plan for coming fall activities.

For the past 13 years, the Holy Moses Gift Shop, in partnership with the Creede and Mineral County Chamber of Commerce, have brought some beautiful vehicles to the area to enjoy fall colors and a drive along the scenic Silver Thread Byway outside of Creede.

The event was started by Holy Moses owners Vicki and Nick Kulyk to bring people to the area during what is considered the slow season in Creede. The event has become an area favorite. The small community will be dancing to decade music from the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s as guests can enjoy a day of antique and restored cars and trucks of all makes and models.

The event starts Friday night, Sept. 17, with a pre-registration party at the visitor center located south of Creede. Participating vehicle owners can come out to mingle with the public and enjoy some light refreshments as they prepare for the show on Saturday.

Saturday morning will start with more car show registration at 8 a.m. at the Mineral County Courthouse. The show starts at 10 a.m. The awards ceremony is at 3 p.m. Guests can also enjoy the last few days of the Creede Repertory Theatre's season, walk through the many shops and eat a delicious meal at any of the local restaurants open for the event.

On Saturday afternoon after the award ceremony, guests and vehicle owners are invited to participate in the annual Rod Run up Highway 149 toward the Freeman's Store and North Clear Creek Falls. The road weaves in and out of some spectacular country that is surrounded by aspen groves that will be beginning to change into their autumn attire.

This event is subject to change. People and participants are asked to follow recommended social distancing requirements. The latest information can be found on the Creede and Mineral County Chamber of Commerce website at www.creede.com.



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

Get ready to cruise the streets in Creede on Sept. 18 for the 13th annual Cruising the Canyon Car Show. This annual event features many different vehicles from past to present.



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Lifestyles

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Spanish Peaks SWA to benefit from reforestation treatment

STAFF REPORT

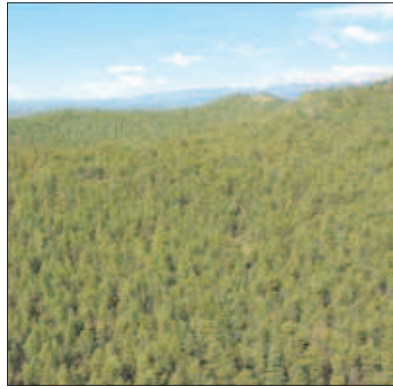
TRINIDAD — For much of the summer, Casey Cooley, Forest Habitat Coordinator for Colorado Parks and Wildlife, watched as six large excavators equipped with huge grinders at the ends of their hinged booms methodically attacked the dense forests of the Spanish Peaks State Wildlife Area (SWA).

Cooley and Mike Smith, CPW Wildlife Technician for the 7,000-acre SWA, orchestrated the attacks knowing that each time the excavators pulverized a large pine tree into a pile of slash, the overall health of the forest improved.

Even better, the thinned forest will benefit the resident deer, elk, mountain lion, bear and other wildlife, including a large wild turkey population at the wildlife area 25 miles northwest of Trinidad.

Cooley and Smith say the newly treated 370 acres of forest will offer more room for wildlife to roam, to bed down and more food because grasses and shrubs will grow more easily thanks to enhanced sunlight reaching the forest floor.

“The goal of the project was to open up the canopy to create more stand-structure diversity and to allow more grasses and shrubs to grow,” Cooley said. “The benefit of having a forest that is less dense is there’s more understory growth. That benefits wildlife and increases wildlife use.



Photos courtesy of Jerry Neal, CPW

Aerial photos show the forests at Spanish Peaks State Wildlife Area before and after restoration treatment.

Another benefit is to improve forest health and reduce wildfire severity.”

Over the past 10 years, CPW has similarly treated about 1,200 acres at the Spanish Peaks SWA in a cooperative effort with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF), the local Sangre de Cristo Habitat Protection Program committee, the CPW Habitat Protection Program State Council, and the National Wild Turkey Foundation.

Cooley cautioned that visitors to the Spanish Peaks SWA might find it a jarring sight given how the large, spinning teeth of the excavators chewed up branches and spit out big splinters of wood. He described it as nothing more than “a bad haircut” that will soon grow back and look even better.

“The areas we treated have been

aggressively thinned to open up that forest canopy,” he said. “In 3 to 5 years, you’ll see a forest that has a lot more grasses and shrubs in the understory.”

But big game animals should benefit almost immediately. Before the excavators moved in, it was hard to see the mixed conifer and ponderosa pine forest due to all the trees. Now, large patches of blue sky are visible when standing deep in the forest. And it’s suddenly possible to see people and animals moving through the forest depths.

“One of my primary responsibilities is improving habitat for wildlife,” Smith said. “We have a thriving population of Merriam’s wild turkeys and the newly-thinned forest should boost this population.”

And when a wildfire burns through **Please see PEAKS on Page 3**

RGNF completes seedling project

BY LYNDSIE FERRELL

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — The Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) recently completed one of several seedling projects in the West Fork Fire Complex burn scar with the hope that the species of trees planted will help stabilize loose soil and help re-establish new growth in some of the most ravaged areas. In the eight years since the West Fork Complex Fire, revegetation and regrowth have been the focus for many organizations throughout the San Luis Valley and beyond.

According to project managers with RGNF and Public Information Officer Gregg Goodland, “The objective for planting in the Papoose burn is to reestablish native forest cover in areas that are **See SEEDLING on Page 3**



Photo Courtesy of RGNF

Volunteers spent several days in two locations planting Engelmann spruce seedlings in the West Fork Complex Fire burn scar. This is one of many seedling projects the RGNF has completed in the past eight years.

Winter Coat Drive runs Sept. 11-Oct. 9

BY MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — A Winter Coat Drive is being held in Monte Vista. The drive benefits people in Monte Vista and its surrounding areas, who need winter coats. It begins Sept. 11 and goes to Oct. 9.

New or gently used coats, gloves,

and hats of all sizes and colors are being accepted.

Director Hanna Ortega is excited about the drive.

“We are happy that we are able to distribute these items to folks in need,” Ortega said. “I just want to be able to **Please see COATS on Page 3**

The Producers Meeting

When you take a seat in the waiting room of a veterinary clinic, a feedlot office or an animal health store, you occasionally notice a body sitting there who looks out of place. They are often dressed in a more formal attire than most clientele. They may be doing their times (two times two is four, two times four is eight, etc...), they may be reading the 10-year-old copy of Progressive Recipes Magazine, or they could be annoying you...just killing time.

These dedicated people, who seem to take precedence over no one in the animal health food chain, are company reps. Salesmen armed to the teeth with research trials supporting their product, special offers to entice volume buying out of season, and lunch money. They are the mainstays of our continuing education.

They seem to exude a certain tension, which is understandable...they have the job security of a smoke jumper.

A big part of their regular duties is producer meetings. Some of these meetings go well. Others...well, others prove that masochism builds character.



BAXTER BLACK
ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

John works for an international pharmaceutical company that offers products for use in livestock. He arranged with the manager of a good-sized feedlot to put on a meeting for the cowboys and vet crew employed therein.

A local steak house was selected as an appropriate location for the meeting. Supper and drinks were furnished as bait. A good crowd of 18 or 20 showed up for the meeting.

No separate room was available, but the maitre d’ had set up a single long table that ran the length of the room, wall to wall down the center of the dining area. John set his movie screen against the back wall at the end of the table. The slide projector sat in the middle of the table between the attentive cowboys.

John began his presentation. He started with lung diseases. Pictures of fulminating pleritis glared from the screen, attracting the attention of random diners. Presently, an incidental customer walked between the projector and screen, excusing himself politely as his shadow darted across a rather explicit slide of chronic suppurative pneumonia. As John was soon to discover, he lay in the direct and only path to the restrooms.

The wayfarer returned, tripping over the projector cord, which gave everyone a moment’s respite from pulmonary contagion.

Just as John segued into injection site abscesses, he was interrupted by the waitress, who stepped into the spotlight and asked, “Who ordered the scotch and water?”

Then, in the midst of his discussion on ru-

men physiology, a group from the other side of the room broke into song. It was “Happy Anniversary to you,” dedicated to a couple celebrating 58 years of wedded bliss...”Happy anniversary...” “...methane...” “...to yo-o-o-u-u-u...” “...is released along with...” “Yeah, yeah, applause...” “Scuse me, I gotta go to the john...” “Sure” “Carbon dioxide” “Any questions?” “Yes, who ordered the two whisky sours and the Bud Light?”

On the drive home, John commented to his boss, “All in all, it wasn’t too bad a meeting.” “Yeah,” the boss said, “But ya know, they might’ve missed some of the details.”

Baxter Black, former large animal veterinarian and irregular commentator on National Public Radio, is America’s best-selling cowboy poet. He is a frequent performer at national stock shows and rodeos as well as in many smaller local events. He is author of several books, including Cactus Tracks, Croutons on a Cow Pie, Hey, Cowboy, Wanna Get Lucky? and Dunny and the Duck. Baxter Black can be contacted via e-mail at: vikki@baxterblack.com

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FALL Harvest

The role of technology in today's agriculture

Modern industry is driven by technology. Advancements in technology have changed how business is conducted, with some industries undergoing dramatic changes since the dawn of the 21st century.

While agriculture might not be the first industry people think of when reflecting on the changing nature of industry, The National Institute of Food and Agriculture notes that modern farms are vastly different than those from a few decades ago.

Farmers have long relied on technology to make their operations as efficient, productive and profitable as possible. Precision agriculture, which refers to technological advances designed to propel agriculture into the modern, computerized and information-based world, is helping the agricultural sector become more profitable and efficient while also improving safety and making agriculture more eco-friendly. In addition, the NIFA notes that the modern agricultural industry employs technology such as robots, temperature and moisture sensors, aerial images, and global positioning systems.

If it sounds complicated, that's because it is. For example, modern sensors can detect soil conditions, potentially producing hundreds of readings per second. These sensors help farmers know the best possible



time to plant seeds so they can reach their full potential. That improves both the efficiency of modern farms as well as their output.

The NIFA also notes that agricultural technology has reduced waste. For instance, thanks to agricultural technology, farmers no longer have to apply water, fertilizers and pesticides uniformly across entire fields. Technology has shown that farmers can simply target specific areas or even treat individual plants differently. That saves time and allows farmers to

use only minimal quantities of water, fertilizer and pesticides. In addition, according to the NIFA, employing agricultural technology in this fashion leads to higher crop productivity and reduces runoff of chemicals into rivers and groundwater, thereby reducing the farm's impact on local ecosystems.

Modern farms are technological marvels where various technologies are being employed to produce crops more efficiently and safely than ever before.

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What is sustainable agriculture?

Many transitions have taken place in the agricultural industry over the last several decades. The widespread adoption of various technologies over the last 20-plus years has helped farmers streamline their operations, making their farms more efficient and less wasteful as a result. In addition, many farmers have embraced sustainable farming, which is a relatively recent approach to agriculture. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, sustainable agriculture is

a complex, multi-faceted concept. Sustainable agriculture intends to contribute to a robust economy by making farms profitable. Farmers who embrace sustainable agriculture also aim to have a positive effect on the environment and their surrounding ecosystems. That's accomplished by embracing strategies that focus on building and maintaining healthy soil, managing water wisely, minimizing pollution, and promoting biodiversity. The National Institute

of Food and Agriculture notes that sustainable agriculture encompasses a wide range of production practices, including some associated with conventional farming and some linked to organic farming. As a result, sustainable farming should not be mistaken for organic farming, or vice versa. However, the UCS notes there's a strong likelihood that certified organic produce at local grocery stores are byproducts of farms that embrace sustainable agriculture.

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SEEDLINGS

Continued from Page 1

not quickly recovering from the fire through natural regeneration. Planting units within the burn are selected according to management objectives established by the RGNF Land Management Plan. For example, no planting would occur within the wilderness area, because the intent there is for natural processes to occur, without human intervention. In some cases, planting could speed up reforestation by hundreds of years due to the lack of a nearby seed source. In the Dyers Creek project, the planting of Ponderosa pines was done to establish native drought-resistant trees that are non-hosts for a chronic forest pest, the western spruce budworm. This activity follows previous treatments that addressed western spruce budworm impacts to natural stands through mastication and commercial thinning."

Planting projects occurred within both the 2013 Papoose Fire and the Dyers Creek area. The area planted in the Papoose burn covered approximately 100 acres and is located above Love Lake near Creede. The Dyers Creek project was approximately 21 acres and is located near the Cathedral Campground.

Just over 22,200 Engelmann spruce seedlings were planted in the burn area, while another 5,000 seedlings were planted on the Dyers Creek project. A contract crew was used for the larger project, while the smaller one was performed in-house. In both cases, the seedlings were grown from seed collected within the same seed zone and similar elevation as the planting site, right here on the Rio Grande National Forest.

"The non-profit organization American Forests paid for the seedlings used in the Papoose burn. Local

donations made to the Forest Service Plant-A-Tree program helped provide cold storage for seedlings. Seedlings need to be stored at around 35-38 degrees Fahrenheit until they can be planted; otherwise, they will mold and deteriorate quickly. We are very grateful for the contributions that help this reforestation work happen," explained Goodland.

The purpose of American Forest grant programs is to, "Allow individuals or groups to voluntarily contribute funds directly to the Forest Service for tree planting on National Forests as a positive and personal step toward improving the environment. According to the Internal Revenue Service, contributions to this program qualify as charitable deductions under section 170(c) (1) of the Internal Revenue Service code."

"No planting is planned on the Rio Grande National Forest for 2022, but we expect to continue planting again in 2023. The Forest often plants dependent upon needs and logistics. No planting will occur in 2022, due to access issues along the Shaw Lake road," stated Goodland.

The burn scars in the Rio Grande National Forest are a sight to be seen when traveling in the area. Many of the burnt trees are visible from several backcountry roads which offer beautiful opportunities to witness the land healing from the fires. Caution is always urged to those who venture into the areas as trees and soil can become unstable over time and should be avoided on windy days or during storms.

For more information on the project and funding, visit www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/donations/plant-a-tree.

COATS

Continued from Page 1

help those in our community who may not be so lucky. We take a lot of things we do have for granted, and something as little as a winter coat can make a world of difference for someone else. Colorado winters can be very harsh. It is good to know that people in need will benefit from these items and stay warm this winter because of those willing to donate in our community."

The is the first year of the drive and Ortega is happy to do this for the community. Ortega wishes to thank everyone in advance who donates to the drive.

Currently, there are two drop-off

PEAKS

Continued from Page 1

the SWA, the thinned forest should slow it down by significantly reducing the chance of crown fires travelling through the tops of the trees.

"It will be easier to fight a wildfire in the treated forest and reduce the severity of any fire," Smith said. "And this type of proactive forest management is a bargain compared to the cost of trying to respond and restore a SWA after a large wildfire."

The total project cost of \$120,000 was shared by CPW and RMEF.

Each year, CPW treats an average of 575 acres throughout the State Wildlife Areas.

"This project is a prime example of boots on the ground habitat management that we do at CPW," Cooley said. "These projects are extremely rewarding to us when we see the wildlife respond. And it's personally rewarding because we're taking care of the forest for future generations."

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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07 Help Wanted
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Nonprofit Alamosa company seeking 40 hrs per week Field Coordinator to market & assist families w/ self-help home construction. Some evening and weekend work. \$17-\$18 p/h. Email resume and cover letter to melanie@crhdc.org See description at www.crhdc.org

The City of Creede Public Works Department is now accepting a **Public Works Full Time Operator/Laborer** position that includes the maintenance of various City-owned streets, parks, and/or buildings, along with maintenance of water, wastewater, and stormwater systems. General supervision is provided by the Public Works Director. Hours of work: 6:00am - 2:00 pm M-F (may vary based upon season). For application and more information please visit <https://cityofcreede.colorado.gov/news-article/city-of-creede-hiring-full-time-pw-maintenance-position> or call the City of Creede Public Works Director at 719.658.2276 ex4. (9/29)

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Valley Wide Classifieds

employment page. Applications can be downloaded from WolfCreek-Ski.com employment page. Send resumes and applications to wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com or P.O. Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. All jobs are winter seasonal (November - April) with competitive wages.

Cafeteria workers needed at Upper Rio Grande School District C7. Must have high school diploma and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or willing to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. (9/22)

Del Norte Jr./Sr. High School is seeking an energetic, caring individual to serve as a Special Education ParaEducator. Applicants must have a high school diploma and prior experience working with students with special needs is preferred. Please submit your application to David Grabowski, DNHS Principal at 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO 81132; dgrabowski@urtigers.co; or contact David at 719-657-4020. The position will be open until filled. You can pick up an application at the District Office or on-line at urtigers.co.

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The Upper Rio Grande School District is accepting applications for

a Community Liaison. Applicants should be experienced with community involvement, planning events, managing food and family "meet" programs and networking with outside agencies. If interested please send a completed application, resume, and cover letter to Aaron Horrocks at ahorrocks@urtigers.co or call (719) 657 - 4040 for more information. Applications can be downloaded from www.urtigers.co.

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Alamosa County Treasurer is seeking a skilled accounting person to join their team. Position is Accounting Tech I. This person must have 2-3 years experience in



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PUBLIC AUCTION
Sept. 18th, 2021
Saturday 10:00 am

Location: 3120 County Rd 10 S (Waverly Rd), Alamosa, CO.

Auctioneer's Note: This an Estate Sale for Laurens & Marilyn Witt . Laurens was a house painter by trade, but also enjoyed building cabinets and general wood working. Also on this auction are Household and Camping items from Johnny Landen a retired outfitter and hunting guide. Several treasures are available at this auction.

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Valley Wide Classifieds

bookkeeping and cash management. Prefer 2 years banking experience. Must have good clerical and customer service skills. Proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel. Familiarity with Treasurer's Deeds and Releases of Deeds of Trust preferred. \$15 per hour, negotiable depending on qualifications, full time which is 37.5 hours per week, eligible for vacation and sick leave and health insurance benefits. Background check and drug screening required. (9/23)

Rio Grande County Department of Social Services is accepting applications for a Full-Time Case Aide to assist the Child Protection Team. \$14.55-\$15.12 hour/37.5 hours per week. Full benefit package offered. Pre-employment drug screening, including testing for marijuana, will be required. Application and additional information are listed in the job description which is available online at www.riograndecounty.org or pick-up/submit applications to Human Resources 925 6th Street Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. (9/15)

"Trout Club between Creede and Lake City needs Caretakers for next season, inquiries to rocknredfish@yahoo.com" (9/23)

Retail Position-Wolf Creek Ski Area is accepting applications for a Treasure/Noel Sports Supervisor. Full time, seasonal position; October thru April. Must have prior retail and managerial experience. Knowledge of frontend and backend of POS system (RTP preferable). Understanding of inventory control, sales reporting and scheduling is critical. Full job description and duties at WolfCreekSki.com. Send resumes and applications to treasuresports@wolfcreekski.com or P.O. Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Position requires an individual to be friendly, hard working, flexible, organized with good communication and managerial skills. Reliable transportation necessary. Competitive wages based on experience. (9/15)

ACCOUNTING/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK-Farm Fresh Direct is accepting applications for an Accounting/Accounts Payable Clerk. Requirements would entail: 2 years of bookkeeping experience and/or an intermediate understanding of accounting concepts and Accounts Payable; Computer skills; Proficiency in Excel, Word, Outlook. Attention to detail is a must; ability to multi-task in fast paced, sales-oriented environment. Knowledge and experience in potato industry, shipping procedures and Famous software is a plus. Salary commensurate w/ experience & education; benefits package. Send resumes/Pick up applications to/at the Monte Vista Workforce Center. (9/15)

WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge is hiring for Operator I positions....\$18.22/hour REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must possess a current Class-A CDL license with heavy semi-truck endorsement and a current medical certificate. Applicants should have a high school diploma or GED and six months or more of relevant experience. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening and criminal background check. Operator I is a full time position — applicants must be able to operate light and heavy equipment and perform manual labor in the main-

tenance, repair and minor construction of roads, streets, bridges, signs, markings and related facilities. Applicants must be physically capable of periods of sustained physical exertion and may be required to lift and move up to 75 lbs. to 150 lbs.

Applications are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office 305 3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 – 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website – saguachecounty.colorado.gov under the Road and Bridge

Department tab. Please fill out and submit the Drivers-Application. A complete job description is available at the Road and Bridge Office. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge – at the

address listed above, sent by email to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov or faxed to: 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until qualified candidates are hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (9/15)

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12 Houses for Rent
2 bdrm, 1 bath, 1 car gar, 116 1st Ave, \$800 rent (includes w/s & tr) + \$800 deposit, no pets/smoking, 1 year lease. Avail 10/1. Call to scheduling showing/application for 9/13. 719-942-3213 (9/29)

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

31 Health
Proform 390 E Elliptical in South Fork, \$150.00. 719-873-1049.

32 Fuel & Heating
Firewood for sale \$180.00 per cord. Delivery Available. Call Atlee Jay Hoshstetler. 719-850-4012. (3/22)

35 Heavy Equipment
Semi-Trucks and Belley Dump Trailers 10K and Up. Call 719-588-4415

36 Miscellaneous
Prepair for the Winter Months 10% off all efco Chainsaws. Sale ends September 30th. County Line Small Engine Repair, 4521 E County Rd 125 La Jara, CO 81140. (9/15)

For Sale: 10'x10' chain link dog kennel \$400 firm 10' green metal pasture gate \$80 firm Cash only on both Call 719-588-5615 for more information. (9/23)

For Sale: White Camper Topper 72" by 98" \$75.00 OBO 719-274-5107. (10/06)

For Sale: Tomatoes, Fresh Home Grown Sweet Corn & Other Produce. Place Your order now! 719-851-0926. (9/15)

WANTED: 10-16 Tons Lump or Egg 2021 Mined Coal. Call 719-580-1215 (9/29)

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Proform 390 E Elliptical in South Fork, \$150.00. 719-873-1049. (9/15)

42 Feed & Seed
For Sale: All Types of Hay Big and Small Squares Located at HVFM 10475 US Hwy 285 Antonito (570) 395-0184. (11/10)

46 Pasture for Rent
WINTER HORSE PASTURE: 160 acres, Supervised, alfalfa and grass pasture, heated water, wind shelter, \$55/head per month, November thru early-May. Also, Alfalfa-grass horse hay 720# bales, \$80 each. West of Del Norte 719-657-0942 (5/22TFN)

53 Trailers
Wanted: Need Fix-up Trailer Rental Outside of Town. Please call 719-849-1764 for more information. (9/15)

59 Vehicles Wanted
CASH ON THE SPOT FOR JUNK AND UNWANTED VEHICLES We pickup, no title ok. 719-937-7935. 719-849-8491(TFN11-21)

64 Autos for Sale
2005 Subaru Outback \$3,000, Kawasaki KLR 650 Low Miles \$3,000. May consider ATV in trade. 719-580-4028. (10/13)

1999 Cadillac El Dorado Excellent Condition, 129,000 Miles, White, Leather interior, Bose Stereo, XM Radio and Bluetooth. \$6,000.00 Call 303-809-6539. (9/15)

65 Professional Services
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0033 or 719-376-2593.
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We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.

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Stubbs is a 4 year old bully mix, who loves attention and tug o war. Very playful, but still plays puppy style so he's a mouthy guy. So if slobbery kisses and nibbles are your thing come visit him!



Bandit is a Collie/Catahoula/Lab mix going on 7 months old. He's a real nervous guy, but once he opens up he's your best buddy. High energy and loves to talk to you, and his freshly poured food. Is he the goofy guy for you?



Ms. Piggy is a 2.5 year old Staffie mix that has had a rough go at life before she got to us. Absolutely NO CATS, and must meet any other dogs in the home. She's scared of anything bigger than her, but loves people unconditionally. Definitely a lap dog.



This is Diamond. She's a 4 year old blue nose, boxer mix. She's great with kids, lots of energy. Her favorite things to do are chew on her nylabone and play in the water!

Wendy is about 2 years old, and believed to be a Shepherd/Pittie mix. She loves to go on adventures and play her days away. Does good with other dogs and children, but absolutely NO CATS.



Please note we are on a first come first serve basis.
All breeds & ages of animals are a "best guess" and are not guaranteed to be accurate. Adoption fee includes: neuter/spay, vaccinations, de-worming and micro-chipping.
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SOLD

Your Stunning Colorado Mountain Oasis!

Beautiful 3,140 SQ. FT. 3 bedroom 3 bath home located on 9.59 Acres in Beautiful South Fork Ranches Bear Creek. The large master suite/bath is on the main floor. Open dining room, kitchen and living room with propane fireplace and windows from floor to ceiling with amazing mountain and Rio Grande river views. The beautiful kitchen includes an eat in island with custom countertop and large soft close storage drawers. Convenient large inside laundry room and foyer is right off the kitchen and the 4 car attached garage/workshop. The upstairs has two bedrooms, full bath with jet tub and office loft area. Start your Colorado Adventure and schedule your showing today! **\$639,900** MLS#781345
3313 CO RD 15 Road, South Fork

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FOR SALE

LOOK IMPROVED PRICE \$66,900 Seller Motivated!

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

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SOLD

Beautiful Unique Custom Built Home in Ponderosa Country Estates

This 4 bedroom 4 bath 2,800 SQ FT home with large 4 car heated attached garage and an additional 2 car heated detached garage, workshop and studio apartment is located in this wonderful neighborhood with no HOA. This is your home-a-way from home, vacation rental or permanent home. Complete with well and sewer system on paved roads. **\$375,900** MLS #778054

2 Ponderosa Country Estates • South Fork
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BACK ON THE MARKET

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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FOR SALE

LOOK IMPROVED PRICE! \$69,900 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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IMPROVED PRICE \$649,900 THIS HOME YOU HAVE TO SEE TO BELIEVE!

UNDER CONTRACT

- 3 bedroom • 2 bathroom

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

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FOR SALE

Look Improved Price! \$54,000

Beautiful parcels, Lot 11 and 12 with scenic views of the surrounding mountains in Deer Park. Paved roads with water / city water and sewer and utilities in place and ready to build. Minutes from the Rio Grande River. Enjoy the mule deer and wild turkeys that visit Deer Park often. Moments from skiing, fly fishing, hiking, hunting and everything outdoors. Start your adventure and schedule your showing today!
MLS #766836

431 and 443 Deer Run • South Fork
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SOLD

LOOK IMPROVED PRICE!

- 2 bedroom • 2 bathroom • \$335,000

Charming 1,518 SQ FT Home with attached 672 SQ FT Cement Floor Garage with Workshop and additional 2 storage units. Bright and cheery with large living area with fire place and large windows with beautiful view's of Beaver Mountain and plenty of sun shine. This home is complete with 4 heat sources! 2 ETS systems, Base board heating (all rooms), Solar heat and Fireplace. Complete with water and sewer system on paved roads. MLS#777866
171 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

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Perched up on the ridge at the 17th fairway of the Rio Grande Club & Resort, the views are stunning. 1.42 acres give you plenty of options for a building site. Water, sewer, power and phone lines are already to the lot on paved roads. Priced to sell- Don't miss out on this opportunity!! Take a look today. Just minutes from world class skiing, championship golf, gold medal fishing, and 12 million acres of National Forest. **WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? \$63,000** MLS#776015

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Everyone wants a slice of Heaven. This 1.17 acre pie shaped lot (lot # 35) in Beaver Mountain Estates Phase 3 could be yours. 356 Church Creek Drive is a county maintained road which is paved from Hwy 160 directly to the lot, about 3/4 of a mile, but then all the major roads in BME are paved. This means less road dust so you can open your windows to let in the breezes. It adjoins a 1.44 acre Open Space lot on it's north side, which means no house can be built there and the deer will continue to feed in the open space. It is the largest lot, with the best building opportunities, that is crossed by Church Creek. It has underground utilities (no ugly poles or wires), water tap, and is on the county sewage system because of the creek, so no septic system has to be installed by the owner, a big cost savings. At the back is what we call the Grotto. The pie shaped rear of the lot is covered by tall pine trees and offers a perfect quiet place to have chairs and a table for picnics where the trees provide shade and the flowing creek provides coolness and sounds in the summer months. You can walk the creek down to the South Fork of the Rio Grande River about 400 yards away to fish. You are about 1.3 miles to the center of town and about 18 miles to the Wolf Creek Pass Ski Area. At the top of the street you can enter onto National Forest land. The views to the south are of the mountains. A real slice of Heaven. **\$69,000** MLS#778004

Legends Premier Properties
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This charming home has been recently updated with new paint and carpet. With 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom this home also has a sun-room, and an extra lot that is service ready! Value at a great Price! Call for more details! **\$115,000** MLS#785391

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Feel the freedom and quietness on this 40+ acre land with National Forest bordering on three sides. Views from living area and deck take in Del Norte Peak. At the base of Aqua Ramon mountain where one can take off into the forest to hunt or for a nice drive. No covenants or HOA where one could use this as a vacation rental. Main floor master with open kitchen to living area to enjoy the views. Large two car garage. Furniture is included to start enjoying the serenity from day one. **\$649,900** MLS#783758

Legends Premier Properties
Keith Bratton, Associate Broker
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810 First Ave. • Monte Vista
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1 Acre parcel with beautiful views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Close to the Sand Dunes and Alligator Farm and Hooper Hot Springs Pool. Just a short drive over to Salida. **\$5,000** MLS#780912

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Great business opportunity located in the town of Platoro. The Gold Pan offers many different opportunities, and is surrounded by the Rio Grande National Forest where you can have access to trails, lakes, streams, and is close to Platoro Reservoir. The Gold Pan has seven cabins that can be used for rentals, a general store, a café, twenty rv sites with W/S/E 30amp full hookups, and open stalls and corrals available. Call for more information on this outstanding business in God's Country! **1,395,000** MLS#783164

Legends Premier Properties
Tracy Gosar, Broker/Owner
719-850-1815(cell) • 719-852-0450

810 First Ave. • Monte Vista
www.legendspremierproperties.com

This sweet little home is located in the heart of Alamosa that is within walking distance to downtown, Cole Park and Adams State University! With 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom this home offers a porch/sunroom with nice windows that you can enjoy while having your morning coffee. Inside the house you have a natural gas fireplace and a Wood Stove to keep you warm on those cold winter evenings. The good sized yard has beautiful mature trees and a sprinkler system. The back deck offers privacy so you can enjoy the hot tub. It also offers a garage to store all your toys and a vehicle. Don't miss out on this great opportunity. Call for more details. **\$175,000** MLS#785146

Legends Premier Properties
Klayton Gosar, Associate Broker
719-852-0450

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www.legendspremierproperties.com