

## Shorts

### SLVREC Board Meeting is July 27

**MONTE VISTA** — SLVREC will have its regular meeting of the board of directors on Tuesday, July 27, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the headquarters office located at 3625 US Highway 160 W, Monte Vista. Advance notice is required to attend the meeting, call 719-852-3538.

### Del Norte Music in Park begins July 29

**DEL NORTE** — The Town of Del Norte's Music in the Park series begins on July 29 with a performance by Ol' Scratch (acid funk). The concert is from 6 to 9 p.m. at North Park, 1st and Spruce streets.

The Pamlico Sounds (high energy funk) will be in concert on Aug. 5, followed by The Riffers (Southwest Americana) on Aug. 12.

### Val Alto Pancake Breakfast is Aug. 7

**DELNORTE** — In conjunction with Del Norte's Covered Wagon Days Val Alto Women's Fellowship Club, organized in 1953, invites you to the 43rd year of our Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Aug. 7 from 7 to 9 a.m.

It is held at the High Valley Community Center courtyard, 595 Grande Ave. Pancakes, sausages, and drinks are provided. Prices are \$7 for adults and \$3 for kids.

All proceeds are donated back into the community. This is in conjunction with the many other events of the Covered Wagon Days festival. For information, call Suzie 719-657-2350.

### US 160 La Veta Pass paving July 27-28

**COSTILLA-HUERFANO COUNTIES** — The Colorado Department of Transportation will perform paving operations next week on US Highway 160, at the summit of La Veta Pass between Alamosa and Walsenburg, mile points 279-280. The two-day road maintenance operations will take place Tuesday and Wednesday, July 27 and 28, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Motorists will encounter full stops; lane shifts and one-lane alternating traffic guided by flagging personnel. Travelers can expect up to 20-minute delays and should allow themselves extra travel time. A speed reduction of 40 mph will be in place and drivers should slow down and use caution when approaching and driving through the work zone.

## Center Town Trustees approve gas rate increase

*Also discussed future development plans and End of Summer Bash*

**BY MECHEL MEEK**

**CENTER** — Center Town Trustees approved a \$0.13 increase to natural gas rates during their monthly regular meeting on Tuesday, July 12.

The rate change will go into effect on the August billing cycle. It is a \$0.13 increase per CCF. One CCF equates to 100 cubic feet.

Trustees participated in a lengthy work session and convened the open session to receive the department

head reports, the manager report and to handle new business.

The Town Manager's report discussed several projects regarding developing the soon-to-be annexed Consul property to the north of town. The property is 90 acres and was currently undeveloped raw land.

Town Manager Brian Lujan discussed the strategy to create a comprehensive plan to revitalize the current downtown area, in partnership with Downtown Colorado Inc., and to develop the 90 acres. This plan would create a long-term improvement plan which would unite the town while creating

*Please see RATE on Page 7A*



Map courtesy of Center Town

Center Town is working on a plan to develop 90 acres to the north of the town.

## Commissioners discuss future of courthouse

**BY MECHEL MEEK**

**SAGUACHE** — The regularly scheduled Saguache County Commissioners meeting on July 20 covered a variety of topics, including auctions, repairs and future goals. It was held in person and via Zoom.

On the schedule was the Commissioner's reports, County Administrator's report, needed repairs to the Saguache County Museum, and a request for office design ideas by the Department Heads.

The meeting began with the Commissioner reports as each member described what activities and meetings, they participated in related to county business.

Of note was Commissioner Tom McCracken's report about attending a "native plant workshop for education regarding xeriscape landscaping in case the county adopts the kiosk in Crestone."

Next, the County Administrator's report was given by Wendi Maez. Maez discussed the progress of several auctions that the County has been holding online to sell off old vehicles and



Photo by Mechel Meek

Saguache County Commissioners are considering putting the building of a new County courthouse before the voters.

property. The auction is held online and the highest bid wins. Recently sold was a 2009 Ford Crown Victoria. Other auction items were not bid upon, and it was decided by the Commissioners to lower the starting prices by 25%.

An issue that was brought up next was the current state of the Saguache County Museum. The adobe walls are in need of repair, and the possibility of other portions of the building needing repair.

*Please see COUNTY on Page 7A*

## Cuevas found guilty of first-degree murder of mother

**BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER**

**PUEBLO** — Anthony Cuevas, of Monte Vista, was found guilty on July 15 of first-degree murder in connection with the gruesome death of his 58-year-old mother, Maria "Mary" Cuevas Garcia, in October of 2019.

He was immediately sentenced by Judge Allison Ernst, who sentenced him to life without parole for murder in the first degree. She gave him concurrent prison sentences for vehicular eluding and identity theft.

The trial began on July 9, and he

was found guilty on July 15 after a full day of deliberations by the 12-person jury in Pueblo court.

During the trial, the defense stated that Anthony Cuevas did dump the suitcase with body parts inside in a Pueblo dumpster after his wife Melanie Cuevas had killed his mother.

The story, initially reported by the Pueblo Chieftain and subsequently covered in a series of articles by the Valley Publishing, first made headlines on Oct. 17, 2019, when authorities with the Pueblo

Police Department were called to the vicinity of Ivywood and Vinewood where a bloody suitcase was discovered in a dumpster outside of a car wash. Unable to effectively search the suitcase on site, authorities towed the dumpster to a secure location where the suitcase was opened, and Cuevas Garcia's partial remains were found.

Surveillance video from a camera at the car wash showed a man struggling with the weight of what appeared to be a suitcase as he

*Please see CUEVAS on Page 7A*



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# OBITUARIES

## Gene Smith

Monte Vista resident Maurice E. "Gene" Smith, 88, died Dec. 9, 2020, at the Rio Grande Inn Nursing Home in La Jara.

Gene was born in Healy, Kansas on Dec. 27, 1931, the youngest child to William Smith and Lola Thirwell Smith. Gene attended Kansas University for two years before deciding to join the Navy where he served as a communications officer from 1952-1956. During his time in the Navy, he was stationed in Newport, R.I. While there he met a beautiful young nurse named Patricia (Pat) Ann Hahn. Being the fetching young sailor that he was, he swept Pat off her feet. They soon married in Providence, R.I. on June 4, 1955.

Gene joined the Catholic Church after 25 years of marriage and was very devout in his faith along with his loving wife Pat.

Gene later attended St. Mary the Plains College in Dodge City, Kan., while working and with five children at home to complete his degree in Teaching and graduated in 1973. Gene never pursued teaching but found his calling in carpentry. He was always a skilled carpenter and often worked with the Keck boys. Jeff Keck even ended up marrying his daughter Beth. He built several of his own homes

throughout the years. Gene had a real passion for Jay Hawk basketball, Football, and professional tennis. He also enjoyed playing basketball and tennis being known for his "mean English." His family recalls many occasions of his passion showing, at times in fiery and vocal ways. His smile, charm, and good humor were unmatched even in his later years. He was always good for a one-liner zinger to make the ladies blush. Camping and fishing are where Gene found peace. He loved being out in nature, bobber in the water, beloved wife at his side.

Gene lived a full, happy, and cheerful life and for that he will be deeply missed by all those who had the pleasure of knowing this kind soul. Gene is survived by his wife Pat Smith of Monte Vista, Colo.; his children Debbie (Donald) LeBleu of Berthoud, Colo., John T. Smith of Las Vegas, Nev., Beth (Jeff) Keck of Monte Vista, Colo., and Lori (Bill) Flint of Divide, Colo.; as well as 11 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his infant son Christopher Smith, his son Patrick Smith and his



three brothers and two sisters.

A Recitation of the Rosary will be held Thursday, July 29, at 7 p.m. followed by a Funeral Mass, 10 a.m. July 30, 2021, both at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Monte Vista.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes or words of comfort for Gene's family, please visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com). If you would like to make a donation to the Alzheimer's Association in his memory, please send these in care of Rogers Family Mortuary, 404 Morris Street, Monte Vista, CO 81144.

## Crystal Rae Sanderson January 20, 1943 — July 9, 2021

Crystal was born in Center, Colo., to Charles and Grayce Sheets and she attended school in Saguache. Crystal was a sensitive child and often helped her mother with the daily chores. Growing up in rural Colorado, there were always things to do, and she played with her brothers and sister.

From her close aunt Carolyn, though the youngest at about three-years-old, Crystal would pull her brothers in a wagon around the frozen pond where they lived. Crystal and the other kids would play games outside as children do. Though their early rural life was difficult, Grayce always ensured her children were taken care of.

Crystal was a lifelong resident of Colorado and lived most all her life in the San Luis Valley including Moffat, Center, Alamosa and Monte Vista, Colo. Crystal married early to Gary Brown and had five children. Sadly, her youngest, Michael, would pass at 4-months-old. Though Crystal carried this memory and loss throughout her life, Crystal also ensured her children were able to thrive in rural Colorado. From inspiration from her mother Grayce, and desire to serve, Crystal would go on to earn her license practical nursing degree and serve as an LPN in the San Luis Valley of Colorado for many years.

Crystal's heart was one of giving. She would go on to volunteer with a local Meals-on-Wheels group, serve as a senior volunteer and supported the La Puente organization in the San Luis

Valley. Crystal retired early to care for her late husband, Arthur Sanderson, whom she loved dearly. Over the years Crystal attended many ladies retreats with her churches and was a member of the Monte Vista United Methodist and Calvary Baptist churches.

Crystal loved the lord with all her heart. Crystal enjoyed bible studies, traveling, photography, gardening, crocheting and simple evening walks. Many of Crystals crocheted blankets are with family members and will be lifelong keepsakes. Crystal enjoyed the social aspects of small-town living, including square dancing and as a member of the Red Hat Society. Crystal was full of love and doted on children and grandchildren.

Crystal was preceded in death by her parents, Grayce and George Whitten; husband, Arthur Sanderson; her first husband, Gary; brothers, Doug and Buddy; and sister, Deanne.

Crystal is survived by her brothers, George (Julie) Whitten and Donald Whitten; sister, Becky Jane (Danny) Hendrickson; children, Beverly Wing, Jeff Brown, Tim Brown and Stacy (Tim) Officer; Crystal's grandchildren, Kylea Officer, Samantha Villalobos, Ashley Bourguet, Kyle Brown, Darius Brown, Cory Bourguet, Mathew Wing, Zachary Brown and Christina (Carlos) Grover; and nine great-grandchildren.

Crystal is home with the Lord and our hearts ache.

Interment, Monte Vista Colorado



Cemetery, Mountain View Way Road, County Rural Road 28/27.

Arrangements by The Springs Funeral Services - North, 6575 Oakwood Boulevard, Colorado Springs, CO 80923.

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## Marvin Gates

Lifelong Del Norte resident Marvin Gates, 66, passed away peacefully on July 14, 2021. Born on March 10, 1955, in Del Norte, Colo., the son of Martin Gates and Lucille Hines Gates.

Marvin loved doing construction work, he operated an excavator for many years. A compassionate, kind and loving husband, brother, uncle, cousin and friend, Marvin enjoyed going fishing, woodwork, being outdoors and spending time with his loving family and friends.

He was devoted to his faith, and he loved teaching bible education with his ministry as one of Jehovah's Witnesses.

He is survived by his beloved wife Diana Gates of Del Norte, Colo.; brother Steven (Brenda) Gates of Del Norte, Colo.; nephews Justin (Shaubin) Gates and Joshua Gates, niece Jamie Gates and their families.

Marvin was preceded in death by his parents Martin and Lucille Gates.

Cremation was chosen. A Memorial Service will be held virtually on July 31, 2021, at 1 p.m.



Please contact Martin Ringle at 719-850-0030 for login information. To leave online condolences, please visit [romerofunerlhomes.com](http://romerofunerlhomes.com).

The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Funeral Home of Monte Vista.

## Memorial Service Announcement

In remembrance of Patricia Smedly we will hold a memorial service for her on Saturday July 31, 2021, at 2 p.m. at the Monte Vista United Methodist Church. A burial service will follow at the Del Norte Cemetery. Please join us as we celebrate this extraordinary person.

## OBITUARY POLICY

Valley Publishing charges a flat fee of \$30 for each obituary published. Pending arrangements or death notices run for no charge.

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In the event the newspaper errors in publishing an obit, corrections will be made and the obit will be rerun. If the errors are on the part of the submitting party, an additional fee will be assessed. Obituaries can be emailed to: [bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com](mailto:bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com) or call 719-852-3531 for more information.

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Please see more OBITUARIES on Page 6A

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Remember Lot's Wife

I don't know about all of you out there amongst the reader land, but it seems that with each passing year things get harder to remember. That is unless you are Miss Trixie whose memory not only exceeds that of an elephant's but runs a close second to a laptop computer.

Of course, since Ol' Dutch cannot recall what he had for breakfast every day, she can insert any number of scenarios and answers to fit whatever outcome she desires, and I will be none the wiser. And I guess I have never been the wiser, yet so I am used to that, too.

I often get mixed up on people and names so lately I have been trying to make a more concerted effort to listen and file their names away when I meet them. I do know it's possible to do better as I can recall just exactly which tree, I placed a game camera on in 4.3 million acres of forest. So, it's probably selective memory just as Miss Trixie has suspected since day one.

The other day I had another brain fart moment during a sermon when the preacher said, "Remember Lot's Wife." Being a tad hard of hearing I only caught that part of it and sat there in complete and utter confusion trying to recall where we may have met or if she was new in church or something.

I would have asked Miss Trixie who was sitting beside me but have been shushed more times than I can remember in the past for asking a question. So, I just sat there and pondered if I knew Lot's wife and if she had gray hair or was it dyed three colors of the brown spectrum. I guess I can ask the pastor about her next time I see him.

The sermon Sunday was really good about Jeremiah the prophet and I got to thinking (a dangerous proposition according to Miss Trixie) that not only was there a lot of predicting of future events in the Bible but today the Internet is full of predictions of things to come.

Ol' Dutch can recall in my childhood being frightened half to death when we were all told in school that the Sun was cooling and would be going out. The way it was presented made us feel like we all needed to shop for winter coats



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

at Sears the very next week. Only when reading between the lines did we finally figure out that it was going to be 980,000 years into the future.

I mean even at Ol' Dutch's advanced age, I still will not be around to see that event for sure.

But fear sells and we are constantly being told about cataclysmic events yet to come be it meteors, earthquakes, volcanoes, global warming, and global cooling just to name a few. And once again, the threats of these have been hanging around our necks like a garlic amulet ever since we were kids. And they smell about as bad, too.

So, in recognition of all things predicted and prophesied over the past 5000 years, Ol' Dutch is going to make a few guesses on his own just to even up the playing field. And if I plan this right and get Miss Trixie on board, we might even parlay some of those predictions into best-selling books and make a little money to boot.

For you, dear read, I suggest grabbing a few 50 lb sacks of beans and rice and hanging on to your hats as it's sure to be a bumpy ride in the next few years. And for more information about the future, please send your checks to Ol' Dutch for safekeeping as money will not have any value in those times and I am willing to watch over it for you.

*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.troutpublic.com.*



## YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

### Spectacular Sagittarius

The arms of the Milky Way are named for the constellations they pass through: Perseus, Sagittarius, Centaurus and Cygnus are the major arms. Sagittarius is the most spectacular because the center of the Milky Way lies behind it, and that's where it's the densest and brightest.

You may recognize Sagittarius at the Teapot asterism. Look to the south and you will see the Teapot in the Milky Way sitting close to the horizon with the handle on the left and the spout on the right. The Milky Way appears to be steam coming up from the Teapot!

The actual constellation is Sagittarius the Archer with its bow aimed west towards Scorpius, the scorpion. Scorpius has a distinct "J" shape also

described as a fishhook. The bright orange star Antares lies in the long arm of the "J". The Sagittarius arrowhead is the tip of the Teapot sprout. The Archer is pictured as a centaur creature with the upper torso of a man and the body and legs of a horse. While you're looking at the Teapot, see if you can identify the Archer.

Many constellations are difficult to identify. When the ancient Greeks and other civilizations first named them more than 2,500 years ago there were no lights. So even the fainter stars were easy to see. Now we can't see as much, plus many stars have changed position in relation to Earth and the constellations no longer appear to be the same image they were back then. That's why asterisms have become more common and easily identifiable.

In that area you should also be able



to see four "naked-eye" star clusters. They may just look like fuzzy blobs in the sky. Binoculars will clarify the blob and identify the stars. They also help you to see more of the clusters.

Star clusters are groups of stars that are sometimes quite dense while others are more openly scattered.

Some may glow more because they contain a lot of gas and dust which reflects more light. They are consolidated toward the galactic center where most stars are born in clusters of tens to thousands in the great dark clouds that permeate space.

## OBITUARY

### 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 was 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 at a later date. 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](http://www.RogersFunerals.com).



# CENTER POST-DISPATCH

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Photo by Mechel Meek

The Center Consolidated School District is preparing for the upcoming school year. Students return on Aug. 16.

# Center Consolidated School District preparing for new school year, hiring

BY MECHEL MEEK

**CENTER** — The Center Consolidated School District is gearing up for a new school year and is planning for in-person learning.

Registration for all new and returning students begins on Aug. 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free health screenings for students will also be available during that time.

The first day of school will be Aug. 16 and will be held in-person. Several job opportunities are currently available with CCSD. The school website lists several teaching positions and a coaching position.

The Center Positive Youth Development Team in the school is hiring for many positions. The CPYD team is hiring full-time positions for a Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Post-Secondary Workforce Liaison, Migrant Education Student Support Coordinator, Re-Engagement Specialist, School Social Workers or School Counselors, and part-time After-School Positive Youth Development Facilitators.

According to CCSD guidance counselor Katrina Ruggles, “We are looking to fill these full-time grant funded positions.”

Ruggles went on to explain that these positions are all focused on

helping Center students achieve success in school and to provide resources for safety, health, and the re-engagement of studies. This also includes a program for educational advancement, the Entrepreneurial Innovation Club, which connects students with the Center community.

There are also part-time positions available as After-School Positive Youth Development Facilitators who work with the Viking Youth Club and connect students with art, science, sports and other after school enrichment activities.

To apply for any of these positions, visit [www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities](http://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities).

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# HVCC summer program ends July 29

## SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Hello High Valley Community Center members! We hope you have been enjoying these hot summer days!

The HVCC staff has been working hard to provide a quality experience for the kids that attend, and our hard work has paid off. We have more kids in attendance than ever before! It would not be possible without the support of our community — parents, guardians, family and friends. Thank you!

This past week, the younger kiddos learned some self-defense moves courtesy of Chris Martinez and his staff. Thank you, Chris! The kiddos participated in art projects, science experiments and other activities centered around healthy communication, including healthy social media use.

All the kids enjoyed a day tubing and playing in the San Juan River in

Pagosa Springs for the Wednesday field trip. The next field trip will be swimming at the Lathrop State Park's swimming beach.

Our summer program will end on Thursday, July 29. In celebration of our successful summer program, we would like to invite you to attend our HVCC Carnival. There will be fun, games and, of course, food! Our celebration will take place here at HVCC from 2-7 p.m. Everyone is welcome, so please spread the word. We hope to see you there!

Are your kiddos upset that summer program is coming to a close? Don't worry, we have a lot of fun activities planned for the school year! Volleyball and football registration forms will be available in July. Check our website, thehvcc.org for updates.

We also are happy to announce that we are partnering with Brade Bradshaw to bring a drama camp to

HVCC from Monday, Aug. 2 until Friday, Aug. 6. Registration for drama camp will be available on the HVCC website shortly.

If your kiddos are interested in joining us for the remainder of our summer program or in the fall, you are welcome to register them online. The link to registration is located on our website under the tab, "Register".

**High Valley Community Center students enjoyed a day floating on the river near Pagosa Springs last week. Be sure to come by and celebrate the end of the summer program at their carnival at the end of the month.**

Photos courtesy of HVCC



## Ancient Valley Open Mic back for Fourth Season in Del Norte

### STAFF REPORT

**DEL NORTE** — Ancient Valley Open Mic in Del Norte is a community music series that depends on local talent for its show.

Happening every Wednesday at the new Simple Foods market, 680 Grand Ave., from 5-7 p.m., their shady outdoor listening space is attracting audiences as well as talented musicians from all over the San Luis Valley.

Ancient Valley Open Mic is open to participants of all skill levels and styles. Staging includes a two-channel amp set up for one player with one direct instrument; players

are encouraged to bring additional equipment that they need. For more information, contact the director jenni@jennimansfieldpeal.com



Courtesy photo

Alamosa duo Beans and Biscuits performs at Ancient Valley Open Mic in Del Norte. Photo by Tom Peal

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# STAMPEDE

Continued from Page 1A

The annual Stampede festivities feature a kick-off concert, three performances of PRCA rodeo, a carnival, parades and dances. The event continues to gain in popularity and remains the premier event of the summer for the San Luis Valley.

The Stampede concert attracts the largest crowds in the Valley and has

featured numerous high-profile county music artists including Josh Turner, Thomas Rhett and Old Dominion. Over the years, icons such as Chris LeDoux and the Charlie Daniels Band have also made stops in Monte Vista. The 2021 concert is set to feature Scotty McCreery and Ned LeDoux.

The Ski-Hi Stampede also provides

opportunities for the SLV community. Those opportunities include the chance for local amateurs to compete for trophy saddles in team roping, tie-down roping and barrel racing. Furthermore, the Stampede Committee partners with Adams State University to provide scholarships to local students who demonstrate community involvement. The event is relatively unique

in that it features a variety of entertainment choices and remains a social gathering that families have been known to return to annually.

Tentative schedule of events  
Thursday, July 22  
Wright's Amusement Carnival  
7:30 p.m.: Concert  
11 p.m. - 1 a.m.: Dance  
Friday, July 23  
Wright's Amusement Carnival  
1 p.m.: Local Rodeo, amateur events and professional slack

7 p.m.: PRCA Rodeo  
9 p.m.-1 a.m.: Dance  
Saturday, July 24  
Wright's Amusement Carnival  
10 a.m.: Parade  
7 p.m.: PRCA Rodeo  
9 p.m.-1 a.m.: Dance  
Sunday, July 25  
Wright's Amusement Carnival  
2 p.m.: PRCA Rodeo  
Saddle Awards  
For more information, visit [www.skihistampede.com](http://www.skihistampede.com)

# OBITUARIES

## Ken G. 'Bunky' Arnett



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 was 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 at a later date. 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](http://www.RogersFunerals.com).

## Music in the Park: Jublingo performing June 25

CREEDE — Jubilingo of Denver will be performing at Basham Park in Creede on Sunday, July 25, from 2-4 p.m.

This is part of the Creede Arts Council's Music in the Park series of free public concerts.

Fueled by compelling vocals and improvisatory sections, Jubilingo entertains with an impassioned blend of insightful originals and distinct covers. The Denver-based quartet melds soul, funk, gospel and jazz with roots rock and improvisation.

Georgia native, Jessica Holloway, brings a fire to any stage she sets foot on. Holloway's soulful and powerful vocals and sizzling organ and keyboard playing light up the

night. Keith Hicks adds robust vocals and high-spirited guitar work, paying homage to past masters and striving to forge new ground through an eclectic amalgamation of styles. Jake Herman (percussion) and Matthew Rossmann (bass) provide a tight and driving rhythm section, dynamically attuned to varying shifts in the band's music, distinctly laying down a variety of choice grooves.

Featuring tunes rooted in southern soul, jam rock, and insightful ballads, Jubilingo is gaining notice through their spirited and stirring live shows.

For more information, contact Creede Arts Council at [creedearts@outlook.com](mailto:creedearts@outlook.com) or check out their website at [creedeartscouncil.com](http://creedeartscouncil.com).

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.

## Alice Medina

Alice Medina was laid to rest July 9, 2021. She was born in Guadalupita, N.M., June 26, 1935, to Presciliano and Elisa Bernal.

She went to meet with her creator, our heavenly father, along with her husband Juan Medina, her daughters Patsy and Eloyda, and sons Robert and Dan Medina.

She is survived by daughters Regina Lucero and Elizabeth (Jeremiah) Ortega, and son Andy Medina, Nick, Robert, Destiny Medina, and Ian Lucero whom she raised. Numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren to carry on her legacy.

She absolutely loved casinos, bingo, outdoors, gardening and especially spending time with her grandkids, baking cookies, making tamales, and her tortillas.

We will miss her laughs, smiles and her saying "when's the next bingo"? or "can you get off work so we can go to the casinos"?

You were and are loved SOOO much, we will miss you. REST IN PEACE.

Cremation was chosen and a



Celebration of Life will take place Friday, July 16, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Alice's house on 1123 W. Sickles St. in Monte Vista, Colo., with a reception to follow.

Arrangements in care of Strohmayer's Funeral Home.

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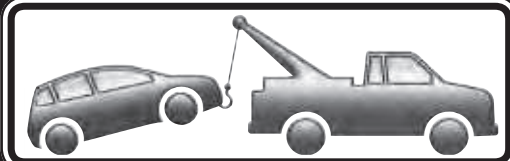
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# RATE

Continued from Page 1A



Photo by Mechel Meek

**VISTA volunteer Keith Brockhurst was introduced to Center Town Trustees during their meeting on July 12.**

housing and business opportunities on the new acreage.

Lujan suggested that the town apply for a planning grant which would allow more consultants to be involved in the proposed planning and development.

“I think it would be advantageous for us to apply for a \$40,000 planning grant,” Lujan said.

Trustees discussed proposed names for the 90-acre property that were submitted by town residents. Several names were discussed with no final decision. Trustees will discuss the finalization of a name at a later meeting.

Also addressed during his report, was the introduction of Keith Brockhurst a VISTA volunteer, which is part of the AmeriCorps program that is designed to help alleviate

poverty by providing resources to impoverished communities. The volunteer program is set for one year.

Brockhurst is from Maryland, is fluent in Spanish and recently graduated from Cornell University. He is especially interested in the economic development of rural areas.

Lujan then explained how the VISTA volunteer program will help support the development of the 90 acres and the overall revitalization plan. He said that Center will soon be “the blueprint for a successful rural community, raised from a dying downtown to a thriving rural community.”

A special events permit was approved to sell beer at the End of Summer Bash which will feature vendors providing food, entertainment and refreshments

on Aug. 28 at Casa Blanca Park, the parade starts at 11 a.m. and the festivities end at 8 p.m.

Lujan also announced that the town was a recipient of a \$5,000 grant from El Pomar Foundation to help cover the cost of the event that may help stimulate the Center economy.

In new business, the Center Consolidated School District applied for and received a grant to have fiber optic internet lines installed throughout town. Jade Communications will be doing the research and legwork needed to install the lines.

Center Police Department Chief Dale Meek updated Trustees on calls for service to the police in June.

“Crimes have been down but there has been a rise in suspicious activity complaints,” he said.

He went on to explain that the rise in those types of complaints is due to the citizens calling in and taking an interest in keeping Center crime free. He also brought up that crimes against local businesses, including shoplifting, have dropped.

There were 366 total calls for service to the Center Police Department in June. The other topic discussed was CPD will be changing cell service carriers. This is expected to save money and provide a better level of service.

The Public Works report discussed the current implementation of the water meter system for the town. According to Public Works Director Dave Mehaffie, “Location IDs are worked out on the water meters.” Billing was expected to be correct by Aug. 1.

# CUEVAS

Continued from Page 1A

was removing it from the back of a dark blue 2018 Nissan Versa around 6:42 a.m. on that Thursday morning. Roughly three hours later, authorities received the call about the suitcase. Unable to identify the victim and seeking the public’s assistance, police released the video along with photos of a clown tattoo on the victim’s body Thursday night.

According to a 2019 KRDO exclusive interview, family members were gathered at their home in Monte Vista watching football when the video came on the television. They immediately recognized the car as belonging to Maria “Mary” Cuevas Garcia, but “it was the victim’s tattoo that confirmed their suspicions.”

The Chieftain reports that Destia Rane Hamilton, Cuevas Garcia’s granddaughter, said her brother saw the surveillance footage first.

“He told me to look at it and I did. I recognized the car, the way he walked and how he dresses and the tattoos he has on his neck. We all knew it was him,” Hamilton said. “We were in such shock. We knew my uncle and grandma had fights, but we never knew he would go this far,” she told KRDO.

Cuevas Garcia’s car was found later in the morning of Oct. 17 after having been taken to Dionisio Metal and Iron in Pueblo.

Anthony Cuevas, 37, had a warrant out for his arrest on a parole violation after being sentenced in 2014 in Rio Grande County to 10 years for possession of a schedule II controlled substance in connection with a conspiracy charge. In October of 2019, after getting several tips from the video and locating Cuevas Garcia’s car, police executed search warrants around the city looking for him, according to Sgt. Franklyn Ortega of the Pueblo Police Department.

That same day, detectives went to Mary Cuevas Garcia’s house

on Euclid Avenue — just three miles from where her remains were dumped and where Anthony and Maria Cuevas were living since earlier that fall. Ronald Garcia, Mary’s husband, passed away on July 13 of that year.

According to KRDO, at some point on Friday, Anthony Cuevas returned to his mother’s home on Euclid while investigators were examining the scene. A chase ensued and Anthony Cuevas, driving a different car, was able to elude police, ultimately leaving the car west of Lake Pueblo State Park and getting away on foot. That same day, according to court documents, Anthony Cuevas allegedly entered a motor vehicle with intent to commit theft.

Anthony Cuevas was captured and arrested at 6:15 p.m. Friday night at Adolfo’s Restaurant in Pueblo. He was with his wife, Melanie Cuevas, 38, at the time. She was arrested on a warrant for criminal impersonation and was later released.

On Oct. 21, 2019, the Pueblo County coroner positively identified the body and released Cuevas Garcia’s name to the media.

What the Pueblo Police Department did not immediately reveal to the public — stating “it’s something only the killer would know” — is that Cuevas Garcia’s head, hands and feet had been severed from her body and dumped in a different location.

For the next five months, police

## Saguache County Sales Tax Grants now available!

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners will be taking Grant Applications for Saguache County Sales Tax Grants until 3:00PM, Friday, August 13, 2021.

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

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

No. 1600 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, July 8, 15, 22 and 29 and August 5, 12 and 19, 2021.

ESTRAY: #1337: One Black Mare, Star, LF Pastern, 2H Socks, No Brand. Livestock must be claimed by legal owner within 10 days or will be sold by Colorado Brand Board. For information call 719-580-2534 or 303-869-9160.

No. 1601 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, July 22, 2021.

The Saguache County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Meeting Room located at 305 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Saguache, Colorado, on the following date:

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 at 4 PM**

to consider proposed changes to the Saguache County Land Development Code changes

To view the proposed changes BEGINNING MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2021, you may contact the Saguache County Land Use Department – PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or [atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov), or by calling 719-655-2321 or you may also view the changes on our website at [www.saguachecounty.net](http://www.saguachecounty.net).

Written comments will be accepted until Friday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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](mailto:atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov).

No. 1599 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, July 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2021.

# COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

The Saguache County Museum is on the National Register of Historic Places and is filled with artifacts from Saguache’s history such as a defibrillator from 1908.

The commissioners discussed the fact that an adobe expert and a structural engineer would need to be brought in to look at the structure to figure out how to fix the problems in the building within historical standards.

As the museum is a county asset, sales tax funds can be used to help pay for repairs, along with any payout from the current insurance coverage. The discussion regarding the museum was sent to a later work session to decide how to proceed.

Commissioner Lynne Thompson

then began a discussion regarding a proposed new County courthouse. Her idea was to have the department heads submit what they would like to see if a new courthouse was approved by voters. What would they need in an office space, and what they would need to make it useful for their individual departments?

Thompson said, “I would like to see what the department heads would like in a plan, and what they would need in each office.”

Thompson stressed that this would be an idea only, not a resolution by the commissioners or a commitment to build a new courthouse as that is a decision for the voters. She proposed that the department heads submit ideas by Dec. 31.

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**DF-CD-NP-Q321**

# 99<sup>th</sup>

## ANNUAL

# San Luis Valley

# Ski-Hi Stampede

Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday  
July 22, 23, 24 & 25, 2021

**Ski-Hi Park**  
**Monte Vista**

## World Class Rodeos

Friday Evening - 7 p.m. (Family Day)

Saturday - 7 p.m. • Sunday - 2 p.m.

Rodeo Announcer - Andy Seiler

Stace Smith,

Multiple Years as PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year

## Double Concert:

Scotty McCreery & Ned LeDoux



Thursday,  
July 22  
7:30 p.m.  
Ski-Hi Park

<b>Rotary Chuck Wagon Dinner</b> Thursday, July 22nd 5:30 p.m.	<b>Parade</b> July 24 10 a.m.
<b>Stampede Dances</b> July 22, 23 & 24 • 9 p.m. \$10 at the door	<b>Monte Vista Band Booster Hamburger Fry</b> July 24 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Sunflower Bank parking garage
<b>Christian Cowboys' Service</b> Sunday, July 25th • 10 a.m. • Ski-Hi Park	

**Concert Tickets:**

Pre-Sale At Door	General Admission \$35 \$40	Reserved \$45 \$50	Premium Reserved \$50
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**Dances** Friday & Saturday - 9 p.m.  
\$10 at the Door

## Ticket Information

719-852-2055

	Presale	Door
Friday & Saturday, July 23rd & 24th		
Family Day (Husband, wife and up to 5 children under 18)	\$32	\$37
Box Seats	\$18	\$20
Reserve Seating - Adult	\$17	\$19
Reserve Seating - Child	\$10	\$12
General Admission - Adult	\$15	\$17
General Admission - Child	\$10	\$10
Arena Seats Reserved	\$18	\$20
Country Western Dance	\$10	\$10
Sunday, July 25th		
Senior Citizen Day (General Admission - 65 & over)	\$7	\$7

**Rodeo Tickets Available At:**  
[www.skihistampede.com](http://www.skihistampede.com)  
Stampede Ticket Office, 852-2055

## PINK SATURDAY

**TOUGH ENOUGH TO WEAR PINK?** Help support the *Stephanie & Miaer* Women's Imaging Center for the SLV Regional Medical Center

## Youth Night

at Ski-Hi Stampede Dance

Saturday, July 24

First 100 Youth (under 21 years old) with paid admission will receive a FREE Commemorative Stampede T-Shirt!



## Family Day at the Rodeo

Friday, July 23  
7 p.m.

Local SLV Amateur Events & Professional Slack at 1 p.m.



Wright's Amusements Carnival

## Canned Food Drive

Bring 2 cans of food items to the Carnival & you can buy an all-day carnival pass for \$25

Wednesday, July 21





# Lifestyles

Serving the entire San Luis Valley

Supplement to The Monte Vista Journal, Center Post-Dispatch, The Conejos County Citizen, The Mineral County Miner, The South Fork Times, and The Del Norte Prospector.

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## HVCC summer program winding down

### SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Hi High Valley Community Center members! We hope you enjoyed your 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. It is hard to believe that we only have one more month left of summer program. We have enjoyed meeting new friends and making memories and look forward to making more!

Baseball has come to an end as of July 10. Thank you to all the parents, coaches, volunteers, and staff who helped make a successful baseball season possible. We appreciate your hard work and support. There will be a brief sports break for the remainder of July, but please be on the lookout for fall sports updates.

HVCC welcomed guest speakers from the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation Education Initiative and the River Valley Inn to enlighten the kiddos about water conservation and the innerworkings of the nursing home.

Our Junior Staff volunteered at the Conour SLV Animal Shelter and worked on town beautification. The older kids also learned valuable self-defense moves from Chris Martinez and his fellow taekwondo instructors.

For the week's field trip, the kids spent the day exploring Creede and attended a special Creede Repertory Theatre performance outside. Next week, the kids will travel to Pagosa Springs for some fun inner tubing down the San Juan River with Pagosa Outside.

This week, Carlos and Damian M. helped staff to clean up after activities and were respectful during activity time. Great job, boys! Your positive attitudes are greatly appreciated.

Please visit our website, [thehvcc.org](http://thehvcc.org) for program updates, employment opportunities, information about youth sports and our exciting August drama camp! We hope you all have a great week!



Kathryn Trujillo and her son Joseph who was the featured artist on July 10 at the opening of the World War II exhibit at the Rio Grande County Museum stand with Director Louise Colville.



Photos courtesy of HVCC

High Valley Community Center returned from the Fourth of July break and have been busy working in the community and taking field trips each Wednesday. The summer program runs until the end of July before school starts back up in August.



Courtesy photo

A generator was brought in and is housed in Wolf Creek Ski Area's parking lot.

## Collaboration for fire mitigation goes a long way

### SUBMITTED ARTICLE

**SANLUIS VALLEY**— Disaster has struck many parts of Colorado in recent years by way of wildfire, and the San Luis Valley hasn't been immune to the widespread epidemic. The Million Fire, Spring Creek Fire and West Fork Fire Complex burned thousands of acres of land, and while these Valley fires weren't caused by an electric utility, they do

show the importance of having a fire mitigation plan in place.

SLV Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) holds wildfire prevention as a high priority and strives to be proactive in keeping mitigation plans accurate and up to date. This is evidenced by the current maintenance project occurring on Highway 160 from mile marker

See SLV REC on Page 2

## The Fairboard

It was every fairboard's nightmare when the lightning hit the stage.

Course, it might have been expected; it was just another page

In a trail of disasters that befell our county fair That began when Dr. Knockwurst told us we should be aware

That a stomatitis outbreak might shut down the rodeo

Not to mention all the entries in the Junior Livestock Show.

Then the week before we opened they began to excavate

Down the center of the highway that runs up to the main gate.

Of course, they hit a waterline. We were Lake Louise by dawn.

But no water in the spigots in the barns or in the john.

So we planned on shuttle parking using pontoons and canoes

But we finally wound up asking folks to just take off their shoes.



And the carnival got testy 'cause we couldn't build a bridge  
Plus the vendors all were grumblin' due to decreased patronage  
But the tractor pull went okay 'cept they pulled a light pole down  
Which played havoc with the dog trials when two handlers almost drowned.

On the morning of the last night the promoter called to say  
That the singer had a sore throat and could not perform, no way.  
But by noon it didn't matter 'cause the clouds came rollin' in  
And the crowd all left in lifeboats so by five we pulled the pin.

We retreated to the office down beneath the grandstand seats  
Where the fairboard did its business and hashed out the balance sheets.  
'Cause tonight we were survivors. Like a pile of used retreads  
Only glad that it was over, all we did was shake our heads

And ask ourselves why anyone would take this thankless chore  
When a kid, in tow with mother, stuck his head in through the door.  
He had lost his yellow ribbon, she explained, both drippin' pools,  
And wondered if by some small chance, if it

weren't against rules...

Could we? "Course we could!" I shouted. "We're the fairboard! That's our thing!"  
So we picked him out a dry one. It was like we crowned him king.  
And he tried to say his thank yous but his tears got in the way.  
Time stood still as he departed. No one had too much to say  
Till the lightning hit the stage lights, then I heard me volunteer,  
"I reckon we should get them fixed 'fore we do much else next year."

*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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# Planning ahead is key to selling a business

## STAFF REPORT

**ALAMOSA** — Most businesses in the San Luis Valley are small, family-owned and family-run operations with much of the family's wealth invested in that business. When it comes time to sell the business or transfer ownership to a family member, the decision can be difficult. There may be years of work and sacrifice invested in the business' success. Taking planned and deliberate steps toward this transition can ease the process.

"It is important — well ahead of time — to have a succession plan," according to Jason Medina, director of the San Luis Valley Small Business Development Center in Alamosa. "To quote Benjamin Franklin, 'If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail!'"

Here are a few suggested actions gleaned from several sources that can help with a business transition:

Analyze the Current Economic Climate

Evaluate what is happening in the overall economy, locally, and in your business sector that could affect the sale of your business. Are interest rates high or low? Is your industry growing and what is the potential for growth in your region? Put together a list of potential buyers that should include family members, current employees, and competitors

According to Medina, it is important to include others who may be effected by your business transition, particularly employees. "Be inclusive. Train employees to know what you know. They have an interest in your business and no one wants to see a business fail."

### Build a Group of Advisors

Most businesses already have a small group of professionals that help steer you and your business. People like an

accountant, banker, insurance agent, attorney, financial advisor, or trusted business associate. Bring them together as an advisory group to help guide your transition. Each member will bring expertise from their field that can be valuable in developing your transition strategy. Seek their advice on possible deals and impacts on assets, taxes, and legal issues.

### Prepare Your Business

The goal is to maximize the value of your business. Is it "exit-ready"? Look for issues that might negatively affect the sale. Review tax documents; confirm that financial documents are up-to-date, accurate, and provide transparency of financial condition; and be sure corporate papers are current.

### Value Your Business

This is perhaps the most critical step in business transition planning. Work with a business broker, your banker, or your accountant to do an estimated valuation of your business. A valuation early in the process will give you an idea of the value of your business and give you time to address issues.

In determining the value of your business, consider more than the value of inventory and real estate. "Try to monetize the reputation, respect, and good name your business has earned over the years," advised Medina. "They are valuable to you and the buyer."

Determine Personal Financial Needs  
Decide how much money you need to meet your financial goals after the business sale. Do expected net proceeds

meet those goals? Include tax obligations in that calculation.

"It is really important, years ahead, to plan your retirement. Don't sell yourself short," Medina offered.

### Talk With Your Family

Let your family know you plans as soon as possible. Especially if family members are involved in the business. Failure to keep them informed can cause lasting conflict in the family.

The San Luis Valley Small Business Development Center can assist business owners in planning the sale of their business by one-on-one counselling with a strategic planning consultant and a business succession planning template. Contact Medina at the SLV-SBDC at 719-589-0312, or go online to [www.slv-sbdc.com](http://www.slv-sbdc.com).

## SLV REC

Continued from Page 1

183.5 to mile marker 178. The three-phase line and 34 poles from Lonesome Dove to the Lucky 7 Subdivision will be replaced with Hendrix Aerial Cable.

"Hendrix Aerial Cable Systems are anchored by a high strength messenger wire that supports the spacers and phase conductors from above. It has the mechanical and electrical strength to weather severe storms," according to a Hendrix product website.

The covered cable can withstand impact from contact, such as a tree falling, without triggering an outage. The resiliency of the line drastically reduces the potential for a fire caused by the electric utility.

"One of the big drivers of this project is wildfire mitigation. We're spending a great amount of effort looking at ways that we can mitigate the risk of wildfires caused by electric lines owned by San Luis Valley Rural Electric," stated REC CEO Loren Howard.

Not only will the new line help with fire mitigation, but it will also increase reliability. With the difficult terrain in the area, wire and pole repair is more challenging. The Hendrix cable will help prevent outages and blinks on the system.

The project, which has been in the works for two years, couldn't have happened without collaboration and significant coordination between many different entities: Rio Grande National Forest Service (RGNF), Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT),

Wolf Creek Ski Area, United Power, contractor Ward Electric and more.

Under the CDOT permit and traffic control plan, Critters Barricade will be controlling traffic as needed for traveler and worker safety, particularly when the helicopter is used. This will involve possible traffic delays along Highway 160, which will be kept as short as safely possible. "A generator has been brought in for four to six weeks, while we switch the wires out. It is located in the ski area's parking lot. Davey Pitcher [Wolf Creek Ski Area owner] has been very accommodating with this project. We would have had a very difficult time finding somewhere secure to place that generator and couldn't have done this without Davey's help," stated SLVREC Engineering Manager Terry Daley.

"United Power [covering the northern Front Range] let us preview their projects to learn about Hendrix... co-ops are always great about helping other co-ops. This whole project has been a huge collaboration; there are many partners coordinating to keep everything running smoothly," said Daley.

Approximately 50 REC members will be affected with intermittent electrical outages in July and August, and all will be notified prior. The project will continue through approximately Sept. 1. Call REC with any questions or concerns, 719-852-3538.

## ESTIMATED CROP WATER USE

Weather Data from SLV Research Center located on the 9N and Hwy 285


Crop	Date Planted	Daily Crop Water use for Dates Shown (in./day)				Accumulated Water Use (ET)				
		7/18	7/17	7/16	7/15	From				
						2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
Moravian 69	04/05	0.14	0.14	0.11	0.16	0.28	0.39	0.55	0.61	0.86
Moravian 69	05/05	0.22	0.21	0.16	0.22	0.44	0.60	0.82	0.90	1.22
Early Wheat	04/05	0.17	0.17	0.13	0.18	0.34	0.47	0.65	0.72	1.01
Early Wheat	05/05	0.22	0.21	0.16	0.22	0.44	0.60	0.82	0.90	1.22
White Wheat	04/05	0.21	0.20	0.16	0.22	0.40	0.56	0.77	0.86	1.17
White Wheat	05/05	0.22	0.21	0.16	0.22	0.44	0.60	0.82	0.90	1.22
Winter Wheat	10/01	0.11	0.11	0.09	0.12	0.22	0.31	0.43	0.47	0.67
<b>Potatoes</b>										
Norkotah	05/05	0.23	0.22	0.17	0.23	0.46	0.63	0.86	0.94	1.27
Centennial	05/05	0.22	0.21	0.16	0.22	0.44	0.60	0.82	0.90	1.20
Nugget	05/05	0.21	0.20	0.15	0.21	0.41	0.57	0.78	0.86	1.14
Alfalfa	Est.	0.26	0.24	0.18	0.25	0.50	0.68	0.93	1.03	1.39
Lawnglass	Est.	0.21	0.20	0.15	0.21	0.41	0.57	0.78	0.86	1.16

For the latest ET information, call 754-3494 extension x40 for Center, x36 for Center #2, and x38 for San Acacio. Use the crop maturity and planting data and weather station closest to your own. Find this updated table each day at this web address: <http://aes-slvrc.agsci.colostate.edu/daily-crop-water-use-report/>

This information is provided by the SLV Research Center (Colorado State University) and the Colorado Potato Certification Service. For info, call 754-3494 x26 or e-mail: [andrew.houser@colostate.edu](mailto:andrew.houser@colostate.edu)

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Sell your household items for FREE. Total value of items must be \$50 or less. See details below.



## CLASSIFIED INDEX

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 01 TICKETS
- 02 CARD OF THANKS
- 03 MEMORIALS
- 04 LOST & FOUND
- 05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
- 06 PERSONALS
- EMPLOYMENT**
- 07 HELP WANTED
- 08 WORK WANTED
- 09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

### FOR RENT

- 10 APARTMENTS
- 11 ROOMS
- 12 HOUSES
- 13 MOBILE HOMES
- 14 BUSINESS PROPERTY
- 15 WANTED TO RENT
- 16 VACATION

### REAL ESTATE

- 17 REAL ESTATE
- 18 LOTS & ACREAGE
- 19 FARM & FARMLAND
- 20 BUSINESS PROPERTY
- 21 MOBILE HOMES
- 22 PROPERTY WANTED

### MERCHANDISE

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

### ANIMALS

- 45 ANIMAL BREEDING
- 46 PASTURE FOR RENT
- 47 HORSES & CATTLE
- 48 PETS & SUPPLIES
- 49 ANIMAL CARE
- 50 LIVESTOCK
- RECREATIONAL**
- 51 BOATS & EQUIPMENT
- 52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT
- 53 TRAILERS
- 54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S
- 55 R.V.'S/CAMPERS
- FINANCIAL**
- 56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
- 57 INVESTMENTS
- TRANSPORTATION**
- 58 MOTORCYCLES
- 59 VEHICLES WANTED
- 60 CLASSIC CARS
- 61 4X4'S
- 62 VANS
- 63 TRUCKS
- 64 AUTOS FOR SALE
- SERVICES**
- 65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
- 66 CHILD CARE

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## 05 Notices

**“The Tourism Board is seeking motivated and energetic individuals, from Monte Vista and Del Norte areas, to volunteer as part of their marketing team.** If interested but want more information please contact Linda @ 719-852-2731 or submit a letter of interest to Rio Grande County Commissioners, 925 6th St. Room 207, Del Norte, CO 81132 or email [bhatton@riograndecounty.org](mailto:bhatton@riograndecounty.org) (7/15)

**WE BUY ANTLER:** New Spring Prices: Elk Grade A \$15/lb. Deer Grade A \$10/lb. 5 miles west of Del Norte on Hwy 160. 719-657-0942 (TFN)

## 07 Help Wanted

**The San Luis Valley Healthcare Coalition (SLV HCC) is seeking an independent contractor to provide professional operational coordinator services.** The contractor is responsible for providing a wide range of HCC program operational coordination for the following the San Luis Valley counties: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache. The Operational Coordinator will serve as a liaison between the SLV HCC, local and state counterparts, federal agencies, and all appropriate stakeholders providing activities related to the Statement of Work (SOW), especially with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (CDPHEOEPR) Healthcare Coalition program. The Operational Coordinator along with the Readiness & Response Coordinator (R&R Coordinator),

will handle day-to-day activities of the SLVHCC and provide coordination to complete funding grant deliverables. This position works closely with the R&R Coordinator, the SLVHCC Leadership/Steering Committee, and the fiscal agent for the SLVHCC; for guidance and decision-making. Responses should be submitted electronically as a pdf document to: [coordinator@slvhcc.org](mailto:coordinator@slvhcc.org). Requests for additional information and/or questions should be coordinated through [coordinator@slvhcc.org](mailto:coordinator@slvhcc.org). Please visit [www.riograndecounty.org](http://www.riograndecounty.org) for more information. Deadline for proposals is July 21, 2021 (7/21)

**Rio Grande County Public Health**, serving as the fiscal agent for the San Luis Valley Healthcare Coalition, is seeking a Readiness and Response Coordinator. The Readiness and Response Coordinator will serve as the primary liaison between the SLVHCC, local and state counterparts, federal agencies, and all appropriate stakeholders providing activities related to the Statement of Work (SOW), especially with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (CDPHE-OEPR) Healthcare Coalition program. The Coordinator will handle day-to-day activities of the SLVHCC and provide coordination to complete funded grant deliverables. This position reports to the Public Health Department Director or designee Program Manager at Rio Grande County Public Health Department for supervision, guidance and decision-making. This is a grant funded position through the

Healthcare Preparedness Program funding from CDPHE and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). Required Experience: Minimum of 5 years' experience in healthcare emergency management, planning and response. Certification in Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) and experience designing, facilitating, and evaluating all types of HSEEP exercises, previous work with adult learners, including training development and facilitation and incident Command System (ICS) or HICS 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, 800 certifications. Please take the time to find out

more about Rio Grande County Public Health at <https://www.riograndecounty.org/public-health>, <https://www.riograndecounty.org> and the coalition at [www.slvhcc.org](http://www.slvhcc.org) before applying for this position. This is a .75 FTE position

no benefits. \$40,000. Resumes can be sent to [humanresources@riograndecounty.org](mailto:humanresources@riograndecounty.org) or mailed to 925 6th Street #200, Del Norte, CO 81132. (7/21)

**District Special Education**

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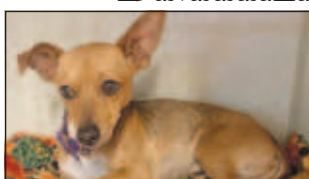
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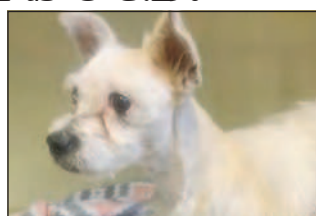
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Eddie is an energetic and loving Maltese/Terrier mix. He is spunky and loves attention. He is looking for a home that can give him the patience and attention that he needs and he will give back all the love that he is given.



Baby is a sweet and gentle, Lab/Border Collie Cross. She loves snuggles and has a very quiet and calm demeanor. She doesn't

bark much but loves attention. She is mostly blind in one eye due to an injury that happened before she arrived at our shelter but has no problem getting around and is looking for a loving forever home.



Emelia is a calm and loving, Husky/Shepherd mix. She is playful and affectionate and loves "butt scratches." she likes to go for long walks and will let you pet her all day long! She is looking for a secure home that will let her be an involved family member.



This week we had 9 - 5 month old Border collie mix puppies surrendered. These dogs are looking for great homes to help them learn how to be good canine citizens and are going to be loving members of your family. They are all clean slates on training and have lived with other dogs before.



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# Valley Wide Classifieds

**Teacher Description: The Moffat Consolidated School District #2 has a position for a full-time special education teacher.** Interested applicants should hold a valid Colorado Teaching license with a Special Education Endorsement or be eligible for Special Education Eligibility. The Special Education Teacher provides instruction, assessment and program planning for special education students with a resource-room focus. Other responsibilities include: monitoring, documenting, and evaluating student progress and behavior for approximately 18 IEPs; researching, obtaining and providing instructional materials for special education services; preparing for and facilitating IEP meetings; serving as a resource for teachers, students and parents; working collaboratively with classroom teachers; and coordinating and developing 504 plans for students with a qualifying disability. Evaluated by: Moffat School Principal, Crestone Charter School Director, Superintendent The Special Education Teacher instructs special education students in settings that provide a continuum of services in the regular classroom, 1-1 and resource room settings in both Moffat School and Crestone Charter School. The Special Education Teacher works directly with service providers, families, teachers and administration to create, monitor and implement IEPs and 504s to ensure that regular and special education services are designed to meet the student's individual educational needs. Observes, evaluates, reports and records students' academic per-

formance, behavior, social development, and physical health for 504s and IEPs. Helps all students develop competence and confidence simultaneously through a balance of acquiring basic skills and developing conceptual understanding. Monitors, supervises, coordinates and enforces rules of conduct and behavior for assigned students, and reinforces positive student behaviors in accordance with school and District policy. Communicates with parents or guardians, teachers, counselors, and administrators to resolve students' behavioral and academic problems. Develops, coordinates and supports the development of 504 plans to ensure the district provides a "free appropriate public education" to each qualified student with a qualifying disability. Salary: Based on school's teacher pay scale with extra-duty contract negotiable Knowledge, Experience, & Other Qualifications: - Must possess a current Colorado Department of Education Teachers License with an endorsement in Special Education Generalist or Special Education Specialist or be able to obtain the endorsement within the first year of employment. Previous experience working with special needs students and their parents preferred. Moderate Needs Position: - Serves students from multiple eligibility categories. May need to teach literacy, math, language skills, behavioral skills, daily living skills, and/or adaptive skills, and may also provide physical care needs. Provides instruction at the large group, small group, and individual level. Collaborates with general education staff

for the successful inclusion of students. MCS D #2 is an equal opportunity employer (7/14)

**Moffat Consolidated School District #2 is accepting applicants for our 1st Grade Teaching position.** Come and join our outstanding Elementary Team The successful candidate shall possess a Colorado Teaching License and previous experience is preferred. This is a full-time position and includes District paid medical insurance as well as other benefits paid for by the school. If you are interested in applying, please go to [www.moffatschools.org](http://www.moffatschools.org) and select employment and certified position or contact the school at 719-745-0500. MCS D #2 is an equal opportunity employee. (7/14)

**Moffat Consolidated School District is now hiring for a part time middle school Math teacher.**The successful applicant must either possess a Colorado teaching license or have the ability and desire to obtain one. If interested, please go to [www.moffatschools.org](http://www.moffatschools.org) and complete

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an online application or call 719-745-0500. MCS D #2 is an equal opportunity employer. (7/14)

**HELP WANTED: GRANT WRITING Specialist Saguache County is searching for a grant writing specialist that will take charge of the search of grants for all Saguache County departments by searching for and administering any grants awarded.** With the ability to research grants for various county departments, all grant reporting requirements, manage and track all financial and award requirements assure all requirements are

met. Starting pay depending on experience. Applications available at [www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov](http://www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov) or in the Saguache County Administration Office. Please contact Wendi Maez at 719-655-2231 or email [wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov) for more information. Applications close on Friday, July 23, 2021 at 3:00 P. M. Saguache County is an EEO employer. Drug testing including marijuana and background check will be required for final applicants. (7/21)

**The City of Monte Vista is accepting applications for the position of Finance Director.** Th Finance

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# Valley Wide Classifieds

Director has direct responsibility and supervision of all aspects of the Finance Department which includes fund accounting, financial reporting, payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, pension and retirement accounting, revenue collections, purchasing, auditing, budgeting, preparation of the Annual Finance Report, and monitors the financial position of the municipality. Five (5) years progressively responsible experience in Accounting and Finance and a Bachelor's Degree in Public or Business Administration with an emphasis in accounting, financial management or a related field is preferred. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. This is full time employment. The general hiring minimum salary is \$71,000 DOE, plus full benefits. To apply please visit [www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov](http://www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov) or applications can be picked up at City Hall, 95 W. 1st Ave Monte Vista, CO 81144. Position will remain open until filled, first review 1 July 2021. EEO ADA (7/23)

**South Fork Visitor Center is looking for Summer Assistant,** non-smoker, weekends plus, send photo and resume to [vcdirector@southfork.org](mailto:vcdirector@southfork.org). (7/23)

**Del Norte Elementary School is seeking an energetic, caring candidate to serve as a Para Educator.** Applicants must have a high school diploma. Please submit your application to Amy Duda, DNES Principal at 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO 81132; [aduda@urtigers.co](mailto:aduda@urtigers.co); or call at 719-657-4030. The position will be open until filled. You

can pick up an application at the District Office or on-line. (7/14)

## 10 Apartments

**One person remodeled 1-bedroom ¾ bath unit in Del Norte.** 600/Month inclusive of water and sewer. No pets. Call 719-850-0750. (7/28)

## 12 Houses for Rent

**2 BDRM, 1 bath duplex in Monte Vista. W/D included. \$750 per month** - includes water, sewer, and trash. NO PETS Call 303-589-5455 for more details (8/4)

## 23 Lawn and Garden

**Sprinkler repair.** Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (07/23)

## 24 Garage Sales

**CREEDE Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup>, 9-3** off Middle Creek Road follow signs. Home, Tools, rugs, fish, tack. (7/8)

**DOWNSIZING/MOVED Garage Sale: Seasonal Décor, Kitchen/Entertaining, Camping Gear, Patio items.** July 10, Saturday. 8 to 2. 10690 East Highway 160 in Alamosa. ¼ mile from the Loaf n Jug. (7/8)

## 36 Miscellaneous

**WANTED: Butter Churn in good working condition.** Please Contact 719-849-8742. (7/28)

**For Sale, in South Fork Colorado, Hospital Bed Older works good,** \$100.00 Call 719-937-3111. (7/28)

**Kenmore washer & dryer \$50.00 each, Riding lawnmower \$295.00,** M12000 Warn winch

\$275.00, Treadmill \$75.00. 719-376-5639 (7/29)

**Propane Refrigerators Sold Here. Call For Options and Prices. We Also Stock Solar Powered Refrigerators and Freezers.** Bontrager's Variety Store, 9726 S. County Road 3E, Monte Vista. (719)852-0500 (7/23)

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## 40 Auto Part

**Ford 8 hole wheels and tires excellent, new front dual stabilizer, new Dodge Ram fender flares, 5 new Jeep Wrangler wheels and tires, assorted truck camper tie-downs,** (719)580-4569. (7/7)

## 51 Boats and Equipment

**Canoe 15' with Life Jackets & Paddles \$550.00** Please Call 719-688-4970. (7/28)

## 59 Vehicles Wanted

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## COMMUNITY K-9 COMPETITION EVENT

**July 31<sup>st</sup> 11 a.m. -2 p.m.**  
at Center Community Park \*all ages\*

**JOIN US AND OTHER AGENCIES IN THE VALLEY SHOWCASING HOW K-9'S WORK ON DUTY!**

**Food and Drinks available.**  
*All proceeds will go to CPD K-9 Program*

**CENTER POLICE K9 UNIT CHANCE DRAWING!**

**Don't miss out on your chance to SAVE!**

**First Prize: One (1)**  
Winchester XPR Hunter Strata Bolt Action Rifle

**Second Prize: One (1)**  
Fishing gear basket

**Third Prize: One (1)**  
Center Police Sweater or Hoodie and department K9 Coin

**Fourth Prize: One (1)**  
Center Police T-Shirt and Department K9 Coin

**Price: \$20 per Ticket or 6 Tickets for \$100**

Drawing will be held on July 31, you do not need to be at event to win. You will have a pass background check and be 18+ to win the Rifle. Center Police Venmo account listed on flyer. Send name and phone number and staff will take a picture of your tickets and text it to you. Tickets will also be sold at the Town of Center Town Hall, or speak to one of the officers working the street and they can assist you.

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**\$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**  
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 • 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**  
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**\$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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 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**  
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 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!  
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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**

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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**  
**810 First Ave. • Monte Vista**  
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This is a sweet home with 3 bedrooms and a 4th room that could be used as an office or craft room or spare bedroom! The home is private with hedges around the yard and some mature trees. Back covered patio area with a grill included that is hooked up to natural gas. The property has a single attached garage but also has a double carport in the back! There is carpet in the living room and bedrooms but hardwood floors are beneath if that is your preference. The house is furnished right now and if you would like any of the furnishings then they would stay with the house at a negotiated price. The house faces a park that is directly across the street! Come take a look!! **\$119,000 MLS#784266**

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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**

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# Guadalupe Parish Credit Union awards youth scholarships

**STAFF REPORT**  
Robert Chavez, Guadalupe Parish Credit Union President-CEO, recently announce this year's scholarship winners.

"We are thrilled to award these scholarships to support our young people in their educational and career goals," he said. "Encouraging their pursuit of higher education is the primary driver of our scholarship program. We're confident these students will achieve their dreams as they transition from high school to college, and ultimately become the leaders of tomorrow."

The 2021 Scholarship winners include: Joshua Lucero, of Antonito High School — third place, \$400; Angel Trujillo, of Antonito High School — second place, \$800; and Maya Garcia, of Antonito High School — first place, \$1,200.

"Congratulations to all winners," Chavez noted. "In addition to our three top scholarships, we are delighted to be to provide additional community appreciation scholarships to three additional seniors."

Those scholarships were awarded to: Alexandria Taylor from Centennial High School, Nathan Sisneros-Padilla from Antonito High School and Joshua Duran from Antonito High School.

"On behalf of Guadalupe Parish Credit Union management, staff and Board of Directors, we extend our best wishes for big success to this year's scholarship winners," Chavez said.

The Credit Union began its scholarship program over 20 years ago and is committed to keeping it moving forward. For more information, contact one of their branch offices located in Antonito, La Jara and San Luis.



Maya Garcia



Joshua Lucero



Angel Trujillo

## RGNF featuring 'Bear Interactions' in next Forest Specialist Series

**STAFF REPORT**  
**MONTE VISTA** — Would you like to learn more about bear interactions at recreation sites? Join Wildlife Biologist Dave Topolewski from the Conejos Peak Ranger District for an online session on Wednesday, July 14, at 5 p.m.

Topolewski will discuss what attracts bears to recreation sites and will offer suggestions of actions that recreationists can take that will

reduce the chances of a confrontation with a bear. There will be time for questions and answers following the online presentation.

This event is part of the Rio Grande National Forest's "Forest Specialist Series," a monthly online presentation to share information with our communities.

Visit the Rio Grande National Forest website or Facebook page, for more information about this online event.

# Visiting Angels home care services receives national award

**STAFF REPORT**  
**PAGOSASPRINGS** — Chris and Michele Smith, owners of Visiting Angels of Southwest Colorado, Northern New Mexico and Northern Arizona received the Visiting Angels National 2021 Founders Award. Competing with over 600 franchises, this award is a top honor.

The Founder's Award is the highest recognition that can be given by the organization to those people that

have advanced the cause of Private Duty Home Care and have positively represented the industry.

It recognizes the person that has yielded the most notable results in the way of promoting Visiting Angels and the key principles of the company. This person will have positively promoted the brand, developed key business and community relationships on a large scale, and brought merit to the company.

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# Rio Grande County honors Rudder for service

*Commissioners hire new administrator*  
— Craig Barraclough

“I was just doing what I needed to do to be there for my brother and sisters here in the Valley,” he said. Rudder was presented with two plaques thanking him for his service and a reception followed the board meeting.

Rio Grande County Commissioners also announced the hiring of a new administrator that started in his new position last week. Craig Barraclough has been coming to the Valley for many years and is eager to begin working for the county. He graduated with a geography and geology major but has worked in town and county government for several years.

Barraclough comes originally from Texas but has spent the past 11 years in Park County working in the Planning Department and DIS Department.

“We wanted to come back to Colorado and be closer to family.

**BY LYNDIE FERRELL**  
**RIO GRANDE COUNTY** — Rio Grande County Commissioners on June 30 welcomed Jack Rudder who has spent the last year servicing veterans throughout the entire San Luis Valley. Rudder helped veterans in all SLV counties while training new personnel. “We are so grateful for the work and dedication you provided during the past year and years before,” said Rio Grande County Commissioner Gene Glover.

Rudder stated that he now has confidence in the staff member he trained over the last year and that he was simply doing what was needed.



**New administrator Craig Barraclough.**

Being here in the San Luis Valley allows us to be close to both my and my wife’s relatives which is really nice,” Barraclough said.



Photos by Lyndie Ferrell

**Rio Grande County honors Jack Rudder for his service to veterans across the San Luis Valley during the commissioners meeting on June 30.**

Barraclough enjoys being in the outdoors and fishing. He also has an interest in minerals and a love for maps of all kinds. As

administrator, he hopes to get familiar with the county he will be serving and working closely with county employees.

# Commissioners Appoint Maintenance Department Supervisor



**BY MECHEL MEEK**  
**SAGUACHE** — The Saguache County Commissioners met for a work session on July 12 in person and via Zoom to appoint a new Maintenance Supervisor — Evan Samora.

After a closed-door session, the

**Evan Samora was hired as Saguache County’s new Maintenance Supervisor.**

Photo by Mechel Meek

Commissioners announced the appointment of Evan Samora as the new Maintenance Department Supervisor, effective immediately. Samora will have a dual role as both the Housing Director and the Maintenance Department Supervisor. He will be trained in his new role by the outgoing Maintenance Director.

After the appointment, the Commissioners discussed a revitalization of the Adopt-a-Highway program. This program benefits both the local business

owners and the community. Businesses receive free advertising, and the community is beautified by removing litter from the roadways.

Currently, the Adopt-a-Highway program is not functioning as the signs have either been removed due to road construction or are out of date.

There was also a discussion regarding the current state of the maintenance building in Sargent and the need to inspect the building for needed repairs.

Commissioner Tom McCracken said, “We need to be budgeting for capital expenditures.”

This proclamation by McCracken was regarding the current state of several county owned buildings that may need repairs or replacement.

The next County Commissioners meeting is set for July 20, at 9:30 a.m. in person at the Saguache County Courthouse or via Zoom with the agenda to be announced on the County Commissioners website at a later time.

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# CEMA honors Mineral County Emergency Manager

**BY LYNSIE FERRELL**  
**MINERAL COUNTY** —  
 Emergency Manager Terry Wetherill was recently awarded the Emergency Manager of the Year award through the Colorado Emergency Management Association (CEMA) due to his work during the COVID-19 incident. Wetherill was honored during a private ceremony with fellow emergency managers from around the state at the end of May.

Due to the COVID 19 Response, the annual Colorado Emergency Management Conference for 2021 was cancelled. However, the Colorado Emergency Management Association (CEMA) and Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management continued with traditional awards for those members that go above and beyond.

Director Wetherill leads the Emergency Management and Search and Rescue Programs from the Mineral County Sheriff's Office in Creede.

"Wetherill is a knowledgeable, focused and committed leader dedicated to the communities he serves and his regional Emergency Management brethren," CEMA stated. "Wetherill has been instrumental during the COVID response, which is now approaching 500 operational periods or 16 months."

Wetherill is the Chair of the SLV Emergency Coordination Committee (SLV ECC), Co-Chair of the SLV Healthcare Coalition, is a member of the Mineral County Fire District Board and Mineral County Sheriff's

Office. Most recently, Wetherill attended extensive training to become a state certified Operations Section Chief for Emergency Operations Center (EOC) responses. He has deployed to a host of disasters throughout Colorado, including the 2008 Spring Fire, Costilla County Blizzard, Hinsdale County Avalanche and Flood threat to name just a few.

Wetherill is a 30-year Armed Forces Veteran who brings tons of knowledge and experience to Mineral County and the SLV Region.

Wetherill was humbled when interviewed about the award and said that he would have done the same thing no matter the circumstances.

"Our public health department, the Silver Thread Public Health Department, did a fantastic job," he said. "The department was very proactive throughout the entire event. Whether it was information sharing or best practices like social distancing and washing hands. It really was just a team effort. It was a big deal and having all of work together from the beginning, I think made all the difference."

Wetherill worked closely with state and local public health officials and plans to continue to work with them into the future.

"When all of this came down the line, we had to act quickly, and I think everyone knew that we needed to work on our communication

between all of the entities that would be working together," he said. "We had the Health Care Coalition, but we strengthened what we had during the COVID-19 incident. I think we as a team worked to make our response to COVID stronger and better than what it initially started out as and I think that communication system will help us in the future."

Wetherill attended all state and local COVID response meetings and passed accurate, timely information on to appropriate sources including law enforcement that were originally kept out of the loop due to HIPPA violation concerns from state and local public health officials.

"Our communications were going to be key, and we needed everyone on board," he said. "At first, case counts weren't accurate due to reporting errors or changes that happened literally minute by minute. It was hard to form a system that was going to work but that is what we did and now that it is in place, we will be that much better in the future."

**Mineral County Emergency Manager Terry Wetherill was awarded Emergency Manager of the Year by Colorado Emergency Management Association in May for his work during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell



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# Restitution awarded in Last Chance Mine theft case

**By LYNDSIE FERRELL**  
**MINERAL COUNTY** — According to Last Chance Mine owner Jack Morris, he was awarded restitution for damages and loss of property as a result of a theft case in 2020. The case has undergone several changes from the initial charges that were brought against Ken Love who was identified through video surveillance recovered from the day of the theft.

Morris stated that a judge ruled to have restitution in the amount of \$3,700 be paid to him for the claim filed after the case was dropped by Colorado 12th Judicial District Attorney Alonzo Payne in February. Morris sought restitution to cover costs of having to replace locks and keys on the property and for the amethyst geode that was stolen during the incident.

In an update on Feb. 4 printed in the Mineral County Miner, the case

was headed to jury trial because the suspect, Love, had not accepted a plea deal or that a plea deal had not been offered according to Rio Grande County Court documents.

It was at this point that Morris learned that the three felony charges, including third-degree burglary, sixth-degree burglary and felony theft were dropped per recommendations and a plea deal reached between Love and DA Payne's office. According to Morris, the charges were dropped to a misdemeanor trespassing charge.

"The verdict was reached on February 17, and I was not notified or consulted before hand. Despite the video surveillance, admission of guilt by Love and the return of a portion of the property that was stolen, they made their decision to drop all charges without my knowledge or involvement," stated Morris.

According to Morris an unidentified party, who was later identified through video surveillance as Love, broke into the main shaft during the business's off season and removed a rare amethyst geode from the wall of the mine and used tools to try to remove pieces of one of the most prominent amethyst veins that is shown during tours.

The theft was reported at the beginning of July of 2020 and by July 15, Morris had recovered video footage of Love entering the mine and leaving with material. Morris also stated that Love had brought some of the material to the Mineral County Sheriff's Department after he was formally charged with several counts of theft.

"Even though restitution in the case was awarded, it will never pay for the geode that was taken. It was one of a kind and can never be replaced," said Morris.

# RGC Victim Advocates signs agreement for additional services

**By LYNDSIE FERRELL**  
**RIO GRANDE COUNTY** — According to Rio Grande County Victim Advocate Courtney Arthur, the department recently signed a memorandum of understanding with The Initiative, an abuse service organization based in Denver. The MOU will allow Rio Grande County Victim Advocacy to obtain additional services for local abuse survivors and their families. "We have wonderful services here in the Valley but the more services and resources we can offer our victims, the better. This group focuses on disabled victims, but their services are available to everyone who is dealing with violence of any kind," explained Arthur.

According to Zoe Collins, Director of Communications and Outreach with The Initiative, "The Initiative is a state-wide, community based, victim advocacy organization. We specialize in working with disabled survivors; however, disability is not required to access services. We provide services related to safety, self-sufficiency, legal system navigation and healing to survivors of any type of abuse. The organization serve survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, care giver abuse, elder abuse, financial abuse, stalking, family violence, police brutality, and hate crimes."

Arthur stated that by joining in the agreement with The Initiative, her department would be able to help more people in the San Luis Valley and specifically Rio Grande County.

"The more services and resources we offer, the more people we can help," Arthur said. "We are excited to bring The Initiative here to the Valley and look forward to better serving our communities."

Collins continued to explain, "We have a rural program, bilingual Spanish program, and an LGBTQ+ program. All services are free and confidential and available regardless of documentation status and don't require involvement with the criminal justice system. The

organization often has financial assistance available as well, though it changes monthly."

Clients and victim advocates can reach out to The Initiative advocates at 303-839-5510. Through email [info@theinitiative.org](mailto:info@theinitiative.org) or fill out an online intake on the website at [www.theinitiativecolorado.org](http://www.theinitiativecolorado.org).

The MOU states, "These two agencies agree to work together and combine resources that will result in increasing the numbers of those seeking services. The Initiative will continue to provide The Rio Grande County Victim Advocacy Unit as a referral to any survivors in the

area. In addition, each agency will, refer clients in need of advocacy to each other while following confidentiality requirements and The Initiative will share technical assistance related to disabled survivors as well as provide cross training for staff and volunteers of each other's agency."

The two agencies will also assist in the implementation of accessible intervention and support programs and share ideas for increasing services to survivors of any type of abuse in a manner that is timely, confidential, culturally sensitive, thoughtful and respectful.

## Emmanuel Chapel VBS set for July 26-30

**SOUTH FORK** — Emmanuel Chapel in South Fork is hosting vacation Bible school July 26-30 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for ages 6-13 years old. For more information or to pre-register, call 719-850-2634.



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- Desoto Suburban
- ~20 older collectible vehicles - Jeeps, Plymouths, Studebakers, etc.
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**For additional information, more pictures and descriptions, please visit our website at [www.flowersfarmmachinery.com](http://www.flowersfarmmachinery.com), text us at jimmy@flowersfarmmachinery.com or call Jimmy at 970-210-6149**

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# Local students spend summer with SCC

**BY LYNDISIE FERRELL**  
**RIO GRANDE COUNTY** — For the past two weeks, six students from Rio Grande County have been working with Southwest Conservation Corps to complete a community project just outside of Monte Vista.

“This group has worked on the project here in Monte Vista and spent two weeks working at the Sand Dunes National Park previously to this project and spent some time up in Creede painting the Sunnyside Chapel. We are very proud of all of the students that have participated over the years,” said Youth Program Manager Aubrey Tamietti.

managers, and most are AmeriCorps programs.

The two weeks spent outside of Monte Vista was the result of a partnership between the City of Monte Vista, SLV GOAT’s and Southwest Conservation Corps. The crew consisted of Tamietti as program manager, Crew Leaders Cora Delucia and Kiwee Frederick and crew members Mike Shaw, Miguel Garcia, Marcus O’Cana, Jack Noonan, Zak Defaye, and Marisol Bernal.

During their time, the crew finished a fence around the parking area leading

to a future walking trail located just south of Big R on the west end of town. They also built a rock retaining wall and helped dig out and clear approximately a quarter of a mile of trail. Once the area dries out from recent rain, SLV GOAT’s will come back to finish the project in September.

Southwest Conservation Corps receives funding annually for summer programs and are always looking to add students to their teams. For more information, visit [www.sccorps.org/youth](http://www.sccorps.org/youth).



Southwest Conservation Corps crew members spent the summer working on projects throughout the San Luis Valley.

Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) provides youth, young adults, and veterans with structured, safe and challenging service and educational opportunities through projects that promote personal growth, the development of social skills, and an ethic of natural resource stewardship.

The Southwest Conservation Corps program model incorporates guiding principles of experiential learning, respect, openness and willingness, commitment, responsibility, pride, excellence, health, safety, and fun. SCC is a program of Conservation Legacy that was founded in 1998 to continue the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s.

Southwest Conservation Corps offers programs year-round based in regional offices located in Durango and Salida. SCC operates a continuum of programs from community-based initiatives for teens to backcountry camping crews for high school and college aged individuals along with leadership programs for college graduates and job training programs specifically for current era veterans. Programs are completed in partnership with public land agency

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