

Shorts

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

BY LYNDIE FERRELL
SAN LUIS VALLEY — Over the past year, some people within the San Luis Valley community have struggled with mental health due to the recent pandemic and have reached out to local mental health services to seek aid. Being in a small, rural community comes with its own set of issues and mental health services are few and far between.

According to the National Council for Behavioral Health, "One in five U.S. adults experience mental health each year." It is hard to image with the times people are living in that this number isn't higher.

The statistics about mental health are staggering, it is stated that 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24. The stigma surrounding mental illness is why communities see so many people not getting the help that they need.

Only about 44% of adults seek out or receive treatment and the biggest question out of this issue becomes, "What are we doing to help with the nationwide struggle, when it seems obvious that people are not getting the help that is needed?"

The San Luis Valley is home to the San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group (SLVBHG). It covers all the communities throughout the Valley. SLVBHG is promoting Mental Health America's Tools to Thrive challenges throughout the entire month and urge the public to join. All month the group will be completing daily challenges based on a calendar that they put together and invite the community to participate as well.

"Additionally, we will be posting weekly interviews with clinicians on various topics from processing trauma to prioritizing self-care on our social media platforms — mostly Facebook Live — so that community members can learn more about mental health from our licensed providers. We will also be pushing out facts, statistics, and self-help tools on our social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok) so please come join us on anyone of our social media platforms," said Kate Jack, Grants-Marketing Manager with SLVBHG.

"Here in the San Luis Valley, we always struggle with the resource aspect of pretty much everything, except maybe pretty views. Around March of 2020 mental health options in the Valley expanded when we received the Mobile Health Unit. The unit is staffed with a Licensed
Please see HEALTH on Page 4A

Body connected to 'Love Has Won' group discovered in Moffat

Seven people arrested on abuse of corpse, child abuse charges

STAFF REPORT
MOFFAT — Seven people were taken into custody and charged with abuse of a corpse and two counts of child abuse on April 28.

Appropriate placement was found for the two children.

Arrested were Jason Castillo, Ryan Kramer, Karin Raymond, John Robertson, Christopher Royer, Sarah Rudolph and Ma Obdulia Franco Gonzales. They are being held in the Rio Grande County Jail in Del Norte, due to limited capacity in the Saguache County Jail.

At 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday,
Please see BODY on Page 8A



Industry celebrates Mexico's Supreme Court decision to overturning ban on U.S. fresh potato imports

Groups encourage Mexico regulators to immediately begin rulemaking process to allow for the importation of U.S. fresh potatoes throughout the country

STAFF REPORT
WASHINGTON — The Mexican Supreme Court ruled on April 28 by a unanimous vote of five to zero in favor of overturning a 2017 lower court decision that prevented the Mexican federal government from implementing regulations to allow for the importation of fresh U.S. potatoes throughout the country. The ruling, cheered by the National Potato Council and Potatoes USA, marks the end of a decade-long legal process that began when Mexico's potato industry sued its government to prevent competition from imports.

"This ruling is consistent with Mexico's obligations under the USMCA and the WTO. It represents a major step forward in the U.S. potato industry's efforts to provide consumers throughout Mexico access to fresh, healthy U.S.-grown potatoes," said Jared Balcom, Vice President of Trade Affairs for the National Potato Council (NPC) and potato grower from Pasco, Wash. "After decades of delay, we hope this ruling represents a light at the end of the tunnel and that Mexican regulators will immediately begin working on regulations to allow for the importation of fresh U.S. potatoes throughout their country."

"Mexican consumers and the chip manufacturers in Mexico have waited way too long to access fresh U.S. potatoes," stated Jaren Raybould Chair of Potatoes USA and a potato grower in Saint Anthony, Idaho. "We are hopeful that with this ruling the authorities
Please see POTATOES on Page 2A

Sargent's Willis qualifies for National Merit Scholarship

STAFF REPORT

Sargent High School junior Mary Willis took the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) and met the requirements to enter the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program.



She is among the 50,000 highest-scoring participants who will be recognized as either a Semifinalist or a Commended Student in the fall.

From the 50,000 high scorers nationwide,
Please see WILLIS on Page 2A

Rio Grande Sheriff adds new vehicles to fleet



Photo courtesy of Courtney Arther

The Rio Grande County Sheriff's Department added six new trucks to its fleet.

BY LYNDIE FERRELL
RIO GRANDE COUNTY — The Rio Grande County Sheriff's Department is continuing to improve the department through several different projects and recently finished purchasing new vehicles.

According to Rio Grande County Sheriff Don McDonald, the department has purchased six patrol pickups, five of which are leased through a municipal leasing program.

"We started with the patrol cars several months ago and once we had those updated, we moved on to improve our pickup trucks. It is out of a concern for the safety of my deputies that I decided that this needed to be a priority when I came on as sheriff. Most of the vehicles in the fleet were on their last leg and it was a huge safety issue

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ASU Foundation Scholarship winners



Courtesy photo

Dr. Cheryl D. Lovell (left) was at the 2019 Ski Hi Stampede Rodeo in Monte Vista to present the Adams State Foundation Scholarship to recipients, from left, Lexi Metz, Sarah Shoeller and Sara Brunelli. Each will receive a \$3,500 scholarship to Adams State University.

POTATOES

Continued from Page 1A

will quickly reimplement the market access agreement and allow for high quality U.S. potatoes to be enjoyed throughout Mexico.”

Since it first allowed for the importation of fresh U.S. potatoes in 2003, Mexico has restricted those potatoes to a 26 kilometer-area along the U.S.-Mexico border. That restriction has violated Mexico’s obligations under numerous trade agreements, including NAFTA, WTO, and now the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). The Mexican government finally agreed to allow U.S. potatoes full access to their market beginning in May 2014; however, immediately after that was implemented, the National Confederation of Potato Growers of Mexico (CONPAPA) sued its government, claiming Mexican regulators have no authority to determine if agricultural imports can enter the country.

The Supreme Court decision rejected CONPAPA’s arguments and affirms that the Mexican government does indeed have the authority to issue regulations about the importation of agricultural and food products, including fresh U.S. potatoes.

“Mexico offers a significant opportunity for U.S. potato growers,” stated John Toaspern, Chief Marketing Officer at Potatoes USA. “The trade in fruits and vegetables between the

U.S. and Mexico is hugely beneficial to growers and consumers in both countries. In fact, Mexican avocados were granted access to the U.S. at the same time as U.S. potatoes to Mexico in 2003. Since that time, the U.S. government has honored the agreement and imports of Mexican avocados are now over \$2 billion. The U.S. can supply a wide variety of fresh high-quality potatoes to Mexico, russets, reds, yellows, whites, fingerlings and chipping potatoes year-round that are not currently produced there. Mexican retailers, foodservice operators, food manufacturers and ultimately Mexican consumers will benefit from this wide array of high-quality potatoes available year-round.”

“This is a significant step that effectively ends the legal process that has blocked our access to the Mexican market,” said NPC CEO Kam Quarles. “This effort has spanned numerous administrations and sessions of Congress, but the U.S. position never wavered. We are thankful for everyone at USDA, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and Members of Congress who have worked for years to encourage Mexico to lift these protectionist restrictions. We now look forward to working with the Mexican government and its regulatory agencies in immediately reinstating the rules to allow for fresh

U.S. potatoes to be shipped and the normalization of trade between our countries.”

Mexico is the third largest export market for U.S. potatoes and products valued at over \$270 million in 2020. Despite the restriction to the 26-kilometer border region Mexico is the second largest market for fresh potato exports accounting for 106,000 metric tons valued at \$60 million in 2020. The U.S. potato industry estimates that access to the entire country for fresh U.S. potatoes will provide a market potential of \$200 million per year, in five years.

The National Potato Council represents the interests of U.S. potato growers on federal legislative, regulatory, environmental and trade issues. The value of U.S. potato production is over \$4.5 billion annually and supports hundreds of thousands of jobs both directly and indirectly. Visit nationalpotatocouncil.org for more.

Potatoes USA is the national marketing and promotion Board for the 2,500 potato farming families operating in the United States. Potatoes USA, the largest vegetable commodity board, was established in 1971 by potato farmers to promote the benefits of eating potatoes. For more information on Potatoes USA’s mission to “Strengthen Demand for U.S. Potatoes,” visit PotatoesUSA.com.

OBITUARY

Craig ‘Panda’ Leroy Jones

San Luis Valley native and longtime resident Craig “Panda” Leroy Jones, 66, died April 20, 2021, at Penrose-St Francis Hospital in Colorado Springs surrounded by friends and family.

Craig — fondly known as Panda — was born in Monte Vista, Colo., on Nov. 4, 1954, to Robert “Bob” Jones and Dorothy (Hunter) Jones. Craig was the youngest of five children. He married the love of his life, Trish Kempf on March 10, 1984, in Colorado Springs.

Panda and his brother Rocky once owned and operated Jones Auto Supply in Center, Colo. Following that he worked in potato and carrot farming until his retirement in 2016 when he and Trish became full-time caregivers to his parents. Panda also volunteered at the Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank. His hobby was making unique birdhouses from reclaimed wood. His one-of-a-kind creations are scattered across the nation.

Panda’s favorite pastime was spending time at the family cabin north of South Fork and would plan the entire summer the projects and improvements for the cabin. He enjoyed sharing the cabin with friends and family who were always welcome there.

Panda was a very kind, genuine and lovable person who never knew a stranger. He was always ready and willing to help anybody with anything he could. Saying “no” was never in his vocabulary. He was a quiet but devout Christian man who believed strongly in prayer and in his conservative convictions — yet did not force his beliefs on anybody. Panda was a charter member of the Grace and Mercy Bible Fellowship in Monte Vista where he also served as treasurer.

Panda was preceded in death by his parents Robert and Dorothy Jones.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years and best friend, Trish of Alamosa; their children Tucker (Carolyn) Jones of Manhattan, Kan., Marci (Aaron) Smead and



grandson Roman of Olathe, Kan., and Mayme “Mandi” of Maine. Siblings include three sisters — Jerry Dodd of Monte Vista, Carol Jones of Alaska, Connie (Dan) Coleman of Gillette, Wyo., and only brother, Rocky (Clarice) Jones of McAllen, Texas, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends.

He was greatly loved by all who knew him. His absence will be felt by all.

Panda was a Giver of Life. He was an organ donor and that will bless the lives of 15 people. He has also been an avid blood donor since 1980. At the time of his death, he received 20-30 units of blood.

Contributions may be given in his memory and longtime commitment to blood donation to www.Vitalant.org.

Cremation was performed and a Celebration of Life will be held at 11 a.m. on May 22, 2021, at the First Christian Church/Grace and Mercy Bible Fellowship, 200 Washington St, Monte Vista.

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

WILLIS

Continued from Page 1A

about 16,000 will be named National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists, representing the top scorers in each state and another 34,000 students will be commended for their performance on the PSAT/NMSQT.

She is the daughter of John and Gina Willis of Monte Vista.

More Sargent school highlights: **Sargent Colorado Science & Engineering Fair Winners**

- Emma Sewell — Eighth grade Proteolytic Enzyme Power

Third Place Chemistry — \$75 Colorado Associate of Science Teachers Award — \$100

- Makayla Brown — Eighth grade The Mightiest Mask?

Third Place Medicine and Health — \$75

- Ellaree Rockey — Eighth grade Nitrogen and Density Levels in Quinoa

Third Place Plant Sciences — \$75 Colorado Associate of Science Teachers Award — \$100

- Ashlyn Rockey — 11th grade

Screening Quinoa Germplasm for Downy Mildew Resistance

Second Place Plant Sciences Colorado State University College of Ag Sciences Award — \$500

- Chinmay Jayanty — 11th grade Synthesizing Renewable Energy from Water Using Sunlight

Honorable Mention Energy Adams State College Porter Scholarship \$5,000 (renewable)

Colorado School of Mines Scholarship \$1,000 (renewable)

Sargent also won the Best Small

Middle/Junior High School Award, as well as the High School Award.

Sargent State FBLA Award Recipients

- Aiden Price — Fourth place — Electronic Career Portfolio

- Aaron Price — 10th place — Introduction to Information Technology

- Kamryn Holland — Sixth Place — Organizational Leadership

- Ashlyn Rockey — Fourth Place — Public Speaking

- Chinmay Jayanty — Fourth Place — Spreadsheet Applications

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

YOUR NIGHT SKY

Northern Crown

By DARLENE DANKO

This constellation is visible now through October and is high in the east. It's also called Corona Borealis. It's a semi circle of 7 stars located between the bright stars Arcturus and Vega.

To find it, first look for Arcturus which is the bright star high up in the SE. Then look a little to the NE until you find the 7 stars that form a half circle. It represents the crown worn by a princess. Once you find it, it will be easy to find again.

It actually contains a number of double stars and interesting variables. It also contains a huge cluster of more than 400 galaxies called ABELL 2065, but because it's 1.5 billion LY from us, none of them are

very bright. Try looking at it with binoculars to see what you can see there.

After you find that one, look about halfway to the NE to find the bright star Vega, which is part of the constellation Lyra the Harp. It's also close to the Milky Way. Although it's a small constellation, Vega is one of the brightest stars in our sky.

This constellation has been known for a very long time, and is represented by LYRE which is a stringed musical instrument. Vega also forms one corner of the Summer Triangle. That's how bright it is.

The Lyrid meteor shower radiates from a point close to this constellation. Unfortunately I didn't get to see it this year because our sky was cloudy every night and early morning. By the time the clouds went away, the full moon shined. But I hope that

some of you got to see them.

Vega is 25 LY from us. It's a white star that's 50 times more luminous than our Sun. Currently it's low in the sky, but each month will rise higher until its high over head. It'll be visible from May through September.

It's also very bright and is visible even when the moon is out. Close to Vega is a multiple star system called Epsilon Lyra Quadruples. See if you can find them. Since Vega is in the constellation Lyra the Harp, it's sometimes called the Harp Star.

So go out when the sky is clear and dark, and see if you can find both of these constellations. The new moon is May 11 giving us a dark sky to observe. Don't forget to look for the Eta Aquarid meteors in the SE.



Change Your Drawers

This has happened infrequently during the past nine years that Trixie and I have co-habitated. That's co-habitated. Even though we have been cohabitating, too, the prior is more like it as we have really had to get used to one another, more than anything else.

And it looks like we are either truly meant to be together or just are kind of stuck together now. It's oft been said that it's maybe better to drink the poison you know than start afresh on a different potion and that may just be what keeps people together after all.

Miss Trixie finally returned after ten days away and the only real questions I had to answer this time was how did the expensive omelet spatula handle disintegrated and why didn't Ol' Dutch have more dirty clothes.

The first is explained easily. I am a man.

The second question seems a bit strange. I thought that most women would be glad if their man had less dirty clothes for the week. I really have no idea except it did rain most of the week and shorts and no shirt were the order of the day around the house for Ol' Dutch and hence, not a lot of laundry.

And wouldn't you know it, Trixie had to return to nursing duty again this week leaving me to fend for myself once again. Her greatest nightmare, it seems.

This time, however, I noticed a distinct difference after she had gone. Now, instead of leaving Ol' Dutch to a life of the unknown and helpless living, Miss Trixie has seen fit to leave instructions, some of them even written in indelible ink on a plastic bowl.

I am so thankful for all that thoughtful direction as I am not sure how Ol' Dutch ever got along without Trixie back in the days of old. I mean now I have food all lined out for me, meal by meal, and even some kind of idea about how many shirts I need to dirty to make her happy.

Another thing I have noticed is that Miss Trixie cleans the house up good and tidy before she leaves.



Trout Republic by Kevin Kirkpatrick

Her mom taught her that as Momma would bake pies and clean the house before going in for surgery. All in preparation for her dying under the knife so that her husband would have pies to remember her by and the relatives would find a clean house for the wake.

So tonight, at my home, it's clean sheets, a sparkling bathtub and sinks you could eat out of for Ol' Dutch. The floors are double swept, the trash is in the barrel outside and the larder is full.

Ol' Dutch does have a plan to keep Trixie happy when she returns this time including a few dishes left in the sink and if I come up short on dirty clothes, I will use some clean shirts for towels after I shower. That ought to make her happy?

And I can also follow the advice all mothers have passed along for generations and always make sure I have on clean underwear at all times, thus, creating more laundry. Of course, they said that was in case we are in an accident. Which is pretty much bogus advice as any accident will surely find us with less than pristine drawers. Maybe they just needed more washing to feel needed like Trixie?

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

LETTERS

Election controversy

Editor,

In a rather odd attempt at damage control, Dominion Voting Systems has apparently decided it was necessary to issue an "official statement," throughout the state of Colorado, regarding the Intelligence Community assessment on foreign threats to the 2020 election. The IC (whose directors were recently appointed by the Biden administration) concluded there was no foreign interference involved and implied the machines were secure, even though the report did not deny the machines were connected to the internet. They further concluded that the public claims of

foreign interference were baseless and false and there was "no evidence" of foreign intervention. Maybe we should ask: Where is the evidence from the Intelligence Community to back up their claims?

After reading the statement it seemed only fair to offer Colorado a different viewpoint backed up by an extensive amount of factual data, videos, witnesses and sworn affidavits to refute the claims of the Intelligence Community. Former Trump administration DNI director John Ratcliffe, filed a report on Jan. 18, 2021, officially confirming foreign interference in the 2020 election. In

December of 2020 Ratcliffe was quoted by CBS as saying: "There was foreign election interference by China, Iran, and Russia in November of this year."

If you want to hear the flip side of this controversy and what really happened in the 2020 election, watch this 16-minute video on Rumble and decide for yourself which side is telling the truth. This video is pure data and loaded with evidence. It also reflects the opinions of some American voters, go to Rumble.com, type the word Unmasked in the search window and hit search.

Mike Cowan, Saguache

Pleased with Biden's first 100 days

Editor,

I am very pleased with the first 100 days of our new President, Joe Biden. I have benefitted first-hand from his COVID-19 Relief Plan. I was a recipient of the stimulus funds and have spent the money to help spur our economy. I am incredibly happy with being fully vaccinated in the first 100 days. It also pleases me to see our rural communities getting back to normal in a safe manner that is bringing new businesses to our communities.

My wife and I are feeling confident

to open our own new business. We would not have even thought about this back in December of 2020. But due to proper management of the pandemic, we feel very confident in our ability to open a shop that will not only survive; but thrive in years to come.

I know not everyone voted for Biden. When Trump first took office, I told myself I was going to give him a chance to do well. Isn't that what we want any of our presidents to do for all of us? I hope that people who supported Trump can change their

attitudes for at least the first year and give Biden a chance instead of continuing campaign mode by waving Trump flags for the next four years.

I genuinely believe that President Biden is trying to bring unity to our country, but we have to give him a chance to do so by changing our attitudes and allowing us to heal as a country. We might be opponents in election years, but we are not enemies. We just have to acknowledge that we will not always agree on everything... and that is OK.

Carlos R. Lopez, Trinidad

National Day of Prayer is May 6

Editor,

The Ministerial Association of Monte Vista invites you to join us for a time of prayer and intercession at Chapman Park on May 6 from 6 to 7 p.m. We will join with others around our Nation on this National Day of Prayer as we humbly ask for God's mercy, forgiveness, and blessing.

The Scripture for this year's Day of Prayer is from 2 Corinthians 3:17 "Now the Lord is the Spirit; and

where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

We desire God's blessing on our Nation so that we may continue to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Even as our Nation stumbles in the darkness, there is hope in the light of Jesus Christ. Our God is merciful! Healing and restoration are promised in 2 Chronicles 7:14 for those who humbly repent and seek the Lord. We

will also be praying for protection and guidance for our local and national leaders and all those who serve our community and Nation.

Please pray for this event and for all other prayer gatherings that the Spirit of the Lord will bring His people together as we lift our Nation and our world in prayer. Lord, please pour out Your LOVE, LIFE, AND LIBERTY!

Ministerial Association of Monte Vista

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COVID-19 cases rise to 103 in the San Luis Valley

STAFF REPORT

SAN LUIS VALLEY — COVID-19 cases continue to rise in the San Luis Valley. As of Monday afternoon, May 3, there were 103 known active cases of COVID-19 in the San Luis Valley. This data is being updated every Monday and Thursday at www.slvphp.com/slv-regional-covid-19.

- Alamosa County — 52
- Conejos County — 25
- Costilla County — 1
- Mineral County — 1
- Rio Grande County — 15
- Saguache County — 9

Rising case numbers have resulted in a rise in hospitalizations.

“As of 3 p.m. on Monday, May 3, 2021, the SLV Health Regional Medical Center reported that hospitalizations over the weekend rose to eight COVID positive patients, several who were in serious condition, several who will be able to go home, and more being admitted throughout the day. The numbers have not been this high since the last spike in February. The positivity rate reported from the laboratory and increased calls to the respiratory clinic also align with the growing number of positive cases in the area. With upcoming graduation and spring events at the schools, the hospital leadership is highly encouraging everyone to get their COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible to help prevent the spread of this highly contagious disease,” said Donna Wehe, SLVH Director of Communications.

For the first time in several months, the region’s positivity rate is 6.5%, which is an indicator that a significant number of cases are probably going undetected.

If people have symptoms of COVID-19, officials state they should get screened for testing by calling one of these testing providers:

- Rio Grande Hospital, 719-657-4990
- SLV Health Respiratory Clinic, 719-589-3000 ext. 9
- Valley-Wide Health Systems, 719-589-3658 ext. 4 (Monday-Friday), 719-589-2562 (Saturday-Sunday)

As of May 2, 52% of eligible San Luis Valley residents have not received a COVID-19 vaccine. A little less than half of SLV residents have received a vaccine, and 39.7% have completed the vaccine regimen for maximum protection.

Right now, everyone age 16 and above is eligible. Officials anticipate that the age limit will drop soon to 12 years old.

The level of vaccine use in the community is not high enough to provide community-level protection against the spread of the virus, SLV officials stated. Wearing masks and social distancing, especially if people have not received a vaccine yet, are still important precautions.

Local public health agencies report that new cases are in all age groups and settings, but they are seeing fewer cases among people over the age of 50, which is to be expected given that more older people have been vaccinated than younger people.

Single-dose Johnson and Johnson vaccines are available. If you prefer a single-dose vaccine, contact your local public health department. To sign up to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, contact one of the local providers at www.slvphp.com.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

31 Tools to Thrive — Work On Your Own Mental Fitness

To keep physically fit you need to eat a healthy diet, get exercise – even visit the doctor for well checks once a year. If maintenance is good for your body, it’s also good for your mind. The Center for Mental Health is asking you to get involved and take on the 31 Tools to Thrive Challenge. Each day in May, check out the calendar for a tool or tip to keep your mental fitness in mind.

1 Get Some Sunshine	2 Volunteer	3 Drink a Cup of Coffee	4 Take Time to Laugh	5 Practice Forgiveness	6 Yawn!	7 Keep it Cool Sleeping at Night	8 Go Off Grid
9 Try Some Coloring	10 Perform a Self-Screen	11 Plan a Getaway	12 Try Something New	13 Show Some Love	14 Eat Chocolate	15 Make Something for a Neighbor	
16 Enjoy Your Favorite Hobby	17 Take a Warm Bath	18 Write a Letter	19 Build a New Habit	20 Spend Time With Pets or Animals	21 Smile	22 Dance While You Work	
23 Be a Tourist in Your Own Town	24 Plan Your Week Ahead	25 Eat More Brain Food	26 Take a Class	27 Go for a Nature Walk	28 Send a Postcard or Thank You Note	29 Start a Gratitude Journal	
30 Do Something With Friends or Family	31 Tell Someone They Matter	<p>Are you ready? Join The Center for Mental Health and take on the challenge of doing one thing, each day to keep your mind, and your mental health, fit. Print out the calendar, ask a friend to join in! Share your experiences on social media using the hashtag #MentalHealthMatters</p> <p>Visit centermh.org for more information.</p>					



Courtesy graphic

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and the San Luis valley Behavioral Health Group provides several tips and tricks on its social media platforms.

HEALTH

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practical nurse, a licensed or certified addiction counselor, and a peer recovery coach. This unit covers a lot of the Valley’s outlying towns such as Del Norte, South Fork, Saguache, La Jara, Antonito, San Luis and Fort Garland. This has become a great option for wraparound services that some of the smaller communities had to travel to Alamosa to receive. Residents in those outlying areas often couldn’t or wouldn’t make the trip so the mental health or substance abuse struggles went untreated. To connect with San Luis Valley Behavioral Health contact: 719-589-3671 to schedule an appointment or learn about services.”

said Courtney Arthur, Victims Advocate for Rio Grande County Sheriff’s Office.

Colorado is also lucky enough to have the Colorado Crisis Services, which is a 24-hour hotline for call or text and serves as another great resource. The hotline number is 844-493-8255, or text TALK to 38255.

When it comes to lack of knowledge on a topic a lot of the time it is because the topic just isn’t talked about. If only 44% of adults struggling with mental health get help, experts say something is missing. They say signs and symptoms are being missed, brushing them off as just another bad day or a result of a bad night’s sleep. Some of the most common signs

of a mental illness as listed from the National Alliance on Mental Illness are, excessive worry or fear, confused thinking or problems concentrating, extreme mood changes, changes in sleeping habits, avoiding friends or social activities. Having one of these things doesn’t mean a person is in a mental health crisis but that it could be a good time to talk to a doctor about what they are feeling.

Mental Health Awareness Month isn’t about telling people to go get help. It is about making this topic OK to talk about. It is about reminding people that it’s OK to not be OK some days, and it’s OK to ask for help.

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HVCC Community Night is May 13

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Hello community members! Can you believe there are only two weeks left of program before we break for summer? May will be spent finishing up soccer, practicing circus tricks on Fridays, learning about jobs around the Valley and lots of fun activities during our weekday High Valley Community Center programming.

To celebrate the end to another school year, we would love to welcome all community members, friends, and family members to attend our Community Night on Thursday, May 13 at 5 p.m. at the HVCC Gym, 810 Oak St. Enjoy some complimentary refreshments as you mingle with other guests and watch the younger kiddos' circus performance at 6 p.m. We are looking forward to hosting you!

Despite the windy days, the kids have been enjoying their practices and soccer games. Our final kindergarten through second grade game will be on Tuesday, May 4 in Del Norte. The final game for the third- and fourth-graders will be on Saturday, May 8, in Del Norte and the fifth- and sixth-graders' final game will follow. Immediately following soccer, our baseball season will begin! Baseball registration is available through the HVCC website. We are welcoming children aged 5 to 12 to participate. Practices will start on May 17.

Any youth in seventh grade or older are welcome to join our Summer Junior Staff Program. Registration for future junior staff members is at www.thehvcc.org/summer.

This week's HVCC theme for the kids was "College." For one of our college-related activities, "Reach for the Stars," the kids drew their hand on a piece of paper and wrote their goals in the stars. The kids also built their own paper graduation caps, constructed towers, and created a chain reaction with popsicle sticks. This week a staff member recognized Carlos for helping a friend during program. Thank you, Carlos for your kind gesture. Keep up the good work!

Last week the College and Exploration Series was centered around agriculture. The older children toured Brandon and Sheldon Rocky's potato farm outside of Center and then to Jason and Paloma Maestas's

aquaponics farm, I Choose Family Farms near Alamosa. The kids had a great time touring both facilities and learning more about agriculture. Thank you to Sheldon, Brandon, Jason and Paloma for graciously opening up your facilities to our group of kiddos and educating them about your businesses.

This week, representatives from

the Forest Service, BLM, Rio Grande County government, Rio Grande Public Health, the Del Norte Fire Department, National Guard and the Rio Grande Hospital all came to HVCC to discuss their careers and spend time with the kids. Thank you to everyone who came out to discuss their work experience with the kids.



Courtesy photos

High Valley Community Center is finishing up the last two weeks of the 2020-2021 school season and have been busy learning about different jobs here in the Valley. Students have also spent their days playing soccer and participating in several different activities with HVCC.



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"I now feel very comfortable telling patients that are pregnant, lactating, or considering pregnancy to get vaccinated. I wouldn't tell people to get vaccinated if there was any hesitation on my part to do so while pregnant."

Stephanie Posorske
 Certified Nurse Midwife
 Certified Lactation Counselor

San Luis Valley HEALTH
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SHERIFF

Continued from Page 1A —
for me," said McDonald.

Through the leasing program the department can purchase the vehicles outright after making the lease payments. The program is also designed to make it so that the vehicle can be replaced when needed by replacing the oldest of the vehicles each year.

"This allows us to replace the oldest vehicles in a rotational program well into the future so that we will always have up to date equipment for our department," McDonald said. "When you consider that our deputies can travel high speeds in dangerous situations, we need to know that the vehicles they are in are safe for them and our public."

The sheriff made it a priority to not only update vehicles but has worked diligently to bring the department into the 21st century and enhance technology throughout the facility. Between new computers, new office equipment, new technology for jail services and more, the department is now functioning smoother and more efficiently.

McDonald is confident the department is well on its way to having everything it needs to best serve the community and has set his sights on potentially seeking a new building.

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CRESTONE HAPPENINGS

By GINNY DUCALE

CRESTONE — Big things are happening in Crestone this month, primarily on May 14 and 15, when there will be at least three events open to the public.

Dark Sky Community Event

To start, the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) has given its conditional endorsement to Crestone's nomination to become certified as an international Dark Sky Community.

To introduce the nomination, Crestone's first-ever Dark Sky Community Event celebration will take place Friday, May 14 and Saturday, May 15.

The event begins May 14 with Jill Elzey's Songbirds, Shumei International's Taiko Drummers, a story about the motto "We are Children of the Stars,"

music by singer-songwriter Michael Tiernan, and finally a tour of the nighttime sky conducted by Shane Burns, Colorado College Physics Professor and Astrophysicist.

The night sky will be projected on a large screen identifying and describing several constellations and planets and more, in the dark of the night. The event will be held at the Colorado College — Baca Campus, 1 Baca Campus Rd., Moffat, and will start at 7:45 p.m. and end at 9:45 p.m. Bring chairs and blankets.

From 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 14 in downtown Crestone, the Dark Sky celebration continues with music, local artists, food and drink, kids' activities, crafts and a beer garden.

Go to the website darkskycastleone.com, for more information.

Crestone Gardening Festival

Also on Saturday, May 15, the 4th annual Crestone Gardening Festival will take place at the Crestone Community Garden. This event will offer all that relates to gardening with soil sales, pre-ordered straw sales, on May 14, and then on May 15 fresh garden seedlings and starts offered for sale by residents.

Talks, demonstrations and workshops will be given by local members of Crestone's gardening community. Two participatory art projects are planned. There will be a children's area with games. There will also be food and music.

The Crestone Community Garden is located on Alder Street, in the Little Shepherd in the Hills Episcopal Church yard.

Four films will be shown on subjects like restoration and reforestation, soil building, community building and bringing moisture to a dry area.

If you have something to offer or to sell, call 719-849-8081.

PermaPeaceFest

The PermaPeaceFest begins during the Gardening Festival and continues for two weeks.

The PermaPeaceFest is 18 days of learning and collaborating around permaculture practices and actions.

The goals are to plant six food forests in Crestone to feed people in need and to become food resilient. Between May 16 and 28, the Permaculture Olympics will be held at six different sites where the plan is to create food forests.

During these Olympics, volunteers can camp, learn, and earn free tickets to the main festival on May 29 and 30. Visit permapeacefest.earth, for more information.

SAGUACHE COUNTY SHERIFF REPORT

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The following information was provided by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office for the period between April 16 and May 2, 2021.



The Sheriff's Department's activity on the road included two traffic stops, two abandoned vehicles, one crash with property damage and one motorist assist.

In addition, staff recorded four cases of criminal mischief, three cases of theft, four cases of trespassing, one case of harassment, one stolen vehicle case, one VIN inspection, two cases of suspicious activity, one case stolen property, one case of assault, one animal problem case, one mental subject report, one suicidal subject report and four welfare checks.

They also monitored 14 controlled burns, provided information 11 times, assisted four citizens, and served a warrant.

Arrests

- Leroy Nicholas Torres, 31, Center, violation of protection order and stalking.
- Andrew Tyler Mundell, 29, Moffat, unlawful possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Ma Obdulia Franco-Gonzalez, 52, Manteca, Calif., abuse of a corpse and child abuse acts with criminal negligence.
- John Henery Robertson, 32, Lenexa, Kan., abuse of a corpse and child abuse acts with criminal negligence.
- Jason Castillo, abuse of a corpse and child abuse acts with criminal negligence.
- Ryan James Kramer, 30, Moffat, abuse of a corpse and child abuse acts with criminal negligence.
- Sarah Elaine Rudolph, 35, Moffat, abuse of a corpse and child abuse acts with criminal negligence.
- Karin Raymond, 23, Corry, Pa., abuse of a corpse and child abuse acts with criminal negligence.
- Christopher Glen Royer, 35, Alamosa, abuse of a corpse and child abuse acts with criminal negligence.

Saguache County: Notice of Valuations to be sent out

By PETER PETERSON

Saguache County Assessor

The Saguache County Assessor's Office will be mailing out Notices of Valuation on May 1, 2021, to all owners of real property in Saguache County as required by law. It is mandated we do this every other year which is called a reappraisal year. The law requires us to appraise all real property at a June 30, 2020, level of value which is determined by using all qualified sales for the two years prior (July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2020).

There are three approaches to value: Market, Income, and Cost. The Tabor Amendment mandates only the market approach can be used for residential valuation with all other classifications including, commercial, agricultural, etc. eligible to use any of the approaches to value depending on use. Upon receiving your Notice of Valuation, please review it and let us know if there are

any discrepancies in our information such as classification, square footage, year built, etc. You have until June 1 to file a protest with the Assessor's Office.

Due to COVID restrictions, if you plan to appeal in person, we ask that you call first to make an appointment. This is your opportunity to assist us in ensuring your information is correct in our database. Instructions for protesting are on the back side of your notice. In short, if our sales analysis for the two-year period mentioned above indicates prices paid were higher than the previous reappraisal year, most property owners will see an increase in their value.

If prices were lower, then there will be a decrease in value. This also applies to vacant land. Your property taxes are determined by the sum of the various mill levies in your district applied to your assessed value which includes everything from schools to libraries.

Your assessed value for residential properties as per Colorado state law is determined by multiplying your actual value by 7.15%; all other property classifications are assessed at 29% of actual value. This explanation is a very detailed and rigorous process which is overseen yearly by State-appointed auditors. The auditors, by the way, have given our office an excellent evaluation six years in a row, and it reflects the passion and dedication of the Assessor's Staff.

We hope this information is helpful. Investment in one's property is usually the largest you make in a lifetime and we here at the Assessor's Office understand that and are always ready answer any questions or concerns you may have. You can also go our website at www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov, click on the Assessor Tab under the department header to access your information on Eagle Web or Parcel Viewer.

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THE Monte Vista JOURNAL

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Correction

Some of the names in our SLV Graduates section were listed incorrect, these are the correct names. We apologize for the error.

Centennial High School



Taylor Benton



Jasmine Condon



Liliana Duenas



Feliciana Lobato



Leon Medina



Rosa-Amarilla Mondragon



Anastasia Salcido



Elisa Sanchez



Alexandria Taylor



Alexia Valdez



Alexander Vazquez



Congregate meal sites open throughout Valley

STAFF REPORT

South-Central Colorado Seniors, Inc., the local Area Agency on Aging serving older adults 60 and over, recently announced dine-in congregate meals are available at meal sites around the San Luis Valley.

For people not feeling comfortable with dine-in, they continue to prepare grab-and-go meals for pickup at these meal sites. Reservations are required for both dine-in as well as grab-and-go meals.

All meals are provided by South-Central Colorado Seniors, Inc. For reservations or more information regarding all services

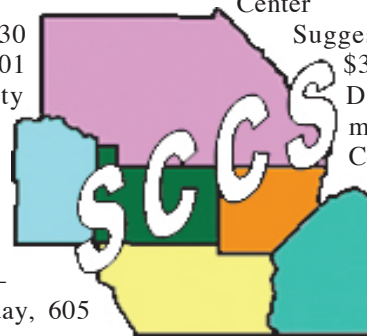
provided, questions or concerns, call 719-589-4511 or visit at 1116 3rd St., Alamosa. Reservations can also be made at meal sites.

Meal Sites

- Alamosa — 12-12:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, 92 Colorado Ave. (Alamosa Senior Center)
- Antonito — 12-12:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, 701 Main St. (Antonito Senior Center)
- Del Norte — 12-12:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, 630 Spruce (Pioneer United Church)
- La Jara — 12-12:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, 413 Main St. (Northerners Senior Center)
- Monte Vista — 12-12:30 p.m., Monday-

Friday, 311 Washington St., (Tri-County Senior Center) p.m., Friday only, Fort Garland Community Center

- San Luis — 12-12:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, 1101 Salazar, (Costilla County Senior Center)
- Center — 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Monday-Friday, 138 S Worth (Center Housing Authority)
- Saguache — 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Monday-Friday, 605 Christy, (DSS Building)
- Blanca/Fort Garland — 11:45 a.m.-12:15



Suggested voluntary donation of \$3 per meal is appreciated.

Donations can be made at meal sites or mailed to South-Central Colorado Seniors, Area Agency on Aging, P.O. Box 639, Alamosa, CO 81101. Donations continue to help sustain this service.

For people in need of homebound meals, call 719-

589-4511 for assistance.

Minors arrested following prank armed robbery

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — Two minors were arrested Sunday, May 2, following a prank armed robbery, the Monte Vista Police Department reported.

At approximately 2:15 p.m. on Sunday, MVPD received a 911 call regarding an armed robbery in the 400 block of Washington Street. Officers met with two juvenile victims who reported a male, wearing a black hoodie and an orange ski mask robbed them at gunpoint of money.

An emergency notification was sent to the surrounding area where a citizen reported seeing the suspect run through an alley.

Officers located a ski mask matching the description in an alley in the 500 block of Washington Street, MVPD reported.

After further investigation, officers determined one of the victims and another juvenile staged the robbery as a prank to scare the other victim. Officers recovered a black BB gun, which resembled a real gun.

Two juveniles were taken into custody on suspicion of attempted aggravated robbery, felon menacing and obstructing a police officer charges. The Alamosa County Sheriff's Office tracking K9 responded and helped track the route of the suspect.

The Alamosa County Sheriff's Office and the Colorado State Patrol assisted the Monte Vista Police Department. The Monte Vista Police Department appreciates the assistance from the citizen in locating the mask used in the robbery.

Have Confidence Every Day of Your Life!

God has a great plan for each person's life, and He wants us to enjoy every day of our lives. But we can't do it if we live in fear and lack confidence. Confidence is the belief that you're able to do what you need to do or what you want to do. God gives us confidence, but we need to know how to access it by faith.

God-given confidence is actually the grace of God. We usually hear grace defined as God's undeserved favor or God doing something for you that you don't deserve. But it's really more than that.

It was life-changing for me to learn that grace is also God's power, freely given to me, to enable me to do with ease what I could never do on my own with any amount of struggle or effort.

Think about this for a minute. Everyone who accepts Christ as their Savior is taught that we're saved by grace through faith. Ephesians 2:8 (ESV) says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

But the same way we are saved is the way we are supposed to live. In other words, once we are born again, God wants us to do everything in life by grace through faith.

This has been one of the greatest revelations of my life. I remember how exciting it was to realize that God is not just there to help us when we have an emergency. God wants to be involved in every single thing we do on a day-to-day basis.

There's nothing you're involved in that God doesn't care about, and He wants you to pray and ask Him to help you with every detail of your life. He doesn't want you to live striving in your own effort to do anything. God wants to be your close, personal, intimate friend.

I was a Christian for years before I learned how to access God's grace—

His power—to live my everyday life. First, I had to get an understanding that once I was saved, God didn't expect me to live right by my own strength.

Just as I couldn't "earn" salvation through my own works or effort, I also couldn't really change my heart or behavior in my own strength. Jesus says in John 15:4 (NIV), "No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

Every day we need to come to God and tell Him, "God, I can do nothing without You. Nothing in my life is going to work without You. Apart from You, there is nothing good in me. My confidence is in You. I need You all the time. I believe You and trust You, Lord."

When we humble ourselves before God and ask Him for help, we can access His grace through faith.

To help you do that, I want to share three things that commonly short-circuit our faith, cutting off our access to God's power: complaining, self-pity and pride.

1. **Complaining** is a negative attitude that keeps us from being thankful for all God has done, what He's doing, and what He will do. It is a sin we need to repent of, and then be determined to thank God in all things, at all times. His grace and blessings always outweigh the things we think are wrong in our life.
2. **Self-pity** is simply a "poor me" attitude. It is a form of idolatry because it causes you to focus on yourself and think, "What about me?" But we can't be pitiful and powerful at the same time, so let's decide to give up all self-pity.
3. **Pride** takes credit for what God has done and steals His glory. It makes us independent of God, and we can't bear good fruit apart from Christ.

Before I learned how to live my life by God's grace, I was a mess. I



Moving Up Higher with Joyce Meyer

was a nagging wife, manipulative and controlling. And I wasn't satisfied living like that. Then God helped me by opening my eyes to see that I couldn't really change until I started taking His Word seriously, trusting Him to change me.

When I made a firm decision to pray and study the Word in areas I was weak until the truth made me strong, then God's grace gave me the power I needed to overcome the things that were wrong. And I keep going forward in my journey with God the same way today.

God has all the power you need to do anything you need to do. He loves you and wants to give you His power to live your everyday life with joy. Lean on Him with absolute trust in His wisdom and goodness, and you'll live with God-given confidence!

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

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored 130 books, including **BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND** and her newest devotional **QUIET TIMES WITH GOD (FaithWords)**. She hosts the **Enjoying Everyday Life** radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Town of Saguache Public Notice for Sale of Real Property

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Saguache Board of Trustees will receive sealed bids to purchase the following surplus Town-owned real property:

Address/Location: Town of Saguache, 305 9th Street, Saguache Colorado, 81149

Lot/Block: 1 and 2 in Block 30 (Also known as 305 9th Street)

Size: each lot is 50' by 130.38'

Minimum Bid: \$35,000

Deposit: 10% of bid amount

The property will be sold on an "as-is" basis, without any warranties of any kind and has a minimum bid reserve. All bids must be received by 12:00 PM, May 7, 2021 to be considered. For information and full bid packet please contact Iris Garcia, Town Administrator at 719-655-2232 or by email at townclerk@townofsaguache.org.

No. 1592 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, April 22 and 29 and May 6, 2021.

BODY

Continued from Page 1A

April 28, deputies with the Saguache County Sheriff's Office served a search warrant at a private residence in Moffat, where they found the deceased body of a woman believed to be Amy Carlson, who was the leader of a religious group known as "Love Has Won" and went by the name "Mother God."

The arrest warrant, obtained on Friday from the Saguache County Clerk's office, stated that Miguel Lamboy, who made the initial report, knew the deceased woman as Lia Carlson. When asked to confirm the identity of the woman as Amy Carlson, Saguache County Sheriff Dan Warwick, emphatically stated no positive identification had been made by the coroner at this time and he was reluctant to comment any further, given that the investigation is still ongoing. Warwick has had frequent interactions with members of the group including Amy Carlson.

However, when pushed to answer if he was familiar with the name Lia Carlson, Warwick said, "Yes, I know who she is."

When asked if Amy Carlson had ever been known as Lia Carlson, he said, "Yes, I think she has," stating again that there was "no factual basis until the coroner identifies the remains."

The arrest warrant also listed the birthday of Lia Carlson as Nov. 30, 1975. According to the "About me" section on the "Love Has Won" website, that is the same date of birth as Amy Carlson.

Lamboy, according to the arrest warrant, is believed to be a member of "Love Has Won." He lives with his 2-year-old son in the house in Moffat. According to the warrant, Lamboy said he spent all day Wednesday, April 27, running errands that took him from Moffat to Montrose and then Denver before returning to his home where he said, "people were needing a place to stay."

Lamboy said that Thursday morning, he left the house and drove to Denver and then Buena Vista. When he returned home, he found the body of a woman who he said he knew as Lia Carlson. He said Carlson's skin was "grey in color" and "her eyes were missing," adding that she was wrapped in a sleeping bag and appeared "mummified" with "her

teeth exposed through her lips."

At that point, Lamboy attempted to leave with his son, but the people staying with him would not allow him to take the child. Lamboy then left and drove to Salida where he reported the death of a woman to the Salida Police Department (SPD). Salida PD immediately contacted the Sheriff's Office in Saguache which obtained a search warrant for Lamboy's residence.

According to the arrest warrant, deputies found the "mummified remains" of Carlson on a bed in a back bedroom, wrapped in a sleeping bag. There was "glitter type makeup around the eyes," and her body was "decorated with Christmas lights" and "set up in some type of shrine."

When making the report to SPD, Lamboy said he believed the people had transported the remains to his house from California, adding that the vehicle they showed up in was a Nissan Rogue. SCSO deputies found Nissan Rogue on the property with license plates from California and, when looking in through the window, saw the rear-passenger seat "in a way consistent with someone transporting the mummified remains."

The arrest warrant stated that "Love Has Won" is known to "take in people from all over the world" and the "Saguache County Sheriff's Office has received many complaints from families in the United States saying that the group is brainwashing people and taking their money."

When asked, Sheriff Warwick said that he had "had calls from family members of people in the group who were concerned about them" but "there was never any criminal activity."

"Love Has Won" reportedly began roughly 15 years ago. It is not a new name to many in the San Luis Valley, which may lead some to believe the group is primarily local.

The group's Facebook page has close to 20,000 followers with page managers located in the United States, Mexico and Slovenia. Daily livestream events appear on Facebook, featuring a specific group of followers, who, in twos and threes, deliver messages that last two and three hours. Those people appear to be streaming from various places, including South Africa and Australia, and the messages are delivered in several

languages.

The focus of the group is entirely based around "Mother God," who claims that she is 19 billion years old and has been reincarnated over 580 times. In past lives, she says, she was Jesus Christ, Joan of Arc and Marilyn Monroe. Carlson claims she is here to save the planet and will ultimately lead 144,000 enlightened people from this world to a mystical fifth dimension. She also declares that "there is no free will," and those who do not worship her will be "recycled" to a burning sun.

According to family members, who were interviewed on a two-part segment of the "Dr. Phil Show," prior to becoming "Mother God," Carlson was a three-time-married mother of three children who was working at McDonald's. And then, in 2006, she left it all behind to fulfill, what Carlson describes as, "her mission on earth."

In addition to "Mother God," there is Castillo, who goes by the name "Father God" or Lucifer. Like Carlson, Castillo has his own pre-Love Has Won history, which, according to a short documentary that aired on Vice, included run-ins with the law for drunken driving, breaking and entering and neglect of a child. In other videos that have surfaced, Castillo appears to have been responsible for "disciplining" some of the followers.

"Love Has Won" describes itself as a religious organization but many, including both observers and former followers, claim the group functions more as a cult. Former followers report being regularly limited to 4-5 hours of sleep, banned from sitting down for



long periods of time and allowed to only eat a certain amount of food. There are also videos that have surfaced, some of which show Carlson screaming into the camera and verbally abusing members of the group for failures, such as bringing her the wrong kind of Italian food.

Nonetheless, those who are still believers in "Mother God" are quick to explain the videos away, stating they were taken out of context or are demonstrations of how others — who are driven by their egos — fail to understand the pain Mother God experiences as she "carries the hurt of us all."

"Love Has Won" left the Crestone area when an incident occurred involving the banishment of a new member to the desert where he was left, naked, to fend for himself. His family, concerned when they

couldn't find him, came searching for him and found him, three days after being abandoned, severely dehydrated and disoriented.

Part of the group — including Carlson, Castillo and Lombay — traveled to Hawaii where, as was reported in a Sept. 9, 2020, edition of the Valley Courier, a group of roughly 100 protesters demanded they leave. The group resurfaced in Mt. Shasta where, according to coverage in the local news, they received a less-than-welcoming reception.

It is not known at this time where Carlson, Castillo and other members of the group went after Mt. Shasta or when she passed away.

When asked if he was aware that members of "Love Has Won" had returned to the Crestone area, Sheriff Warwick replied, "When did they come back? Some of them never left."

DISH advertisement with text: 'BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!', '\$64.99 MO. 190 CHANNELS', '2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE', 'FREE VOICE REMOTE', 'FREE SMART HD DVR INCLUDED', 'FREE STREAMING ON ALL YOUR DEVICES', 'CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card', '1-866-397-0345', 'DISH ALTITUDE'.

DIRECTV advertisement with text: 'DON'T JUST KINDA TV. DIRECTV.', 'CHOICE Package \$69.99/mo.', 'LIVE Watch your favorite live sports, news and entertainment anywhere', 'DIRECTV offers more top premium channels than DISH', 'Get DIRECTV and get a year of HBO Max included.', 'J.D. POWER RANKED AT&T/DIRECTV #1 IN THE NATION IN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION FOR TV SERVICE', 'Don't settle for cable. Call now!', '1-855-560-0319', 'AT&T Preferred Dealer'.

Small print text at the bottom of the DIRECTV advertisement containing legal disclaimers and terms of service.

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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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Courtesy photos

Events such as ax throwing, crosscut competitions and fun activities make this annual event not one to be missed. More details about the mid-July event will be announced soon.

South Fork Logger Days confirmed for July 2021

BY LYNSIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — South Fork's Loggers Days event is being planned for July. Exact dates are still being worked out by the committee.

South Fork has a rich history surrounding the logging industry and for over 20 years the town has

embraced its historical heritage through the annual event. Last year, due to COVID-19 safety precautions, the event was canceled but hopes are high that year's event can move forward with some additional precautions in place.

Please see LOGGER on Page 2



Vendors from different locations come to the annual Logger Days Festival.



Photo courtesy of Adams State University

Pictured, left to right, the Adams State Model United Nations team Lizz Serna, Aaliyah Garcia, Makayla Huffman, Ben Key, Zoe Serrano, Courtney Hocking, and Mari Centeno, Ph.D., team faculty advisor.

ASU Model United Nations team out does international competition once again

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Model United Nations team once again shows up and stands out at the annual international collegiate Model United Nations conference.

The team participated in the virtual event last week and received Distinguished Delegation, the second-place award for the entire conference.

According to the Adams State MUN advisor Mari Centeno, Ph.D., professor of political science, it is the largest conference in the U.S. (New York Nationals). In 2021, over 3,000 delegates and roughly 400 universities from around the world were in attendance.

"NMUN, the world's largest

and oldest ongoing university-level Model UN, annually draws participants from more than 130 UN Member States to address current global issues," Centeno said.

The delegates who represented Adams State included Lizz Serna, Zoe Serrano, Courtney Hocking and Makayla Huffman.

Hocking and Serrano each won an Outstanding Delegate in Committee.

"Meeting new people, experiencing different methods of delegating, and being able to demonstrate just how much our hard work we put in since October paid off is exciting," Serrano says.

It was the team's first-ever conference and most of their competi-

tion had five times the number of delegates.

"We had a small team, just four delegates, and we took second place overall," Hocking says. "We beat them. This is a big deal and so is Adams State."

These students are already extremely involved in extracurriculars, but they put in an extra three hours a week in-person training in addition to their own hours of topic research, writing position papers, and speech practice.

"I am not easy on them, yet they dedicated themselves and demonstrated what Adams State students can do," Centeno said. "I am probably the proudest I have ever been of our team."

The Last Dollar

For those of you who forgot how easy it was to get started in farming let me tell you about my friend Con. Many years ago, he bought a farm in the wilds of Minnesota. The feller that sold him the farm had his farm sale the day Con arrived to take possession of the land.

Now, Con had been a cowboy type all his life and, upon viewing the farm machinery stacked in the yard, he was hard put to identify anything other than the handy man jack and a tractor. But he thought if this stuff was good enough for the farmer that sold out, it was good enough for him. He'd figger out what it was later.

All the neighbors for miles around came to see who the new sucker was and maybe pick over the machinery like buzzards on fresh road kill . . .

Con jumped in and bought the only thing he recognized: the tractor. It was a 45 Al-



BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

lis . . . he paid \$1,250. Then he bought the mounted plow that went with it. Con said the auctioneer started on a big pile of orange metal. "Ain't you gonna buy that? You bought the tractor and the plow." Con

bought it. Two days later he found out it was a mounted cultivator.

When the sale was over several of the farmers asked Con to load their heavy stuff, since he'd bought the tractor an' all, they said. Con leaped up in the seat, intent on showin' these skeptical neighbors he knew what he was doin'. He fumbled around for ten minutes, switching on the headlights, the choke, the throttle, the gauges and wipin' the transfer case clean lookin' for some instructions. Finally an ol' timer reached over and said, "Pull this, son." It fired up right away (it was the only time in the next five years it ever did that). He couldn't find the shift pattern but fortunately it was in gear and the clutch was where it belonged.

The first thing they wanted him to load was an old pull type, disjointed disc. It never went anyplace he aimed it. Con would turn around and it would be passing him. Eventu-

ally he dragged it up on a flat bed inflicting considerable damage in the process. Pleased with himself he turned and said, "Next?" Everybody else had drifted away.

The feller with the bent disc came over to Con, opened his wallet and handed him a dollar bill. "Kid, you take this and buy yourself a can of gas. It'll be the first and last dollar you ever make farmin', but you'll always have enough to git outta town."

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

Brightest Wishes to Moms Everywhere

ASU's Gallegos continues advocacy for student financial aid

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Financial Aid Office is working to improve student services and access to federal financial aid.

Jeff Gallegos, financial aid administrative assistant II, received a scholarship to attend the annual Rocky Mountain Association of Financial Aid Administrators (RMASFAA) Summer Institute.

"The regional organization keeps us up-to-date on the latest federal financial aid policies," Gallegos said. His daily duties include assisting Adams State students and ensuring they receive the best financial awards possible.

The scholarship waives the \$500 summer institute fee and assists with up to \$500 for travel.

This summer, Gallegos will celebrate his sixth anniversary working for Adams State. This will be his first

time attending the four-day institute planned for June at University of Nebraska Kearney in Kearney, Nebraska.

"I look forward to the hands-on learning environment for processing federal aid," Gallegos said. "As an adviser, I have working knowledge but I am not very familiar with the back-end processing and I look forward to seeing the wheels in motion."

RMASFAA's Summer Institute is a nationally recognized week of training for financial aid administrators. Registrants are divided into classes and each class is led by two instructors. The curriculum follows the NASFAA U modules for the various Title IV aid topics; however, other non-Title IV topics are also covered. Fun, engaging activities, and networking outside the classroom are also part of this valuable experience.



Photo courtesy of Adams State University
Adams State University Jeff Gallegos is a front-line financial aid advisor who is dedicated to student success. He recently received a scholarship for nationally recognized summer institute on federal financial aid.

LOGGER

Continued from Page 1

South Fork was incorporated in 1992 yet was established as a stage stop along the rigorous trail leading north to Creede in 1870. It began as a place for travelers to rest along their journey, catch a bite to eat and continue on their way.

After the railroad came to South Fork in 1882, a new type of industry bloomed out of the forests surrounding the one stop town. Lumber from the area became a staple for the community of settlers that had gathered there. In what seemed to some as an overnight industry, the timber and sawmills took over much of the area.

The mills produced lumber for railways and mining communities nationwide. Due to the timber industry and Creede's silver boom, the area became a destination place for rich persons seeking a Colorado experience. People came from all around to hunt, fish and stay in the wilderness.

South Fork has come a long way through the past and into the present. The lumber boom is over, and it has left a mountain destination with a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities in its place. In the years since the lumber boom, South Fork has come to enjoy the rich history in the area and celebrate in unique and original ways.

To celebrate South Fork's history that surrounds the town, a festival was created several years ago to pay homage to the lumber trade that created the community that resides there today. The Logger's Day festival is full of entertainment based on the logging trade and the men and woman that worked the trade in the past.

The festival kicks off in mid-July with a craft fair that will run throughout the weekend. Vendors from all over come to sell their wares, food and arts to the public. Many booths will feature handmade jewelry, sculptures, and paintings, a unique touch to the typical shopping experience.

On Saturday the fun starts with axe throwing, the plunge cut, timed wood chopping, and many more. The competitors are competing for over \$1,000 in cash prizes. After the logging competitions, there will be fun activities for the while family such as horseshoe games and more.

Sunday is dubbed to be the most exciting day of the festival featuring several more logging events. An overall award for the Saturday and Sunday events will be given to an amateur winner. Sunday will feature, speed cutting, two man crosscut, and a choker race. Children activities will be avail-

able for the younger crowd such as creating crafts, a saw dust pile full of hidden treasures and more. More details about the event will be an-

nounced as the date draws closer but for now, knowing that the event will be taking place is enough for the small mountain town.

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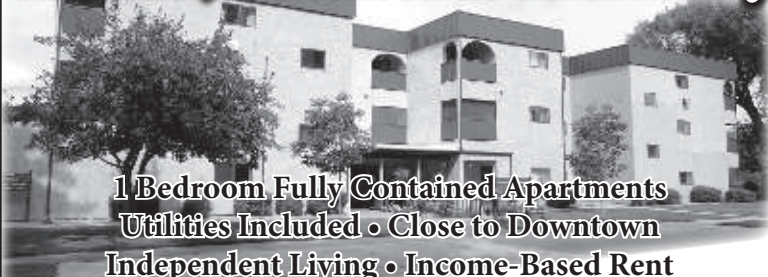
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~Marisa Atencio, BSN, RN, Valley-Wide Director of Clinical Support Services

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~Fallon Crowther, MSN-Ed, BSN, SLVH

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Valley-Wide Health Systems

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Adams State MEP students grateful for donated laptops

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Southwest Migrant Education Program thanked the Community Resources and Housing Development Corporation (CRHDC) and La Puente for their donations to the university's Migrant Education Program. Thanks to these two agencies, the Migrant Education Program donated 15 laptops to 15 migrant students.

"The guest speaker, Alamosa Mayor Ty Coleman, shared a great story with our students who received the laptops. He expressed some encouraging, positive words to our students and parents with his usual wisdom and energy," said MEP Educational Advocate Stephany Rodriguez-Moreno.

The students wrote letters to state their need for a laptop and the benefits it would bring. After reading those letters, grateful recipients were awarded a laptop.

The laptop donations allow MEP students to better complete school-work during these difficult COVID-19 times. They will be able to access the internet, complete assignments in google classroom and secure their work in a safe format.

Due to COVID-19, the Migrant Education Program has had to deliver all programs in virtual models. The laptops allow students to join programs without previous worries of being without technology access.

"Parents and students alike are so very grateful and excited with this opportunity and express their sincere appreciation to our donors who have definitely made a difference in their educational experiences during this difficult time," Rodriguez-Moreno said. "Furthermore, we look forward to partner with other agencies to enhance services to MEP families and students. Thank you, CRHDC and La Puente."



Photo by Jade Winton

Pictured, left to right, back row: Kaylee Gomez Adams State University Migrant Education Program postsecondary advocate; Ofelia Gonzalez, ASU MEP educational advocate; Stephany Rodriguez-Moreno, ASU MEP educational advocate; Esmeralda Martinez, MEP director; Savannah Ball, Yvette Seerden, Edgar Martinez, ASU MEP state regional recruiter and data specialist; front row: Candelaria Ramon, ASU MEP work-study; Jasmine Camponeschi, ASU CAMP project director; and Alamosa Mayor Ty Coleman.

Senior art shows open at ASU

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Art Department recently announced the opening of the annual Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Arts senior shows in the Cloyde Snook and Hatfield Galleries from April 19 through May 7.

The BFA show, *Peripheral Vision: Locality, Nature & Survivors*, is a collection of work created by Amanda Strickland, Piper Meuwissen, and Alicia David. Their artwork celebrates the resilience and beauty of nature, women and local communities. Its goal is for people to take a closer look at the things around them that often don't receive the time and attention they deserve. Largely focused on multimedia installations, the trio works with clay, graphics, photography, painting-drawing and found objects.

concepts, is a juried student show put on by the BA students: Harry Roberts -Hunt, Isabel Rodriguez, and Christina Chavez. These artists will have pieces featured in this show alongside their fellow Adams State peers. The juror for this show is Jasmine Little, painter and Adams State Graduate Class of 2015.

At this time, the galleries are not open to the public, but can be viewed online through a virtual gallery tour, live artist talk, and virtual show opening. All dates, times and links to meetings can be found on the website (<https://tinyurl.com/asuartshow2021>). Both shows will be available for viewing online starting April 29.

For more information, contact the ASU Art and Theatre Department at 719-587-7823 or Nancy Harris at nharris@adams.edu.



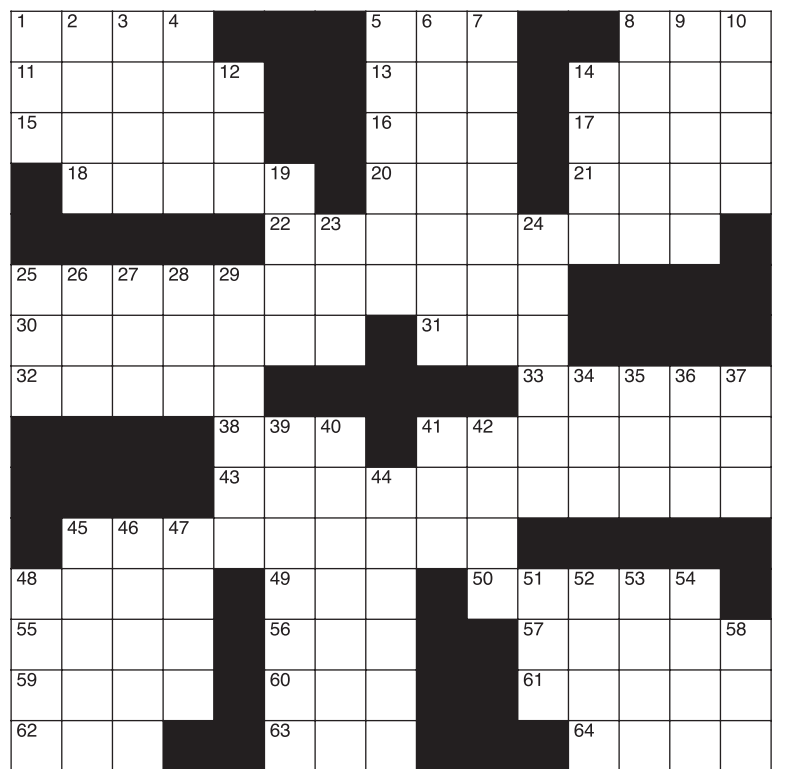
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Opposite of west
5. ___ Caesar, comedian
8. Helps little firms
11. A way to censor
13. Expresses atomic and molecular weights
14. Chalcedony
15. Type of sword
16. A corporation's first offer to sell stock to the public
17. Attired
18. A sequence of winding turns
20. Pal
21. Expresses pleasure
22. Amendable
25. Clear
30. A way to cut off
31. Indigenous Thai person
32. Pale brownish yellow color
33. Aquatic plants genus
38. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
41. Merchants
43. Fix a chair
45. Throws into disorganization
48. Famed German composer
49. Keyboard key
50. Oral polio vaccine developer
55. Partner to pain
56. Where golfers start
57. Jenny ___: weight loss program
59. Sailing dinghy
60. Suffix that forms adjectives
61. Speeds at which music is played



62. Body part
63. Fall back
64. Ancient Greek sophist
28. Company that rings receipts
29. Rugged mountain range
34. Commercials
35. NY footballer
36. They ___
37. Soviet Socialist Republic
39. Poked holes in the ground
40. Pitchers
41. Your
42. Diana __, singer
44. Important document for inventors
45. Bangladesh capital
46. Fluid that flows in the veins of Greek gods
47. Famed daguerreotype photographer
48. Where military personnel work
51. Play a role
52. La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
53. Unstressed-stressed
54. Type of palm tree
58. Judo garments

CLUES DOWN

1. One point south of due east
2. Wings
3. One point south of southeast
4. The shirts on our backs
5. One who works on the seas
6. Select jury
7. Small intestines parts
8. Plant of the heath family
9. Extrasolar planet
10. Creates more of
12. Before
14. Forms over a cut
19. Runs down
23. Exercise regimen ___-bo
24. Unkeyed
25. Principle underlying the universe
26. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
27. Residue

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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GUN/KNIFE SHOW PAGOSA SPRINGS: Tables \$60, Food Trucks \$80. Archuleta Fairgrounds. June 18-20. Mike (970)946-2841 (05/05)

07 Help Wanted

Painting and staining workers needed. Experience preferred. Contact Ron, 719-849-1796 (5/26)

Del Norte Bank is seeking to fill a full-time position for a Teller in the Del Norte Branch. Duties will be to accept deposits, loan payments and process withdrawals while maintaining a balanced cash drawer. Must be personable and pleasant answering the phone and greeting customers. Many other duties will be assigned as needed. The position is permanent, full-time, M-F, hours vary from 7:15am - 6:15pm with a 1-hour lunch and a robust benefits package. Application available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or inquire at 705 Grand Ave, Del Norte or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Mike, Stacy or Dawn. EOE. (5/19)

Early Childhood Teacher needed for the 2021/2022 school year. Must meet the requirements of the Dept. of Human

Services Office of Early Childhood. Please send resumes and transcripts to P.O. Box 787, Alamosa, CO 81101

Dental Assistant- Mineral County Dental Clinic in Creede is seeking a part time dental assistant to work on average, 7 to 8 days per month. Experience is preferred, however, we will train an enthusiastic person with strong communication skills and work ethic. The ideal candidate will be a team player, reliable and committed. Hourly rate is dependent on experience and up to \$16.50/hr., during training. Required application can be downloaded at www.mineralcountycolorado.com under "Links" or picked up at the HR Office, Mineral County Courthouse, 1201 N. Main Street, Creede. Letter of interest/application sent to Mineral County, Attn: HR, PO Box 70, Creede, CO 81130, dropped off at 1201 N. Main St., Creede or faxed to 719-658-2931 Attn: HR. Position will be open until filled.

Early Childhood Teacher needed for the 2021/2022 school year. Must meet the requirements of the Dept. of Human Services Office of Early Childhood. Please send resumes and transcripts to P.O. Box 787, Alamosa, CO 81101

Elementary Teacher needed at Del Norte Elementary School. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Amy at 719-657-4030. Applications can be

picked up at the District Office or online at: www.urtigers.co. (5/12)

Upper Rio Grande School District is looking for an energetic and experienced candidate to serve as the district's Director of Bands. This position will oversee the development of our elementary instrumental music appreciation program, as well as conducting our middle and high school band programs. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher in Music or Music Education. The applicant must also possess or be able to obtain an appropriate Colorado teaching license. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Aaron Horrocks, Jr/ Sr High Principal at ahorrocks@urtigers.co or Amy Duda, Elementary Principal at aduda@urtigers.co. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co. (5/12)

Elementary Special Education Teacher needed at Del Norte Elementary School. We are seeking an experienced, hardworking and enthusiastic teach-

ing professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Amy at 719-657-4030. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co.

Jr/Sr High Language Arts Teacher needed at Del Norte Jr/Sr High School. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License with a secondary Language Arts endorsement. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Aaron Horrocks, DNHS Principal at ahorrocks@urtigers.co or contact Aaron at 719-657-4020. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co. (5/12)

Care Giver Needed In the Antonito area a young lady needs full time caregiver that is trustworthy and dependable Monday-Friday. Some Saturdays and can include 1 weekend

of 2 overnight stays Fri. & Sat. Transfers are required, light housekeeping, meal prep and feeding are some duties. Serious inquires please. Contact 719-588-9430 (05/12)

Rio Grande County is seeking a County Administrator. Candidate will serve as the County's Chief Administrative Officer. This includes various functions of the Rio Grande County Government, in accordance with policies set forth by the BOCC. Candidate will be a positive communicator with strong organizational skills, an effective leader with sound judgment, and be able to promote the policies of the BOCC. Education/Experience requirements are a Bachelor's degree (B.A.) from an accredited college or university in Public/Business Administration with two or more year's related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience at the discretion of the BOCC. Drug screening, including for marijuana, and background check is required. Salary

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We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.

We have had a very large influx of stray dogs into the shelter from Center, Monte Vista, and Del Norte. If you are missing your dog please call us at 719-852-3366 to see if it was brought in!

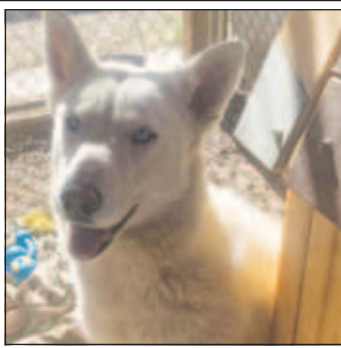


Beau is a sweet Border Collie mix who is not quite a year old. He is playful, energetic and submissive. He is smart and very treat motivated and thus will be very easy to train. He has not been socialized much, but in his time at the shelter he has been introduced to multiple other dogs and is learning how to be a good canine citizen. He loves to get attention and be taken for walks.

Ichabod is an energetic 3 year old Husky/heeler mix. He hasn't had the greatest experiences in life, so new experiences are scary for him. He is looking for a patient home that will help him come out of his shell. He is loving and gentle and would love to be a new family member to your home!



Anastasia is a very energetic and playful husky. She is curious and intelligent and looking for a loving home that will help her keep her mind active and her days busy. She is still learning how to be a good canine citizen and would really love to work on a training program with her new family. She loves attention and will let you pet her for hours.



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lower left of the envelope must indicate "BID". Bids must be in by May 7th and will be opened May 12 th at the Commissioners meeting. Bids starting at \$4000.00. The winning bidder will have 48 hours to make payment and pick-up the 4-wheeler and Trailer. (5/19)

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Rio Grande National Forest talks coming fire season

BY LYNDISIE FERRELL
RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST — With summer quickly approaching, many in the San Luis Valley turn their attention to what is in store for the coming year and whether fire danger is a concern this early in the season. The Rio Grande National Forest offered a chance to review predictions for the coming fire season and what the agency is doing to prepare for that “just-in-case” emergency.

Agencies throughout the San Luis Valley spend countless hours working to refine emergency operation plans. Tabletop exercises are conducted during annual emergency manager meetings like the one that took place in Mineral County just a few months ago. It offers a unique chance for emergency personnel, first responders, emergency managers, local and state officials as well as local fire departments to get together and practice how they will handle emergency situations should they arise.

The Rio Grande National Forest is no different and has spent the last several months working through worst-case scenarios for the coming fire season. Last summer, the state was ravaged by wildland fires and though each fire was eventually contained, every fire offers a chance for learning something new.

“We are doing what we do every year and that is to make sure we have everything in place should an event occur,” said Rio Grande Public Relations Officer Gregg Goodland.

According to information provided by Goodland, the coming fire season is expected to be relatively average. There is a chance for wildland fires throughout the region but conditions this Spring have experts preparing for an average summer depending on precipitation in coming months.

“It all depends on how you look at fire in a region like ours and those across the state; you can see it as an advantage or a disaster. Fire plays a natural role in our ecosystems and health of our forests. Local wildlife looks at fire as a natural change and one that they quickly adapt to,” continued Goodland.

With an average fire season predicted, there are several steps homeowners and property owners can take to ensure safety during the peak season. Homeowners can mitigate natural fuels around their homes by completing small tasks such as cleaning debris like dead leaves out from around shrubbery and away from the home. Owners can also make sure to clean gutters and remove dead or dying trees from private property which helps in keeping a location safe from wildfires.

Goodland also stated that the Rio Grande National Forest is also doing its part by helping to mitigate natural fuels in our forests by completing prescribed burns in specified areas to help minimize the potential for a fire. Timber sales also help, especially in this region because of the natural fuel that was caused by the Spruce Bark Beetle. “We currently have 26 active timber sales throughout the region and plan to continue sales into the future,” Goodland said.

Forest stewardship plays a role in wildfire safety. It involves making sure that open fires are extinguished properly in contained firepits.

“Open fires are not allowed on the Rio Grande National Forest but a small campfire at the local campground can be just as dangerous and should be extinguished properly,” Goodland said. “We need the public’s help in this area. If you see someone doing something that could lead to a fire incident, be polite and say something or be the one to extinguish a smoldering campfire.

Little things help and of course you need be.”

can always contact us at the Forest if For more information or to stay up

to date on current fire restrictions in the San Luis Valley, visit www.fs.usda.gov/ Rio Grande National Forest and the main/riogrande.

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SPMDTU continues to enrich Hispanic communities

STAFF REPORT

ANTONITO — La Sociedad Proteccion Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos was founded in 1900 by Celedonio Mondragon, among a core group of supporters in Antonito. The SPMDTU began as an organization that sought, through non-violent actions, to combat the exploitation of Hispanic workers by land barons and mine owners.

Still operating in its original home, the SPMDTU is the oldest surviving Hispanic organization in the United States. It is member run and comprised of a diverse group of men and women who conduct monthly meetings and functions, in order to further the organization's vision. They are bound together by their common interest in enriching Hispanic communities and families, with fundrais-

ing efforts aimed at providing and enhancing community services as well as offering scholarships.

Goals

- To sustain a cultural awareness of our Colonial Spanish and Indio/Native American heritage
- To preserve and encourage the use of the Spanish language.
- To encourage higher education for young Hispanics, by raising funds for the SPMDTU Scholarship Fund.
- To help break down barriers that youth and minorities face in pursuit of professional careers.
- To protect and advocate for others in need, regardless of race or ethnicity.
- To acquire a strong presence and reputation in our communities.
- To promote the personal growth of our members by upholding values



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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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

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181 Doe Circle • South Fork
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 (719)850-1993 • bernadette@steffenscorealty.com



SOLD

LOOK IMPROVED PRICE!
 • 2 bedroom • 2 bathroom • \$335,000
 Charming 1,518 SQ FT Home with attached 672 SQ FT Cement Floor Garage with Workshop and additional 2 storage units. Bright and cheery with large living area with fire place and large windows with beautiful views of Beaver Mountain and plenty of sun shine. This home is complete with 4 heat sources! 2 ETS systems, Base board heating (all rooms), Solar heat and Fireplace. Complete with water and sewer system on paved roads. MLS#777866
 171 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork
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SOLD

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